

Data communications:

Data communications refers to the transmission of this digital data between two or more computers and a computer network or data network is a telecommunications network that allows computers to exchange data. The physical connection between networked computing devices is established using either cable media or wireless media. The best-known computer network is the Internet.

The term “Data Communication” comprises two words: Data and Communication. Data can be any text, image, audio, video, and multimedia files. Communication is an act of sending or receiving data. Thus, data communication refers to the exchange of data between two or more networked or connected devices.

Why to Learn Data Communication & Computer Network?

Network Basic Understanding

A system of interconnected computers and computerized peripherals such as printers is called computer network. This interconnection among computers facilitates information sharing among them. Computers may connect to each other by either wired or wireless media.

Network Engineering

Networking engineering is a complicated task, which involves software, firmware, chip level engineering, hardware, and electric pulses. To ease network engineering, the whole networking concept is divided into multiple layers. Each layer is involved in some particular task and is independent of all other layers. But as a whole, almost all networking tasks depend on all of these layers. Layers share data between them and they depend on each other only to take input and send output.

Internet

A network of networks is called an internetwork, or simply the internet. It is the largest network in existence on this planet. The internet hugely connects all WANs and it can have connection to LANs and Home networks. Internet uses TCP/IP protocol suite and uses IP as its addressing protocol. Present day, Internet is widely implemented using IPv4. Because of shortage of address spaces, it is gradually migrating from IPv4 to IPv6.

Internet enables its users to share and access enormous amount of information worldwide. It uses WWW, FTP, email services, audio and video streaming etc. At huge level, internet works on Client-Server model.

Internet uses very high speed backbone of fiber optics. To inter-connect various continents, fibers are laid under sea known to us as submarine communication cable.

Applications of Communication & Computer Network

Computer systems and peripherals are connected to form a network. They provide numerous advantages:

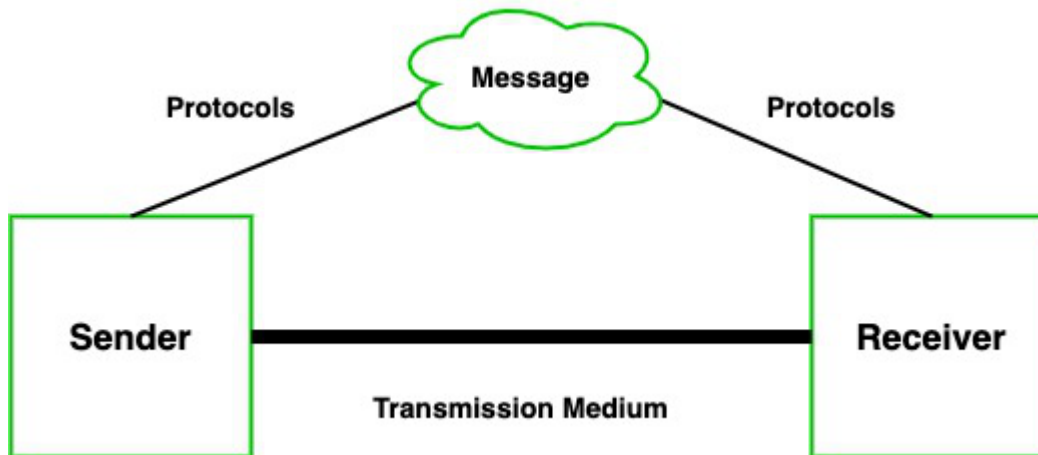
- Resource sharing such as printers and storage devices
- Exchange of information by means of e-Mails and FTP
- Information sharing by using Web or Internet
- Interaction with other users using dynamic web pages
- IP phones
- Video conferences
- Parallel computing
- Instant messaging

Components of Data Communication

A communication system is made up of the following components:

1. **Message:** A message is a piece of information that is to be transmitted from one person to another. It could be a text file, an audio file, a video file, etc.
2. **Sender:** It is simply a device that sends data messages. It can be a computer, mobile, telephone, laptop, video camera, or workstation, etc.
3. **Receiver:** It is a device that receives messages. It can be a computer, telephone mobile, workstation, etc.
4. **Transmission Medium / Communication Channels:** Communication channels are the medium that connect two or more workstations. Workstations can be connected by either wired media or wireless media.
5. **Set of rules (Protocol):** When someone sends the data (The sender), it should be understandable to the receiver also otherwise it is meaningless.

For example, Sonali sends a message to Chetan. If Sonali writes in Hindi and Chetan cannot understand Hindi, it is a meaningless conversation.



- **TCP(Transmission Control Protocol):** It is responsible for dividing messages into packets on the source computer and reassembling the received packet at the destination or recipient computer. It also makes sure that the packets have the information about the source of the message data, the destination of the message data, the sequence in which the message data should be re-assembled, and checks if the message has been sent correctly to the specific destination.
- **IP(Internet Protocol):** Do You ever wonder how does computer determine which packet belongs to which device. What happens if the message you sent to your friend is received by your father? Scary Right. Well! IP is responsible for handling the address of the destination computer so that each packet is sent to its proper destination.

Type of data communication

As we know that data communication is communication in which we can send or receive data from one device to another. The data communication is divided into three types:

1. **Simplex Communication:** It is one-way communication or we can say that unidirectional communication in which one device only receives and another

device only sends data and devices use their entire capacity in transmission. For example, IoT, entering data using a keyboard, listening to music using a speaker, etc.

2. **Half Duplex communication:** It is a two-way communication or we can say that it is a bidirectional communication in which both the devices can send and receive data but not at the same time. When one device is sending data then another device is only receiving and vice-versa. For example, walkie-talkie.
3. **Full-duplex communication:** It is a two-way communication or we can say that it is a bidirectional communication in which both the devices can send and receive data at the same time. For example, mobile phones, landlines, etc.

Communication Channels

Communication channels are the medium that connects two or more workstations. Workstations can be connected by either wired media or wireless media. It is also known as a transmission medium. The transmission medium or channel is a link that carries messages between two or more devices. We can group the communication media into two categories:

- Guided media transmission
- Unguided media transmission

1. **Guided Media:** In this transmission medium, the physical link is created using wires or cables between two or more computers or devices, and then the data is transmitted using these cables in terms of signals. Guided media transmission of the following types:

1. **Twisted pair cable:** It is the most common form of wire used in communication. In a twisted-pair cable, two identical wires are wrapped together in a double helix. The twisting of the wire reduces the crosstalk. It is known as the leaking of a signal from one wire to another due to which signal can corrupt and can cause network errors. The twisting protects the wire from internal crosstalk as well as external forms of signal interference. Types of

Twisted Pair Cable :

- **Unshielded Twisted Pair (UTP):** It is used in computers and telephones widely. As the name suggests, there is no external shielding so it does not protect from external interference. It is cheaper than STP.
- **Shielded Twisted Pair (STP):** It offers greater protection from crosstalk due to shield. Due to shielding, it protects from external interference. It is heavier and costlier as compared to UTP.

2. Coaxial Cable: It consists of a solid wire core that is surrounded by one or more foil or wire shields. The inner core of the coaxial cable carries the signal and the outer shield provides the ground. It is widely used for television signals and also used by large corporations in building security systems. Data transmission of this cable is better but expensive as compared to twisted pair.

3. Optical fibers: Optical fiber is an important technology. It transmits large amounts of data at very high speeds due to which it is widely used in internet cables. It carries data as a light that travels inside a thin glass fiber. The fiber optic cable is made up of three pieces:

1. **Core:** Core is the piece through which light travels. It is generally created using glass or plastic.
2. **Cladding:** It is the covering of the core and reflects the light back to the core.
3. **Sheath:** It is the protective covering that protects fiber cable from the environment.

2. Unguided Media: The unguided transmission media is a transmission mode in which the signals are propagated from one device to another device wirelessly. Signals can wave through the air, water, or vacuum. It is generally used to transmit signals in all directions. Unguided Media is further divided into various parts :

1. Microwave: Microwave offers communication without the use of cables. Microwave signals are just like radio and television signals. It is used in long-distance communication. Microwave transmission consists of a transmitter, receiver, and atmosphere. In microwave communication, there are parabolic antennas that are mounted on the towers to send a beam to another antenna. The higher the tower, the greater the range.

2. Radio wave: When communication is carried out by radio frequencies, then it is termed radio waves transmission. It offers mobility. It consists of the transmitter and the receiver. Both use antennas to radiate and capture the radio signal.

3. Infrared: It is short-distance communication and can pass through any object. It is generally used in TV remotes, wireless mouse, etc.