SUBJECT: COMPUTER NETWORKS

TCP/IP Model

Elementrix Classes

TCP/IP Model

The TCP/IP model (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol model) is a four-layered framework that describes how data travels across networks like the internet. It offers a practical understanding of network communication.

The TCP/IP protocol suite was invented in the **1970s by Vint** Cerf and Bob Kahn as a foundational technology for the internetworking that led to the creation of the modern internet.



1. Application Layer

Application Layer: Drafting and Sending the Email

□ You use an email client (e.g., Gmail) to compose an email.

❑ When you hit "send," the email client formats the message according to email protocols like SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) for transfer across the network.

2. Transport Layer

Transport Layer: Ensuring Reliable Delivery (via TCP)

□ TCP breaks your email into smaller packets for efficient network transmission.

TCP attaches headers to each packet, including port numbers to distinguish between different applications (like your email client) and ensure data arrives in the right order.

TCP adds error-checking mechanisms to guarantee that every packet reaches its destination intact.

3. Internet Layer

Internet Layer: Finding the Destination (via IP)

The IP layer assigns "addresses" to your device (the sender) and the recipient's mail server (the destination). These are IP addresses.

□ IP, along with routing protocols, determines the best path across multiple networks for your email packets to reach the recipient's mail server.

4. Network Access Layer

Network Access Layer: Transmitting the Data

This layer converts the data frames into physical signals suitable for the connection type (wired or wireless).

If it's a wired connection, Ethernet protocols and your network adapter manage the physical transmission of electrical signals on cables.

If it's Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi standards dictate signal transmission over the airwaves.

Receiving the Email:

□ The recipient's mail server receives the packets.

□ TCP on the mail server reassembles them in the correct order.

□ Using SMTP, the mail server forwards the email to the recipient's device.

□ Their email client retrieves the email and presents it in a readable format.

Key Points:

□ TCP/IP is modular: Each layer performs specific tasks, independent of the others.

□ Encapsulation: Data is wrapped with additional headers at each layer as it travels down the protocol stack.

Error Correction and Retransmission: TCP provides mechanisms to resend any lost or corrupted packets.



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