OSI MODEL (SEVEN LAYER MODEL) AND TCP/IP MODEL



Communication Architecture

- Strategy for connecting host computers and other communicating equipment.
- Defines necessary elements for data communication between devices.
- A communication architecture, therefore, defines a standard for the communicating hosts.
- A programmer formats data in a manner defined by the communication architecture and passes it on to the communication software.
- Separating communication functions adds flexibility, for example, we do not need to modify the entire host software to include more communication devices.

Layer Architecture

- Layer architecture simplifies the network design.
- It is easy to debug network applications in a layered architecture network.
- The network management is easier due to the layered architecture.
- Network layers follow a set of rules, called protocol.
- The protocol defines the format of the data being exchanged, and the control and timing for the handshake between layers.



Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Model

- International standard organization (ISO) established a committee in 1977 to develop an architecture for computer communication.
- Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) reference model is the result of this effort.
- In 1984, the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) reference model was approved as an international standard for communications architecture.
- Term "open" denotes the ability to connect any two systems which conform to the reference model and associated standards.

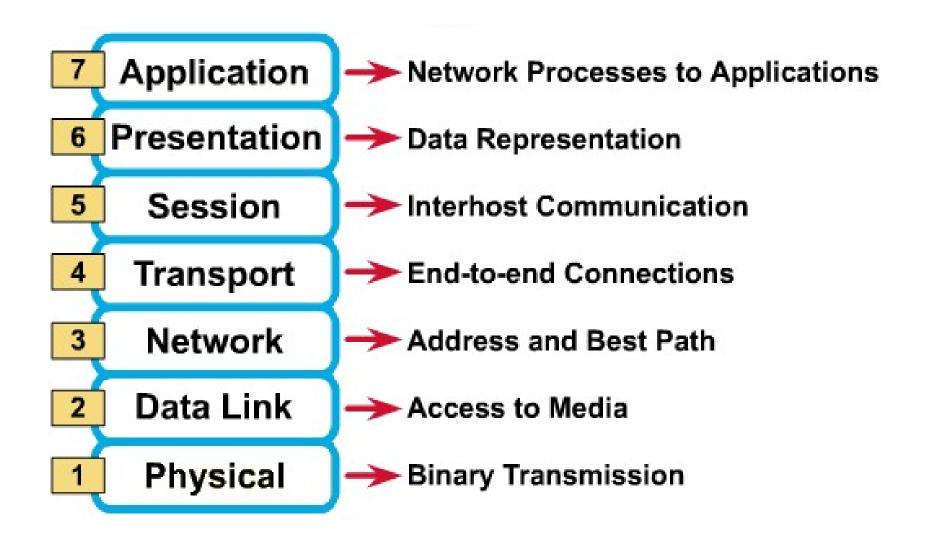


OSI Reference Model

- The OSI model is now considered the primary Architectural model for inter-computer communications.
- The OSI model describes how information or data makes its way from application programmes (such as spreadsheets) through a network medium (such as wire) to another application programme located on another network.
- The OSI reference model divides the problem of moving information between computers over a network medium into SEVEN smaller and more manageable problems.
- This separation into smaller more manageable functions is known as layering.



OSI Reference Model: 7 Layers





OSI: A Layered Network Model

- The process of breaking up the functions or tasks of networking into layers reduces complexity.
- Each layer provides a service to the layer above it in the protocol specification.
- Each layer communicates with the same layer's software or hardware on other computers.
- The lower 4 layers (transport, network, data link and physical Layers 4, 3, 2, and 1) are concerned with the flow of data from end to end through the network.
- The upper four layers of the OSI model (application, presentation and session—Layers 7, 6 and 5) are orientated more toward services to the applications.
- Data is Encapsulated with the necessary protocol information as it moves down the layers before network transit.



Physical Layer

- Provides physical interface for transmission of information.
- Defines rules by which bits are passed from one system to another on a physical communication medium.
- Covers all mechanical, electrical, functional and procedural - aspects for physical communication.
- Such characteristics as voltage levels, timing of voltage changes, physical data rates, maximum transmission distances, physical connectors, and other similar attributes are defined by physical layer specifications.

Data Link Layer

- Data link layer attempts to provide reliable communication over the physical layer interface.
- Breaks the outgoing data into frames and reassemble the received frames.
- Create and detect frame boundaries.
- Handle errors by implementing an acknowledgement and retransmission scheme.
- Implement flow control.
- Supports points-to-point as well as broadcast communication.
- Supports simplex, half-duplex or full-duplex communication.



Network Layer

- Implements routing of frames (packets) through the network.
- Defines the most optimum path the packet should take from the source to the destination
- Defines logical addressing so that any endpoint can be identified.
- Handles congestion in the network.
- Facilitates interconnection between heterogeneous networks (Internetworking).
- The network layer also defines how to fragment a packet into smaller packets to accommodate different media.

Transport Layer

- Purpose of this layer is to provide a reliable mechanism for the exchange of data between two processes in different computers.
- Ensures that the data units are delivered error free.
- Ensures that data units are delivered in sequence.
- Ensures that there is no loss or duplication of data units.
- Provides connectionless or connection oriented service.
- Provides for the connection management.
- Multiplex multiple connection over a single channel.



Session Layer

- Session layer provides mechanism for controlling the dialogue between the two end systems. It defines how to start, control and end conversations (called sessions) between applications.
- This layer requests for a logical connection to be established on an end-user's request.
- Any necessary log-on or password validation is also handled by this layer.
- Session layer is also responsible for terminating the connection.
- This layer provides services like dialogue discipline which can be full duplex or half duplex.
- Session layer can also provide check-pointing mechanism such that if a failure of some sort occurs between checkpoints, all data can be retransmitted from the last checkpoint.



Presentation Layer

- Presentation layer defines the format in which the data is to be exchanged between the two communicating entities.
- Also handles data compression and data encryption (cryptography).

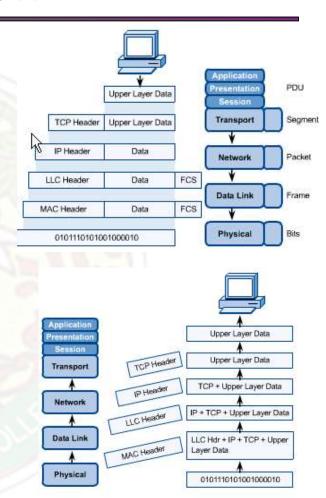


Application Layer

- Application layer interacts with application programs and is the highest level of OSI model.
- Application layer contains management functions to support distributed applications.
- Examples of application layer are applications such as file transfer, electronic mail, remote login etc.

OSI in Action

- A message begins at the top application layer and moves down the OSI layers to the bottom physical layer.
- As the message descends, each successive OSI model layer adds a header to it.
- A header is layer-specific information that basically explains what functions the layer carried out.
- Conversely, at the receiving end, headers are striped from the message as it travels up the corresponding layers.



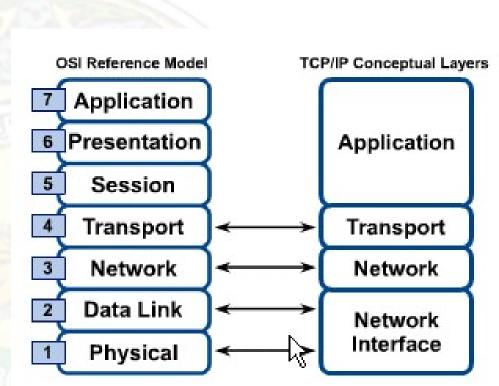






OSI & TCP/IP Models

7 Application 6 Presentation Application Layers 5 Session 4 Transport 3 Network Data Flow Layers 1 Physical





TCP/IP Model

Application Layer

Application programs using the network

Transport Layer (TCP/UDP)

Management of end-to-end message transmission, error detection and error correction

Network Layer (IP)

Handling of datagrams: routing and congestion

Data Link Layer

Management of cost effective and reliable data delivery, access to physical networks

Physical Layer

Physical Media