

# **TCP/IP:** Subnet Addressing



## **Outline of the talk**

• IP Subnet



## **IP Subnet**

- Basic concept:
  - A subset of a Class A, B or C network.
- IP addresses that do not use subnets consists of
  - A network portion and
  - A host portion
- Represents a static two-level hierarchical addressing model.

# **IP Subnet (contd.)**

- IP subnets introduces a third level of hierarchy
  - A network portion.
  - A subnet portion.
  - A host portion.
- Allow more efficient (and structured utilization of the addresses.
- Uses network masks
  - Natural / Default network masks.
  - Custom / Subnet network masks.

## **Natural Masks**

- Network mask 255.0.0.0 is applied to a class A network 10.0.0.0
  - In binary, the mask is a series of contiguous 1's followed by a series of contiguous 0's.
  - <u>11111111 0000000 0000000 0000000</u>

ا Network Portion

। Host portion

# Natural Masks (contd.)

- Provide a mechanism to split the IP address 10.0.0.20 into
  - A network portion of 10, and
  - A host portion of 20

# Natural Masks (contd.)

- Class A, B and C addresses
  - Have fixed division of network and host portions.
  - Can be expressed as masks.
    - Called natural masks
  - Natural Masks
    - Class A :: 255.0.0.0
    - Class B :: 255.255.0.0
    - Class C :: 255.255.255.0

### **Creating Subnets using Masks**

### Masks are very flexible.

 Using masks, networks can be divided into smaller subnets.

### • How?

- By ending the network portion of the address into the host portion.
- Advantage gained:
  - We can create a large number subnets from one network.
  - Can have less number of hosts per network.

## **Example: Subnets**

- Network mask 255.255.0.0 is applied to a class A network 10.0.0.0
  - This divides the IP address 10.5.0.20 into
    - A network portion of 10.
    - A subnet portion of 5, and
    - A host portion of 20.
  - The 255.255.0.0 mask borrows a portion of the host space, and applies it to the network space,

# Subnets (contd.)

- What happens?
  - We have now split the network into 256 subnets.
  - Initially it was a single large Class A network (2<sup>24</sup> 2 hosts).
    - From 10.0.0.0 to 10.255.0.0
    - The hosts pet subnet decreases to 65,534

# Subnet (contd.)

#### Decimal

<u>Binary</u>

IP address: 10.5.0.20 0000101 0000000 00010100 0000000 00010100 Mask: 255.255.0.0 1111111 1111111 00000000 00000000 Network Subnet Host

### **Default Mask and Subnet Mask**



### Subnet vs. Multiple Address Classes

- Subnets
  - Managing of subnets is done by local network administrator
  - Single entry is external router tables.
- Multiple Address Classes
  - Multiple entries in external router tables.
  - Additional overhead on the backbone (external) routers.

### Comparison



### Variable Length Subnet Mask (VLSM)

- Basic concept
  - The same network can be configured with different masks.
  - Can have subnets of different sizes
  - Allows better utilization of available addresses.

# **Example: VLSM**

- Suppose we are assigned a Class C network 192.203.17.0
  - To be divided into three subnets
    - Corresponding to three departments
    - With 110, 45 and 50 hosts respectively.



# The Example (contd.)

- Available subnet options:
  - The network mask will be the Class C natural mask 255.255.255.0
  - Subnet masks of the form
    - 255.255.255.X
      - Can be used to divide the network into more subnets.

## **The Subnet Options**

X	X (in binary)		No. of Subnets	No of Hosts
128	1000	0000	2	128
192	1100	0000	4	64
224	1110	0000	8	32
240	1111	0000	16	16
248	11111000		32	8
252	1111	1100	64	4

Cannot satisfy the requirements (110, 45, 50)

# **The VSLM Option**

### Basic concept:

 First use the mask 255.255.255.128 to divide the network address into two subnets with 128 hosts each.

- 192.203.17.0 (.0 to .127)
- 192.203. `7.0 (.128 to .255)



# **Running out of IP addresses**

- Growing demand for IP addresses
  - Severe strain on the classful model
  - Due to wastage of address space.
- Measures taken:
  - Creative allocation of IP addresses
  - Classless Inter-Domain Routing (CIDR)
  - Private IP addresses, and Network Address Translation (NAT)
  - IP version 6 (IPv6)