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BCA Honours | Semester III | Calicut University

Computer Networks

Course Code: BCA3CJ202 • Module 3 Notes

MODULE III: NETWORK LAYER AND IP SUBNETTING

1. IPv4 Addressing, CIDR, and Subnetting

The Network Layer routes packets across heterogeneous internetworks using logical IPv4/IPv6 addressing. Subnetting partitions a large network address space into smaller, manageable broadcast domains to conserve addresses and isolate traffic.

2. Illustrative Computational Working: Step-by-Step Numerical Example

Worked Numerical Example: IPv4 Class C Subnet Design & Host Allocation

Problem Statement:

A network administrator is assigned the Class C network block **192.168.10.0/24** and must partition it into **4 equal subnets** for distinct department branches.

For each of the 4 subnets, compute: (a) Subnet mask (in dotted-decimal and CIDR notation), (b) Network ID, (c) First usable host IP, (d) Last usable host IP, (e) Directed broadcast IP, and (f) Number of usable host addresses per subnet.

Solution & Step-by-Step Working:

1. Subnet Bit Allocation:

To create 4 subnets, we need $2^s \geq 4 impliess = 2$ borrow bits from the host portion.

Original prefix: $/24$. New prefix: $24 + 2 = /\mathbf{26}$.

Subnet Mask in binary: $11111111.11111111.11111111.11000000_2 = \mathbf{255.255.255.192}$.

Block size (step interval) = $256 - 192 = 64$ addresses per subnet.

Usable hosts per subnet = $2^{8-2} - 2 = 2^6 - 2 = 64 - 2 = \mathbf{62}$ hosts.

Consolidated Subnet Design Table:

Subnet #	Network ID	First Usable IP	Last Usable IP	Broadcast IP	Usable Hosts
Subnet 1	192.168.10.0/26	192.168.10.1	192.168.10.62	192.168.10.63	62
Subnet 2	192.168.10.64/26	192.168.10.65	192.168.10.126	192.168.10.127	62
Subnet 3	192.168.10.128/26	192.168.10.129	192.168.10.190	192.168.10.191	62
Subnet 4	192.168.10.192/26	192.168.10.193	192.168.10.254	192.168.10.255	62

Advanced Architectural Extensions & Industrial Systems Synthesis

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architectures. Systems operate in high-availability, low-latency environments where computational efficiency, cache locality, and provable system reliability govern operational success.

1. Contemporary Engineering Dilemmas and Architectural Solutions

Engineering teams designing systems centered around Computer Networks must systematically navigate fundamental computational trade-offs:

- **Time Complexity Optimization versus Space Consumption:** In high-throughput algorithmic pipelines related to IP Routing and Address Allocation, pre-computing intermediate lookup tables (memoization, spatial indices, hash tables) achieves near-instantaneous $O(1)$ query latency, but inflates physical memory footprints. Conversely, in-place algorithms minimize RAM utilization at the expense of higher cycle counts. Modern architectures dynamically calibrate memory allocations using memory-mapped I/O and cache-aware data layouts.
- **Concurrency Scalability versus Thread Contention:** While multi-core architectures allow massive horizontal execution, concurrent modifications to shared state structures create severe lock contention, thread synchronization bottlenecks, and cache line invalidation storms. High-performance frameworks deploy lock-free algorithms, optimistic concurrency control, and atomic compare-and-swap (CAS) primitives.
- **Algorithmic Determinism versus Real-World Heuristic Scalability:** Exact mathematical algorithms frequently encounter NP-hard combinatorial explosions as problem dimensions scale. Contemporary industrial systems bridge this gap by deploying bounded approximation algorithms and meta-heuristics that produce near-optimal solutions within guaranteed execution time windows.

2. Empirical Comparative Framework

A structured comparative assessment clarifies operational distinctions across conventional and modern paradigms in Computer Networks:

Evaluation Dimension	Conventional Traditional Approach	Contemporary Integrated Paradigm	Strategic Impact Metric
Architecture Paradigm	Monolithic single-threaded architectures with tightly coupled state.	Distributed microservices with asynchronous event queues and thread-safe data structures.	Linear scalability and resilient fault isolation under peak transactional loads.
Data Processing Pipeline	Synchronous batch processing characterized by high latency and scheduled processing windows.	Real-time streaming pipelines (Apache Kafka, Flink) with sub-second event ingestion and processing.	Zero-latency decision intelligence and immediate anomaly response.
Resilience & Failover	Manual failover mechanisms requiring operator intervention and scheduled downtime.	Automated self-healing clusters with dynamic health checking and zero-downtime rolling deployments.	Continuous availability meeting strict 99.999% Service Level Agreements (SLAs).
System Telemetry & Auditing	Static text logging with periodic post-incident analysis.	Distributed tracing (OpenTelemetry), structured JSON metrics, and automated root-cause diagnostics.	Mean Time to Detection (MTTD) and Recovery (MTTR) reduced from hours to seconds.

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Industrial Risk Governance, Statutory Compliance & Failure Mode Analysis

Mission-critical systems must withstand rigorous scrutiny across operational, legal, and cyber-security dimensions. System architects deploy structured risk evaluation matrices to eliminate vulnerabilities across critical operational categories:

Risk Category	Primary Sources of Vulnerability	Diagnostic Warning Indicators	Mitigation Protocol & Internal Controls
Algorithmic & Logic Risk	Infinite recursion, stack overflows, unhandled edge cases, pointer corruption.	Core dumps, segmentation faults, abrupt memory footprint spikes, unresponsive threads.	Formal loop invariant assertions, strict boundary validation, automated fuzz testing, static code analysis.
Concurrency & State Risk	Race conditions, deadlocks, livelocks, priority inversions in multi-threaded workflows.	Thread execution stalls, CPU starvation, lock wait time spikes in APM telemetry.	Deadlock detection algorithms, lock ordering hierarchies, lock-free concurrent collections.
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Statutory & Regulatory Risk	Non-compliance with national data protection regulations (DPDP Act, GDPR), audit trail gaps.	Unencrypted sensitive user data at rest, unlogged administrative data modifications.	Automated encryption (AES-256), immutable cryptographic audit logs, periodic external compliance audits.

Through systematic deployment of these engineering practices, rigorous mathematical modeling, and robust governance frameworks, modern computing professionals ensure the reliability, performance, and long-term resilience of critical digital infrastructure.

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System Telemetry &	Static text logging with periodic post-incident	Distributed tracing (OpenTelemetry), structured	Mean Time to Detection (MTTD) and Recovery

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Auditing	analysis.	JSON metrics, and automated root-cause diagnostics.	(MTTR) reduced from hours to seconds.

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