## Chapter 1

Introduction

## 1-1 DATA COMMUNICATIONS

- When we communicate, we are sharing information $\rightarrow$ local or remote
- The telecommunication means communication at a distance
- Data communications are the exchange of data between two devices via some form of transmission media.


### 1.1.1 Components

## A data communications system has five components



### 1.1.2 Data Representation

Information today comes in different forms such as text, numbers, images, audio, and video

### 1.1.3 Data Flow

Communication between two devices can be

- simplex
- half-duplex
- full-duplex

Mainframe

## Direction of data

a. Simplex

Monitor

## Direction of data at time 1



Direction of data at time 2
b. Half-duplex

Direction of data all the time
c. Full-duplex

## 1-2 NETWORKS

A network is the interconnection of a set of devices capable of communication.

Examples: computer, desktop, laptop, workstation, cellular phone, or security system.
router, switch, modem

### 1.2.1 Network Criteria

A network must be able to meet a certain number of criteria

- performance
- Reliability
- Security.


### 1.2.2 Physical Structures

Before discussing networks, we need to define some network attributes.

## Types of connection

Link
a. Point-to-point


A fully-connected mesh topology


## A star topology



## A bus topology



## A ring topology



## 1-3 NETWORKS TYPES

The criteria of distinguishing one type of network from another is difficult and sometimes confusing

We use a few criteria such as size, geographical coverage, and ownership to make this distinction

### 1.3.1 Local Area Network

- is usually privately owned and connects some hosts in a single office, building, or campus
- Depending on the needs of an organization, a LAN can be as simple as two PCs and a printer in a home office, or it can extend throughout a company and include audio and video devices
- Each host in a LAN has an identifier, an address, that uniquely defines the host in the LAN.
- A packet carries both the source host's and the destination host's addresses.


## An Isolated LAN in the past and today



### 1.3.2 Wide Area Network

- is also an connection of devices capable of communication.
- differences between a LAN and a WAN.

1) A LAN is normally limited in size; a WAN has a wider geographical span, spanning a town, a state, a country, or even the world
2) A LAN interconnects hosts; a WAN interconnects connecting devices
3) A LAN is normally privately owned by the organization that uses it; a WAN is normally created and run by communication companies and leased by an organization that uses it.

## A Point-to-Point WAN



## A Switched WAN



## An internetwork made of two LANs and one WAN



## A heterogeneous network made of WANs and LANs



### 1.3.3 Switching

- An internet is a switched network in which a switch connects at least two links together.
- A switch needs to forward data from a network to another network when required.
- The two most common types of switched networks 1) circuit-switched

2) packet-switched

## A circuit-switched network



## A packet-switched network

$$
=\begin{aligned}
& \text { Low-capacity line } \\
& \text { High-capacity line }
\end{aligned}
$$



### 1.3.4 The Internet

- An internet is two or more networks that can communicate with each other.
- The most notable internet is the Internet
$\rightarrow$ composed of thousands of interconnected networks.
- The figure on the next slide shows a conceptual (not geographical) view of the Internet


## The Internet today



### 1.3.5 Accessing the Internet

- is an internetwork that allows any user to become part of it.
- The user needs to be physically connected to an ISP. The physical connection is normally done through a point-to-point WAN.


## 1-4 INTERNET HISTORY

### 1.5.1 Internet Standards

- It is a formalized regulation that must be followed
- There is a strict procedure by which a specification attains Internet standard status
- A specification begins as an Internet draft a working document (a work in progress) with no official status and a six-month lifetime.


## Maturity levels of an RFC



### 1.5.2 Internet Administration

- Various groups that coordinate Internet issues have guided growth and development
- Appendix G gives the addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers for some of these groups
- Figure on the next slide shows the general organization of Internet administration.


## Internet administration



