

INTERNET REFERENCE MODELS

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Reference Model

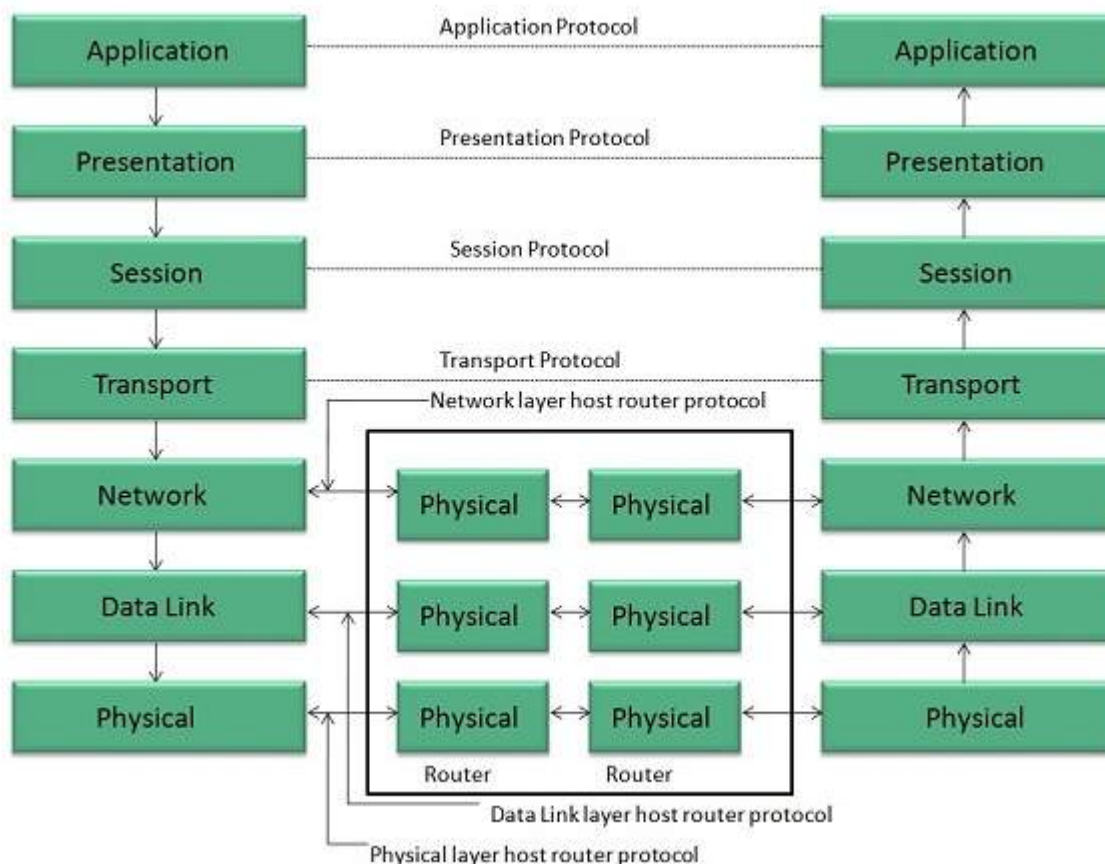
Reference Model offers a means of standardization which is acceptable worldwide. Since people using the computer network are located over a wide physical range and their network devices might have heterogeneous architecture. In order to provide communication among heterogeneous devices, we need a standardized model i.e. a reference model, which would provide us way how these devices can communicate regardless their architecture.

We have two reference models such as **OSI** model and **TCP/IP** reference model, however, the OSI model is a hypothetical one but the TCP/IP is absolutely practical model.

OSI Model

OSI is acronym of **Open System Interface**. This model is developed by the **International organization of Standardization ISO** and therefore also referred as **ISO-OSI** Model.

The OSI model consists of seven layers as shown in the following diagram. Each layer has a specific function, however each layer provide services to the layer above.



Physical Layer

The Physical layer is responsible for the following activities:

- Activating, maintaining and deactivating the physical connection.
- Defining voltages and data rates needed for transmission.
- Converting digital bits into electrical signal.
- Deciding whether the connection is simplex, half duplex or full duplex.

Data Link Layer

The data link layer performs the following functions:

- Performs synchronization and error control for the information which is to be transmitted over the physical link.
- Enables error detection, and adds error detection bits to the data which are to be transmitted.

Network Layer

Following are the functions of Network Layer:

- To route the signals through various channels to the other end.
- To act as the network controller by deciding which route data should take.
- To divide the outgoing messages into packets and to assemble incoming packets into messages for higher levels.

Transport Layer

The Transport layer performs the following functions:

- It decides if the data transmission should take place on parallel paths or single path.
- It performs multiplexing, splitting on the data.
- It breaks the data groups into smaller units so that they are handled more efficiently by the network layer.

| *The Transport Layer guarantees transmission of data from one end to other end.*

Session Layer

The Session layer performs the following functions:

- Manages the messages and synchronizes conversations between two different applications.
- It controls logging on and off, user identification, billing and session management.

Presentation Layer

The Presentation layer performs the following functions:

- This layer makes it sure that the information is delivered in such a form that the receiving system will understand and use it.

Application Layer

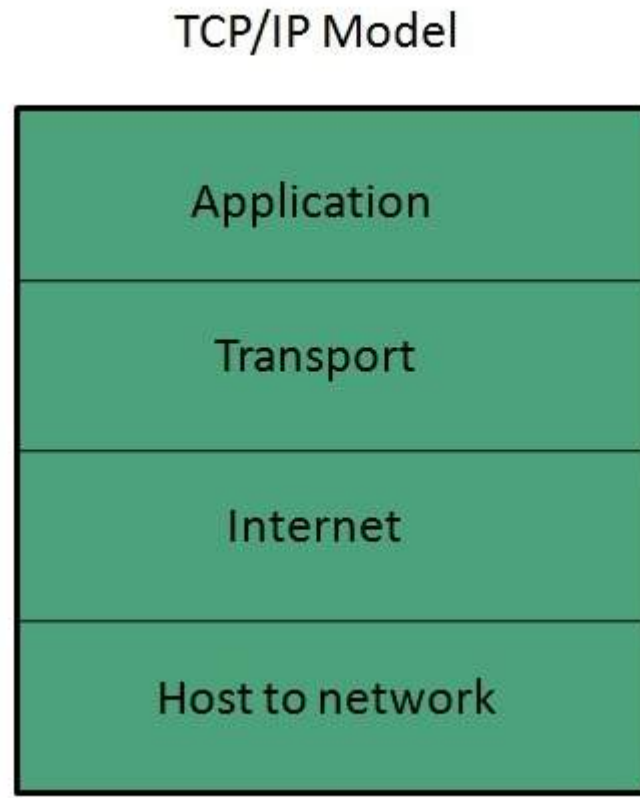
The Application layer performs the following functions:

- It provides different services such as manipulation of information in several ways, retransferring the files of information, distributing the results etc.
- The functions such as LOGIN or password checking are also performed by the application layer.

TCP/IP Model

TCP/IP model is practical model and is used in the Internet. TCP/IP is acronym of Transmission Control Protocol and Internet Protocol.

The **TCP/IP** model combines the two layers *Physical and Data link layer* into one layer i.e. **Host-to-Network** layer. The following diagram shows the various layers of TCP/IP model:



Application Layer

This layer is same as that of the OSI model and performs the following functions:

- It provides different services such as manipulation of information in several ways, retransferring the files of information, distributing the results etc.
- The functions such as LOGIN or password checking are also performed by the application layer.

Protocols used: *TELNET, FTP, SMTP, DN, HTTP, NNTP are the protocols employed in this layer.*

Transport Layer

It does the same functions as that of transport layer in OSI model. Here are the key points regarding transport layer:

- It uses **TCP** and **UDP** protocol for end to end transmission.
- TCP is reliable and **connection oriented protocol**.
- TCP also handles flow control.
- The UDP is not reliable and a **connection less protocol** also does not perform flow control.

Protocols used: *TCP/IP and UDP protocols are employed in this layer.*

Internet Layer

The function of this layer is to allow the host to insert packets into network and then make them travel independently to the destination. However, the order of receiving the packet can be different from the sequence they were sent.

| **Protocols used:** *Internet Protocol IP is employed in Internet layer.*

Host-to-Network Layer

This is the lowest layer in TCP/IP model. The host has to connect to network using some protocol, so that it can send IP packets over it. This protocol varies from host to host and network to network.

| **Protocols used:** *ARPANET, SATNET, LAN, packet radio are the protocols which are used in this layer.*

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