



Chapter 4: Application Layer



Network Basics

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Chapter 4: Objectives

By the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- Explain how the functions of the application layer, session layer, and presentation layer work together to provide network services to end user applications.
- Describe how common application layer protocols interact with end user applications.
- Describe common application layer protocols that provide Internet services to end users, including World Wide Web services and email.
- Describe application layer protocols that provide IP addressing services, including DNS and DHCP.
- Describe the features and operation of well-known application layer protocols that allow for file sharing services, including FTP, File Sharing Services, and the SMB protocol.



Chapter 4

4.0 Introduction

4.1 Application Layer Protocols

4.2 Well-Known Application Layer Protocols and Service

4.3 Summary



4.1 Application Layer Protocols

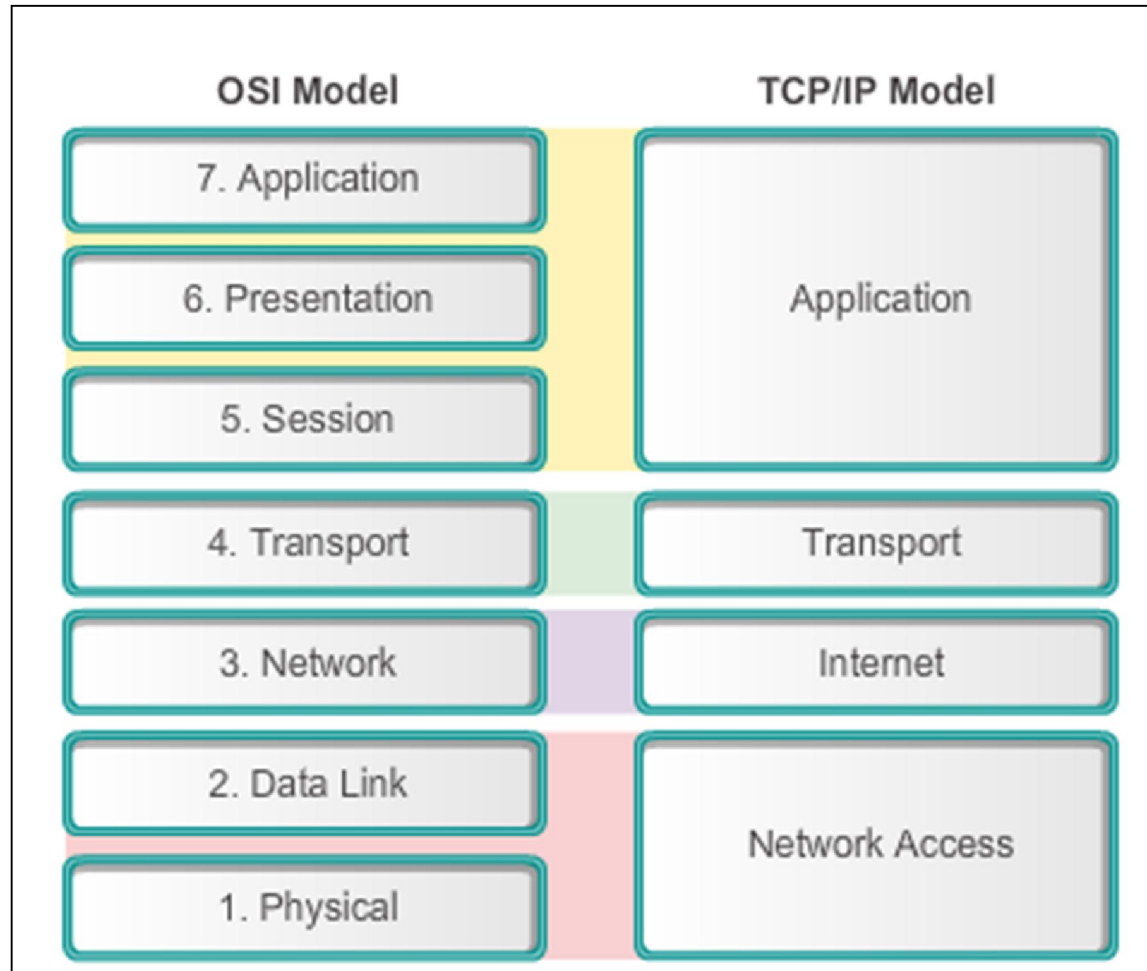


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Application Session and Presentation

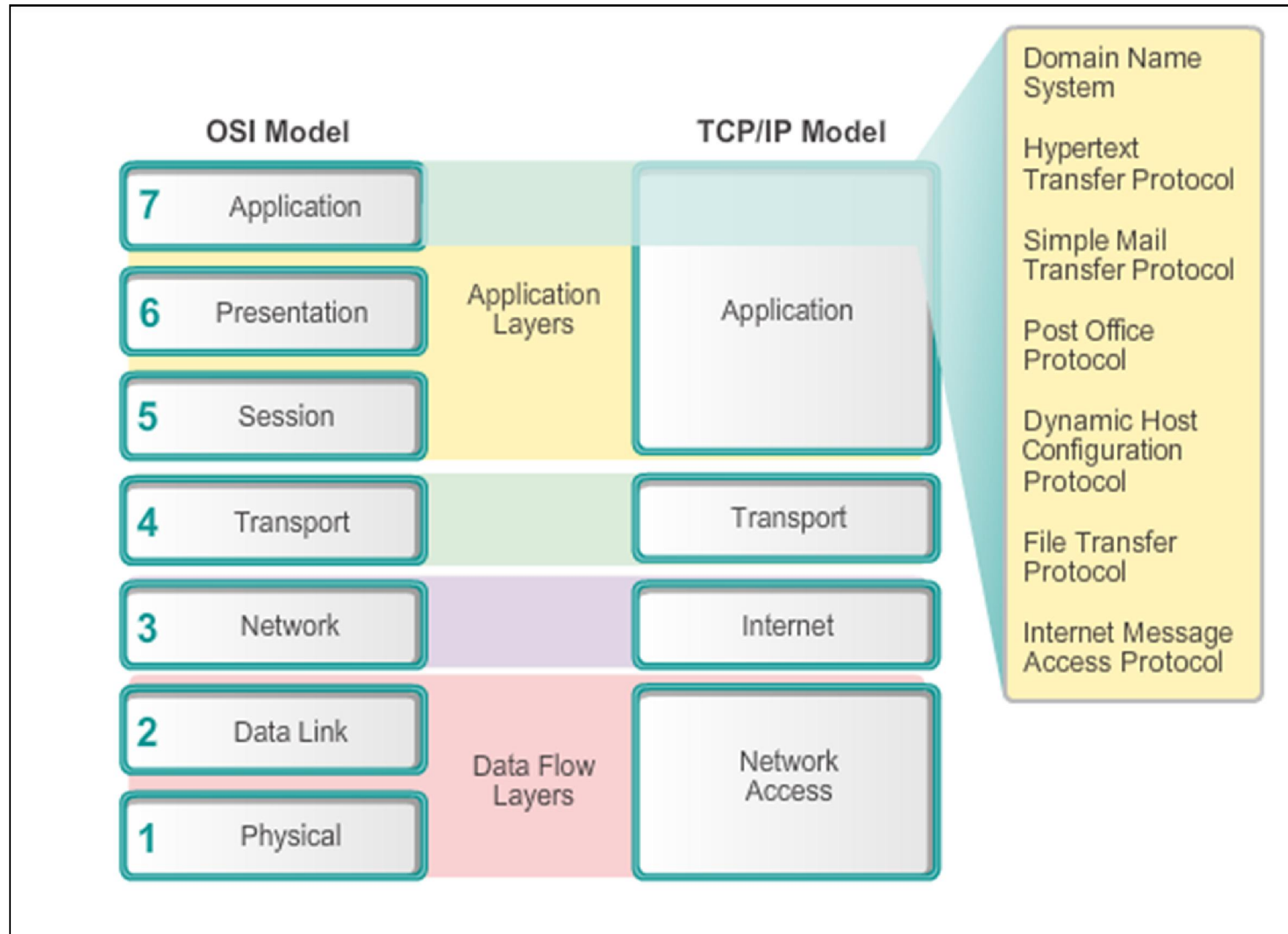
OSI and TCP/IP Models Revisited



The key parallels are in the transport and network layer.



Application Session and Presentation Application Layer





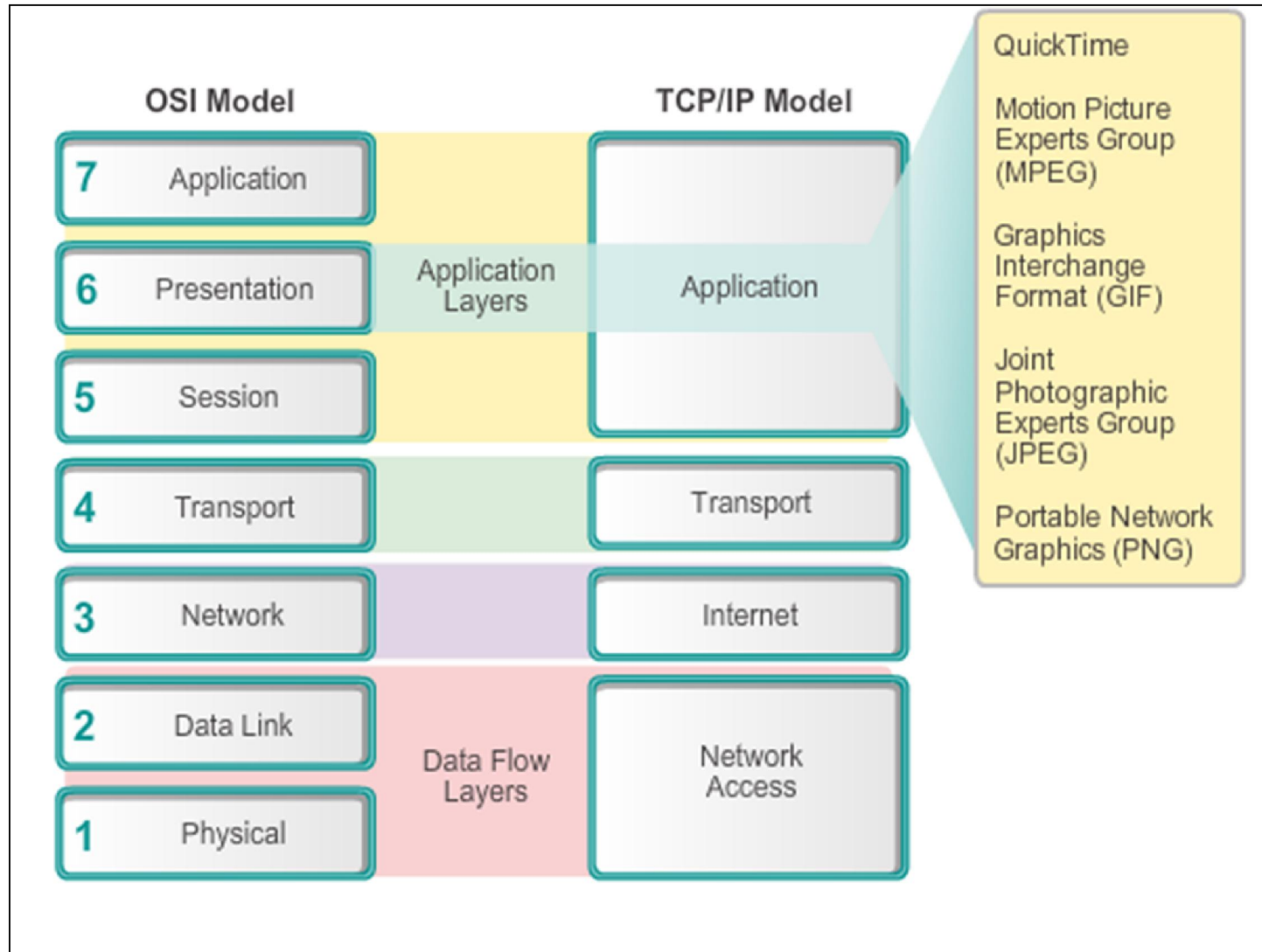
Application, Session and Presentation

Presentation and Session Layers

- **Presentation layer**
 - Coding and conversion of application layer data
 - Data compression
 - Data encryption for the transmission and decryption of data upon receipt by the destination
- **Session layer**
 - Functions, creates, and maintains dialogs between source and destination applications
 - Handles the exchange of information to initiate dialogs, keep them active, and to restart sessions



Application Session and Presentation Presentation and Session Layer (cont.)





Application, Session and Presentation

TCP/IP Application Layer Protocols

- **Domain Name Service Protocol (DNS)** – Used to resolve Internet names to IP addresses.
- **Telnet** – A terminal emulation protocol used to provide remote access to servers and networking devices.
- **Bootstrap Protocol (BOOTP)** – A precursor to the DHCP protocol, a network protocol used to obtain IP address information during bootup.
- **Dynamic Host Control Protocol (DHCP)** – Used to assign an IP address, subnet mask, default gateway, and DNS server to a host.
- **Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)** – Used to transfer files that comprise the World Wide Web pages.



Application, Session and Presentation

TCP/IP Application Layer Protocols (cont.)

- **File Transfer Protocol (FTP)** – Used for interactive file transfer between systems.
- **Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP)** – Used for connectionless active file transfer.
- **Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)** – Used for the transfer of mail messages and attachments
- **Post Office Protocol (POP)** – Used by email clients to retrieve email from a remote server
- **Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP)** – Another protocol for email retrieval



Application, Session, and Presentation Services at the Application Layer

Within the application layer, there are two forms of software programs or processes that provide access to the network:

Network-Aware Applications

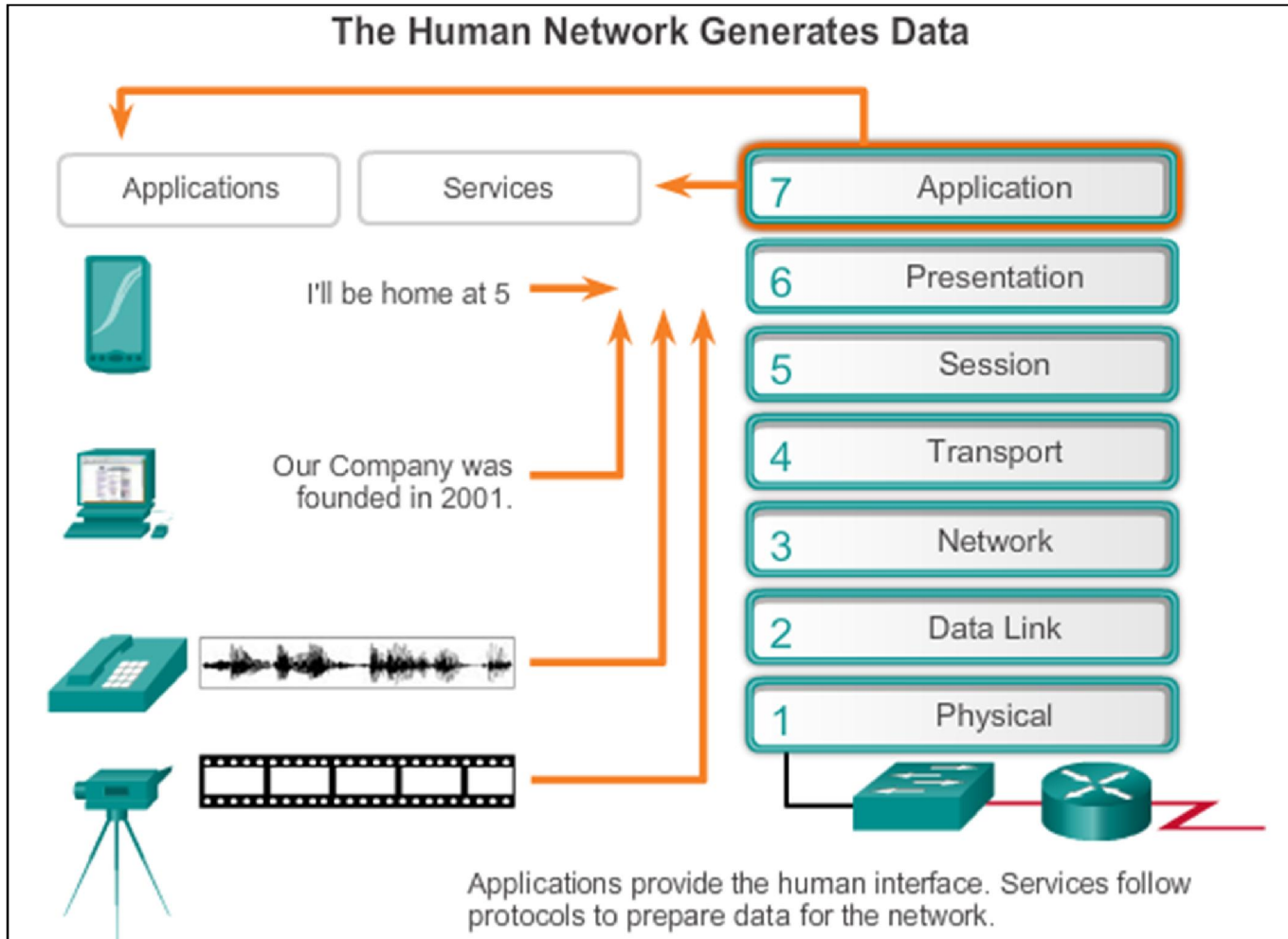
- End-user applications – Software programs used by people to communicate over the network
- Implement the application layer protocols and communicate directly with the lower layers
- Examples include email clients and web browsers

Application Layer Services

- Need the assistance of application layer services to use network resources
- Example – File transfer or network print spooling
- Different types of data require different network services

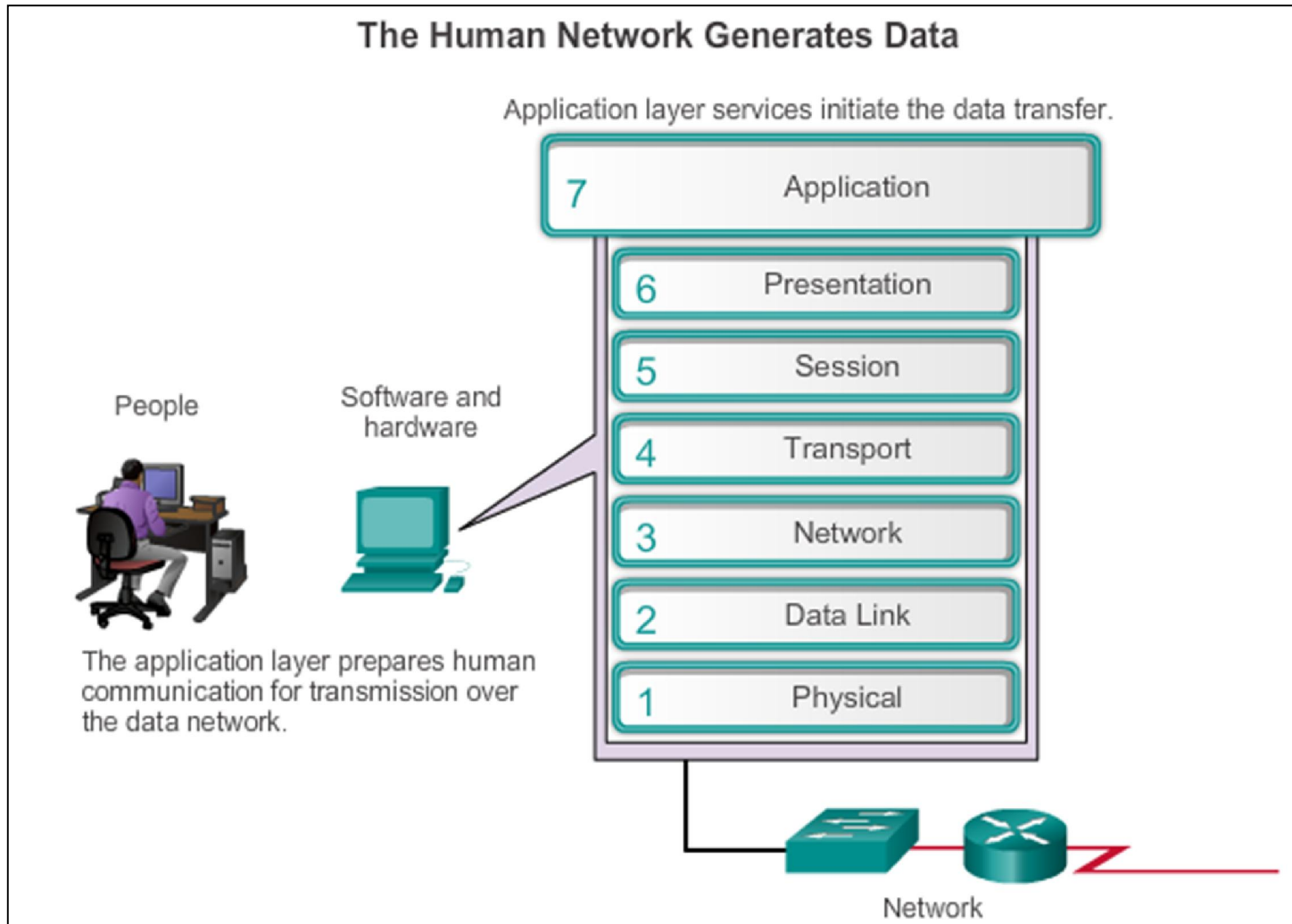


Application, Session, and Presentation Services at the Application Layer (cont.)



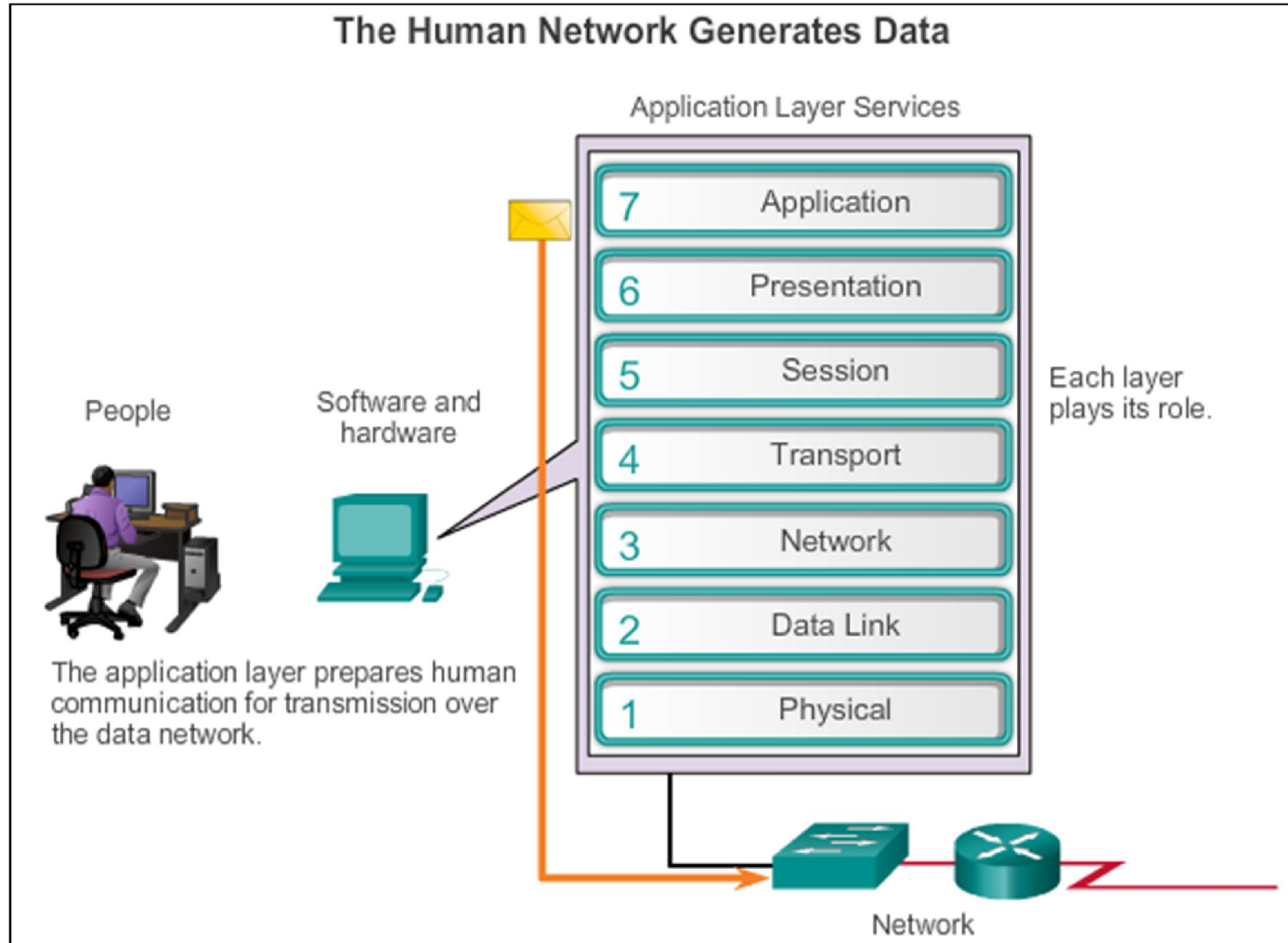


Application, Session, and Presentation Applications Interface with People and Other Applications



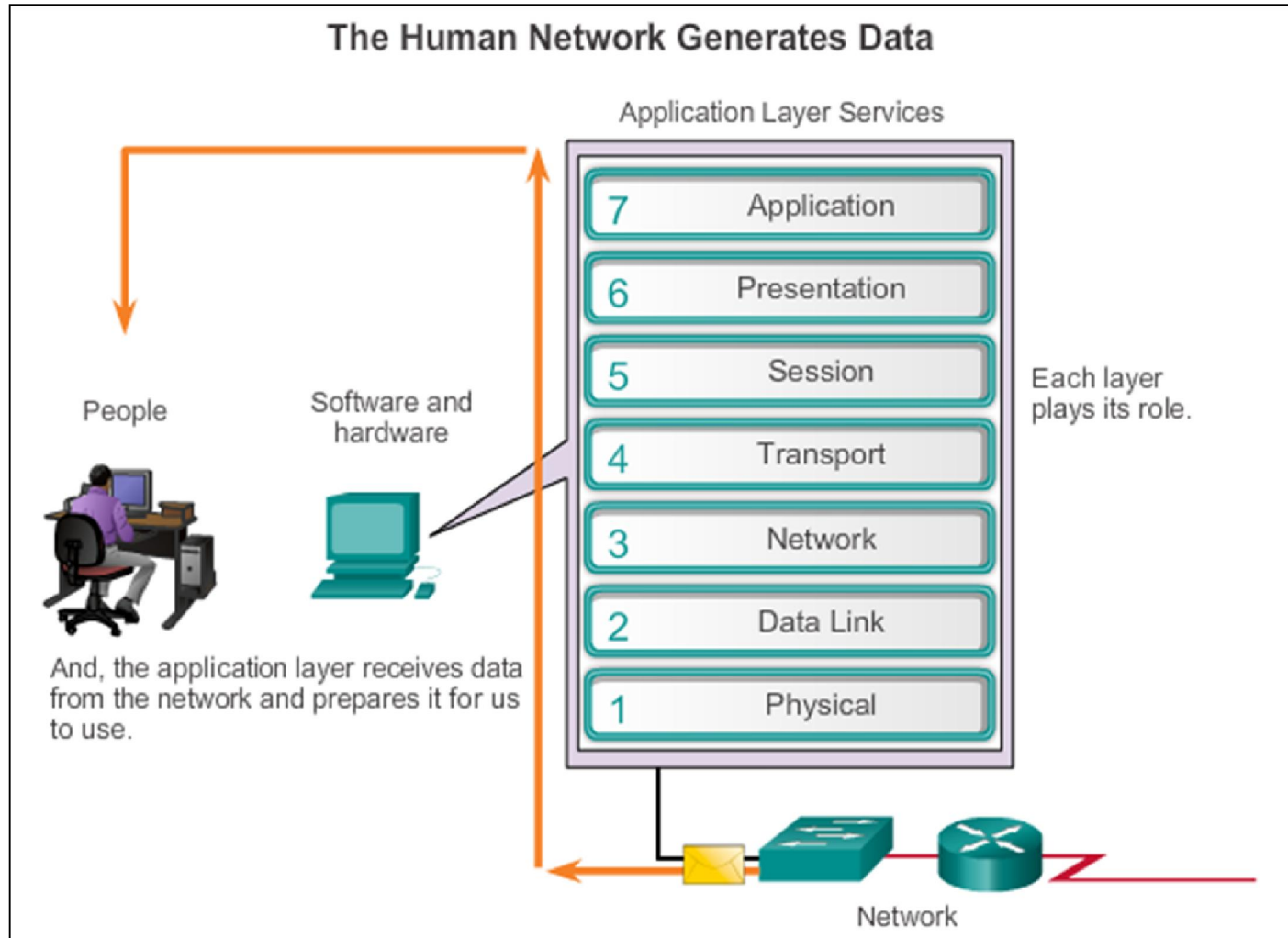


Application, Session, and Presentation Applications Interface with People and Other Applications (cont.)





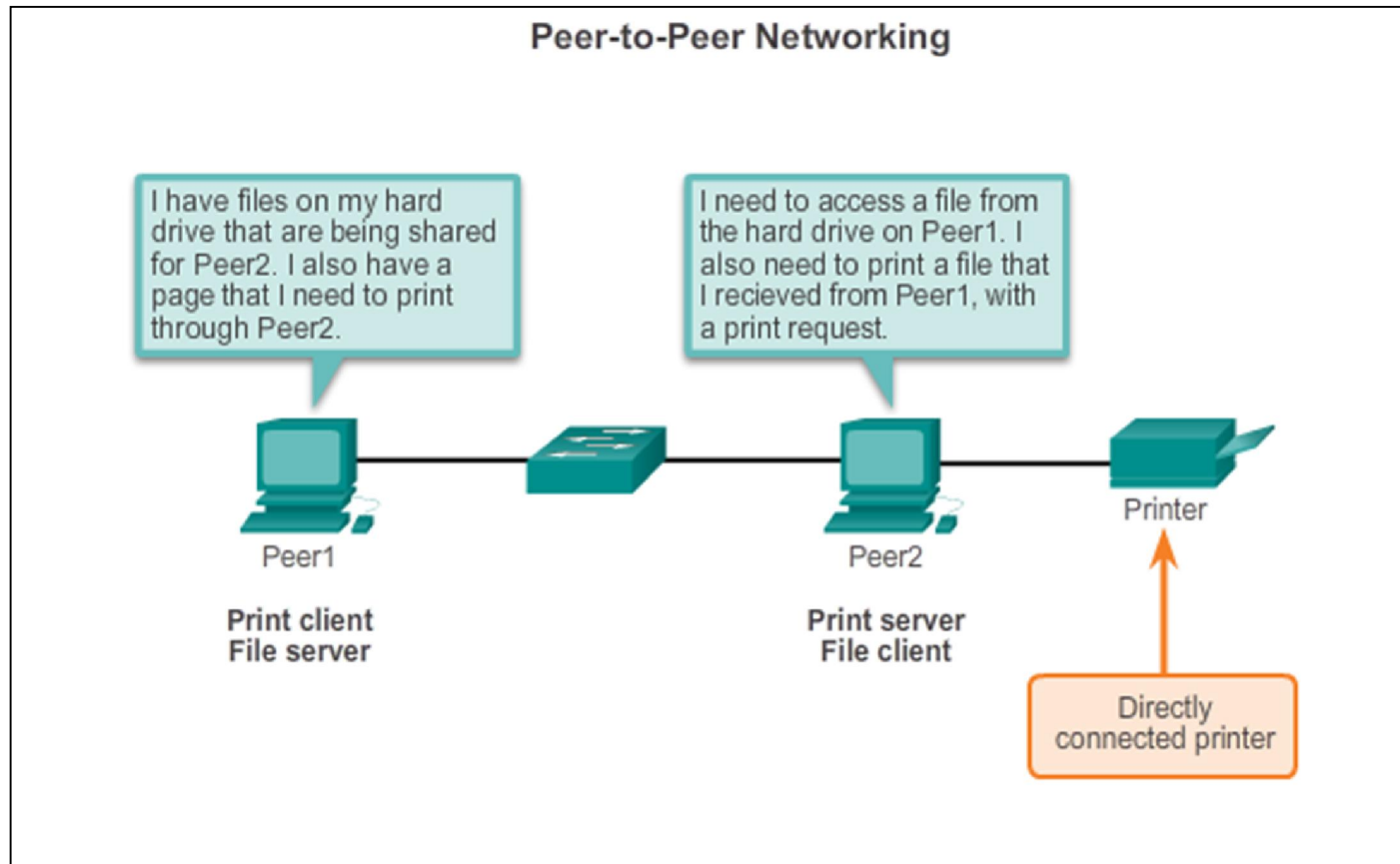
Application, Session, and Presentation Applications Interface with People and Other Applications (cont.)





How Application Protocols Interact with End-User Applications

Peer-to-Peer Networks



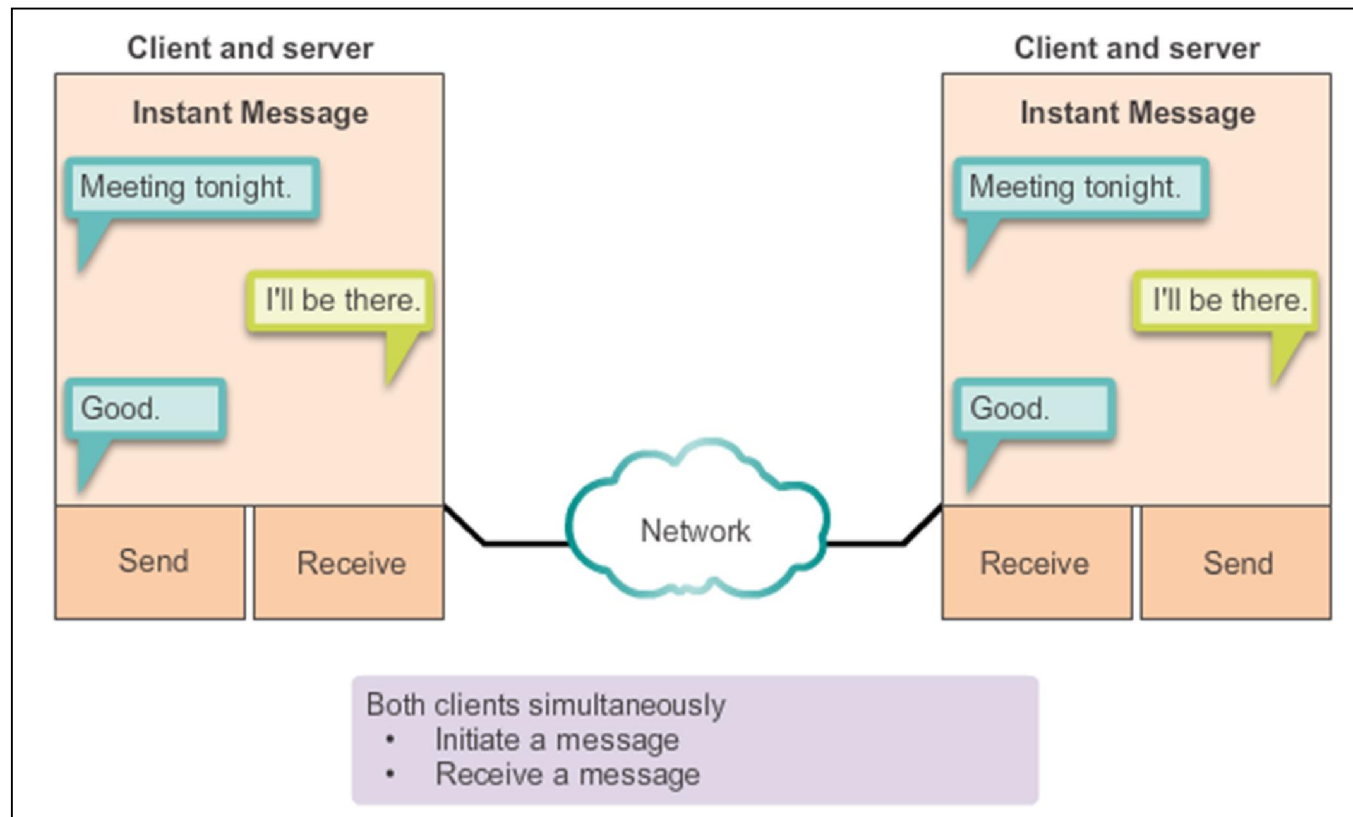
Both devices are considered equal in the communication.
The roles of client and server are set on a per request basis.



How Application Protocols Interact with End-User Applications

Peer-to-Peer Applications

Client and server are in the same communication.



Both can initiate a communication and are considered equal in the communication process.



How Application Protocols Interact with End-User Applications

Common P2P Applications

- With P2P applications, each computer in the network running the application can act as a client or a server for the other computers in the network running the application.

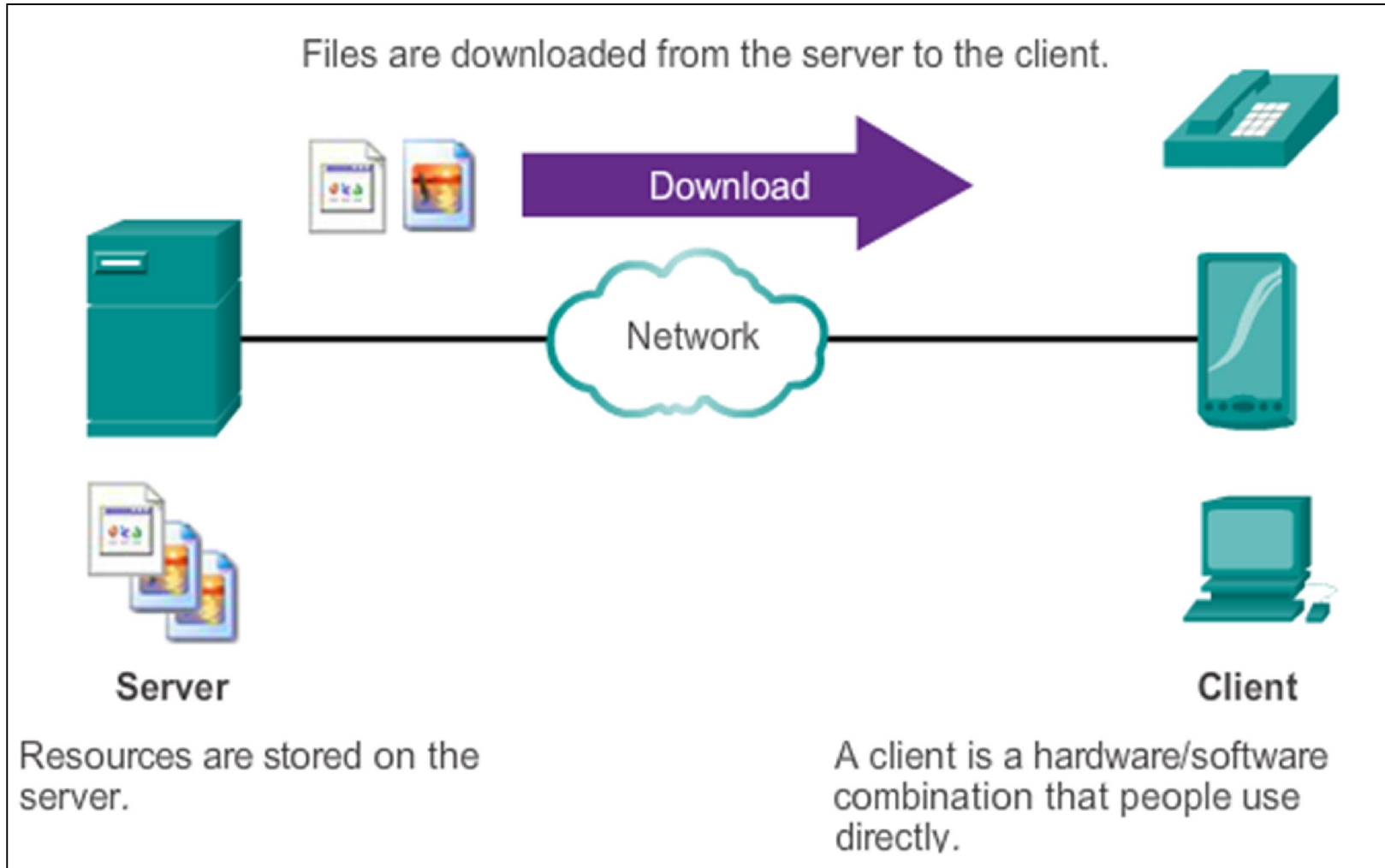
- Common P2P applications include:
 - eDonkey
 - eMule
 - Shareaza
 - BitTorrent
 - Bitcoin
 - LionShare

- Some P2P applications are based on the Gnutella protocol, which enables people to share files on their hard disks with others.



How Application Protocols Interact with End-User Applications

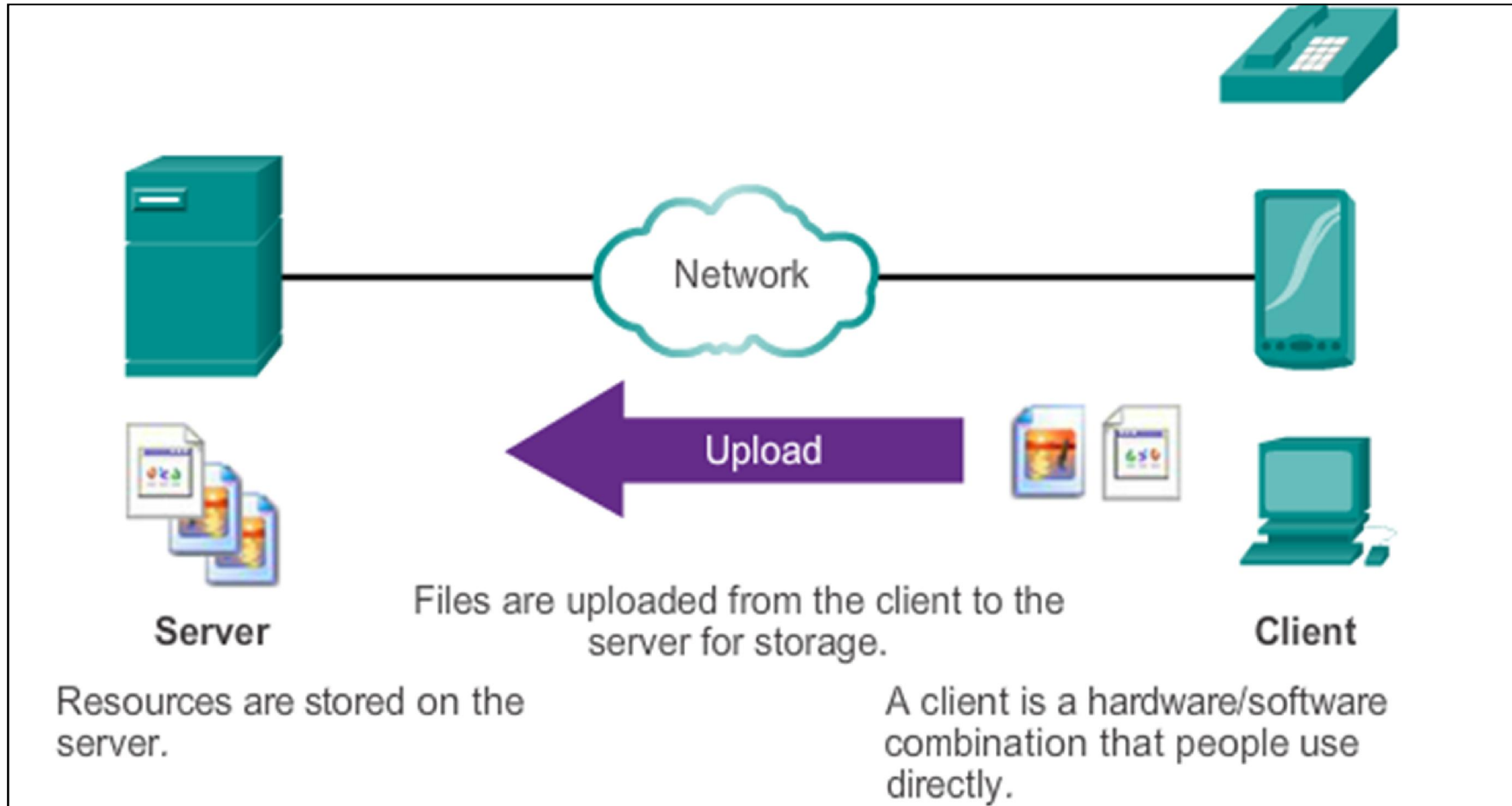
Client-Server Model





How Application Protocols Interact with End-User Applications

Client-Server Model (cont.)





4.2 Well-Known Application Layer Protocols and Services



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Everyday Application Layer Protocols

Application Layer Protocols Revisited

Three application layer protocols involved in everyday work or play include:

- **HTTP** to browse the web.
- **Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)** to enable users to send email.
- **Post Office Protocol (POP)** to enable users to receive email.



Common Application Layer Protocols

Hypertext Transfer Protocol and Hypertext Markup Language

Example URL: <http://www.cisco.com/index.html>

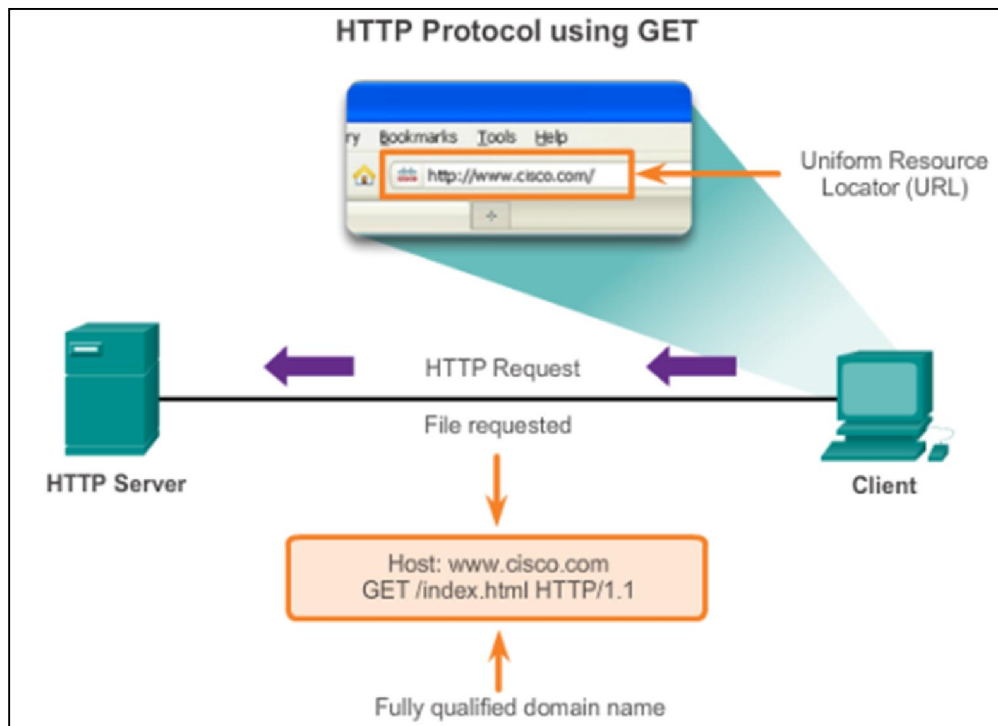
1. First, the browser interprets the three parts of the URL:
 - **http** (the protocol or scheme)
 - **www.cisco.com** (the server name)
 - **index.html** (the specific file name requested)
2. Browser checks with a name server to convert **www.cisco.com** into a numeric address
3. Using the HTTP protocol requirements sends a GET request to the server and asks for the file **index.html**
4. Server sends the HTML code for this web page
5. Browser deciphers the HTML code and formats the page



Everyday Application Layer Protocols

HTTP and HTTPS

- Developed to publish and retrieve HTML pages.
- Used for data transfer.
- Specifies a request/response protocol.
- Three common message types are GET, POST, and PUT.
- **GET** is a client request for data.
- **POST** and **PUT** are used to send messages that upload data to the web server.

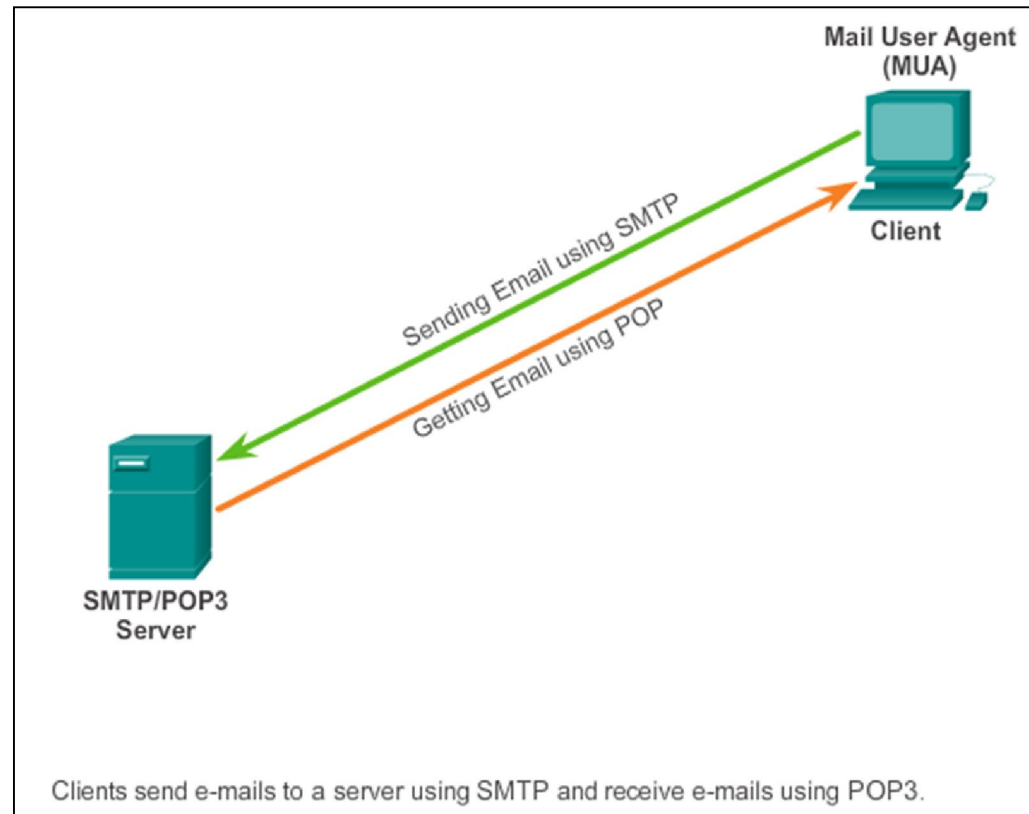




Everyday Application Layer Protocols

SMTP and POP

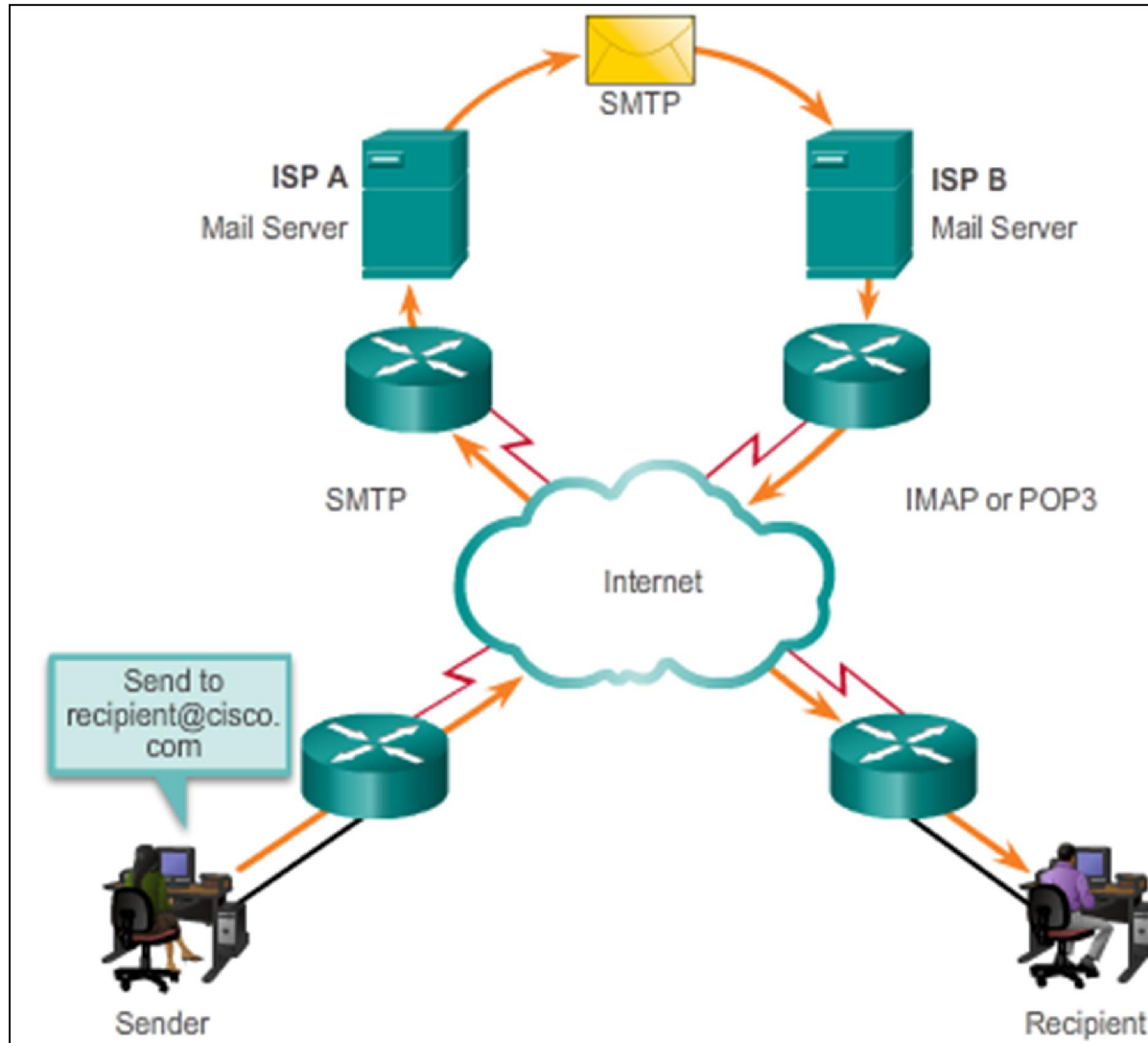
- Typically use an application called a Mail User Agent (email client).
- Allows messages to be sent.
- Places messages that have been replaced into the client's mailbox.
- SMTP – Sends email from either a client or a server.
- POP – Receives email messages from an email server.
- IMAP – Internet Message Access Protocol.
- Email client provides the functionality of both protocols within one application.





Common Application Layer Protocols

SMTP and POP (cont.)





Common Application Layer Protocols

SMTP and POP (cont.)

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)

- transfers mail
- message must be formatted properly
- SMTP processes must be running on both the client and server
- message header must have a properly formatted recipient email address and a sender
- uses port 25

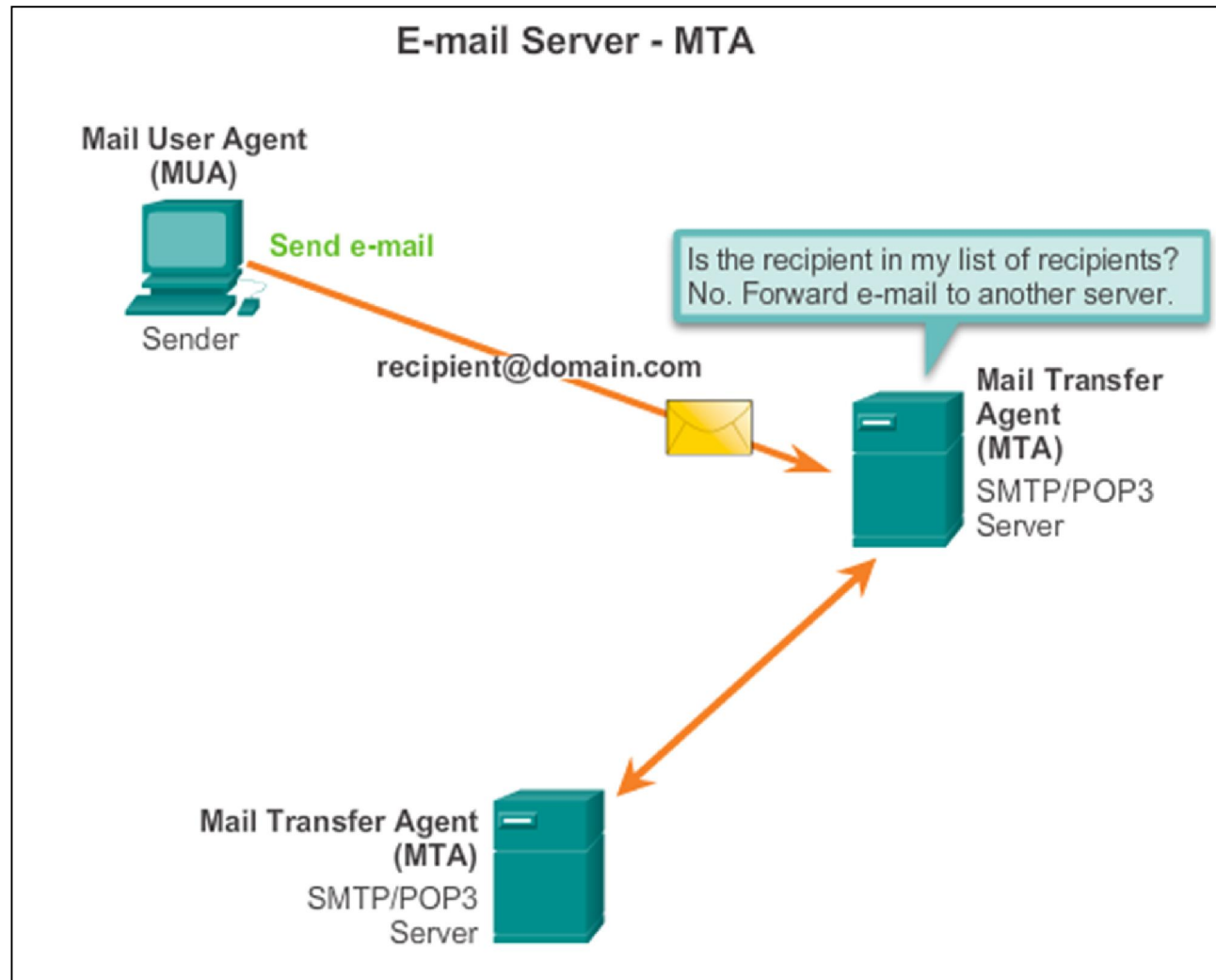
Post Office Protocol (POP)

- enables a workstation to retrieve mail from a mail server
- mail is downloaded from the server to the client and then deleted on the server
- uses port 110
- POP does not store messages
- POP3 is desirable for an ISP, because it alleviates their responsibility for managing large amounts of storage for their email servers



Common Application Layer Protocols

SMTP and POP (cont.)

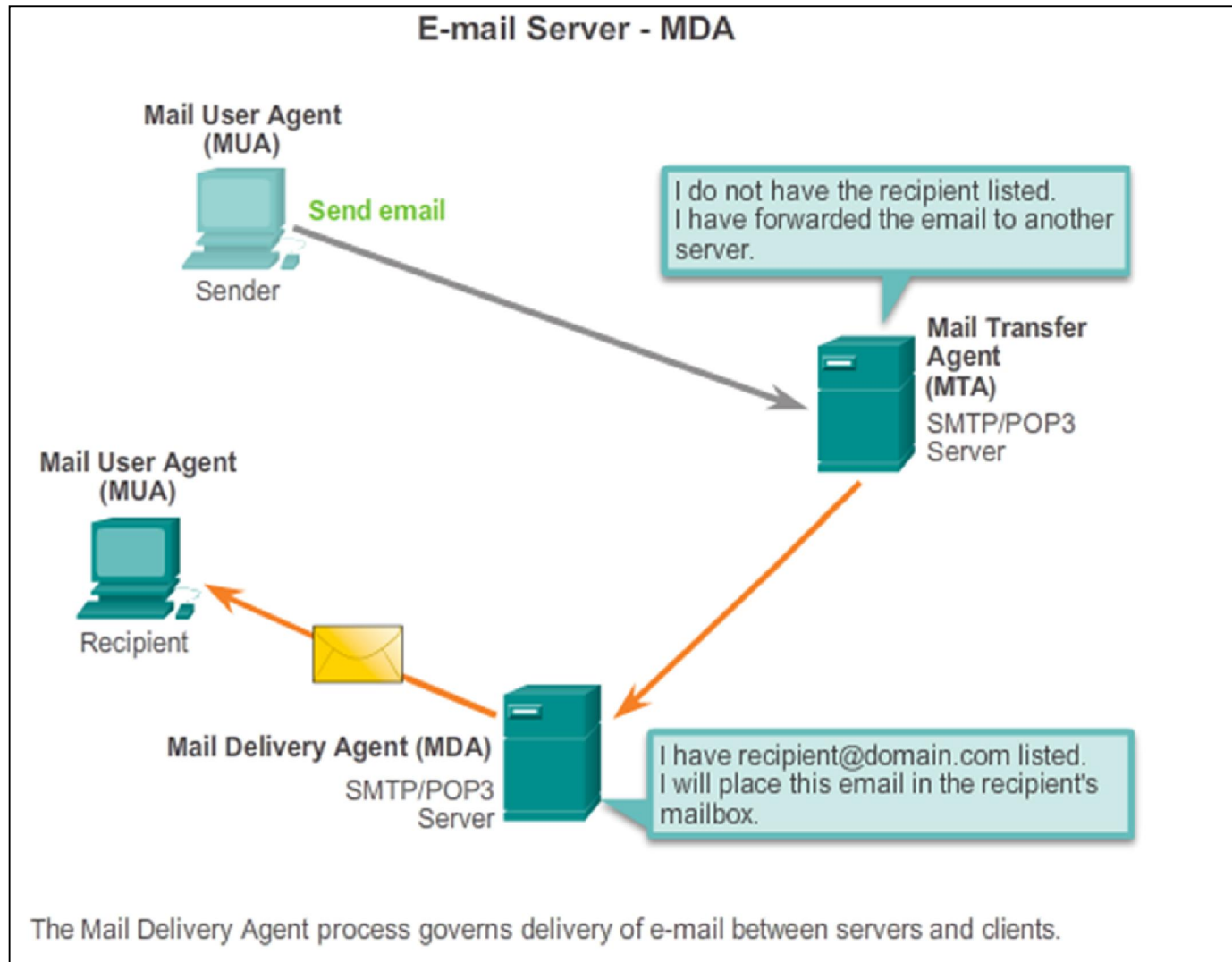


The Mail Transfer Agent process governs e-mail handling between servers and clients.



Common Application Layer Protocols

SMTP and POP (cont.)





Everyday Application Layer Protocols

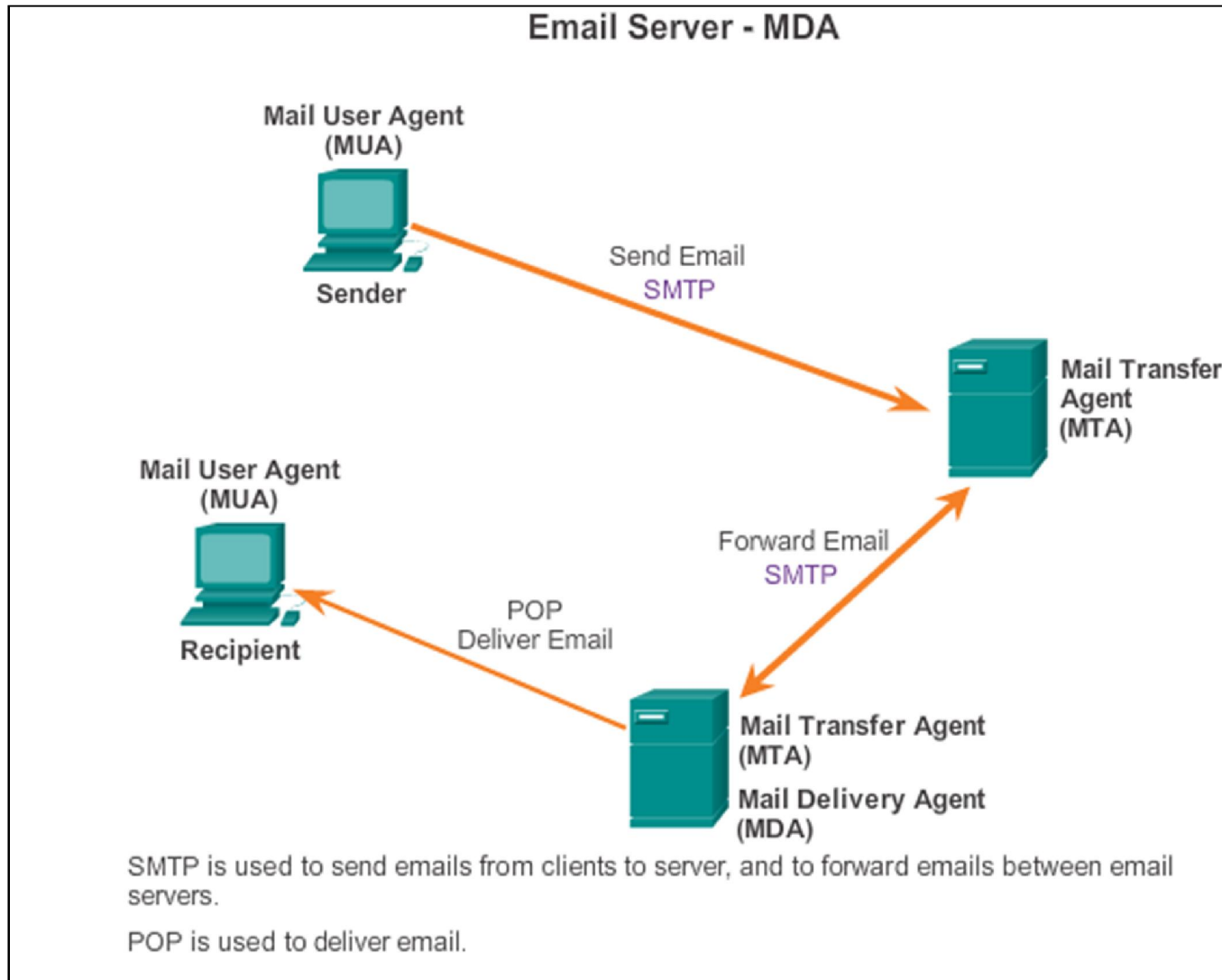
SMTP and POP (cont.)

- MDA accepts a piece of email from MTA and performs the actual delivery.
- MDA receives all the inbound mail from the MTA and places it into mailboxes.
- MDA can also resolve final delivery issues, such as virus scanning, spam filtering, and return-receipt handling.



Everyday Application Layer Protocols

SMTP and POP (cont.)



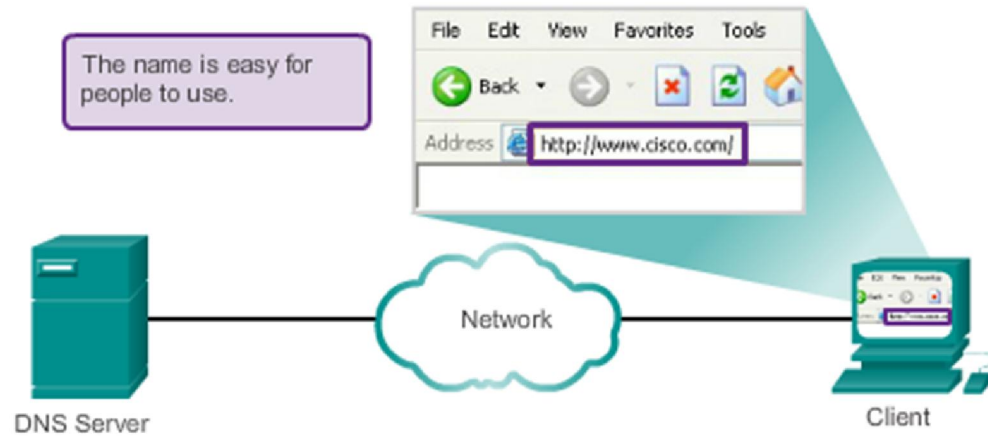


Providing IP Addressing Services

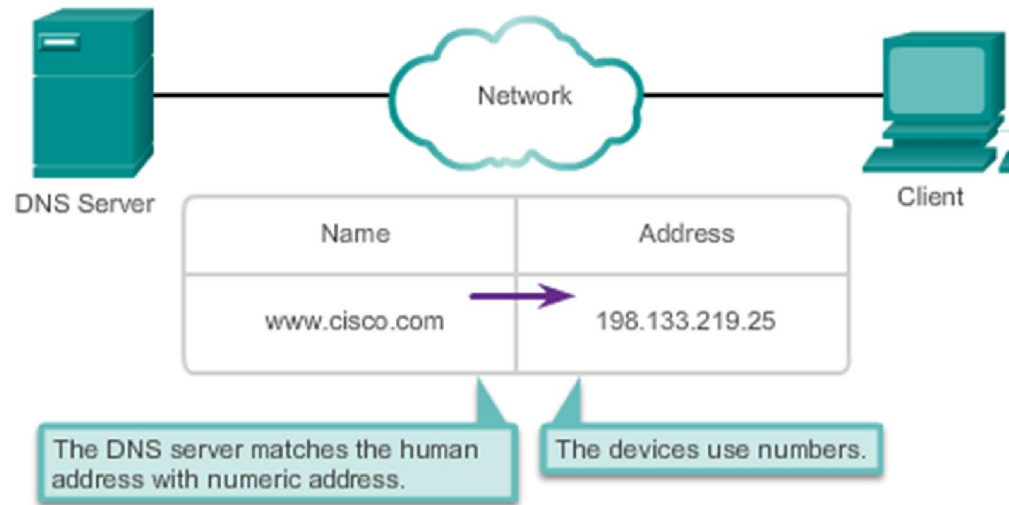
Domain Name Service

A human legible name is resolved to its numeric network device address by the DNS protocol.

Resolving DNS Addresses Step1



Resolving DNS Addresses Step2





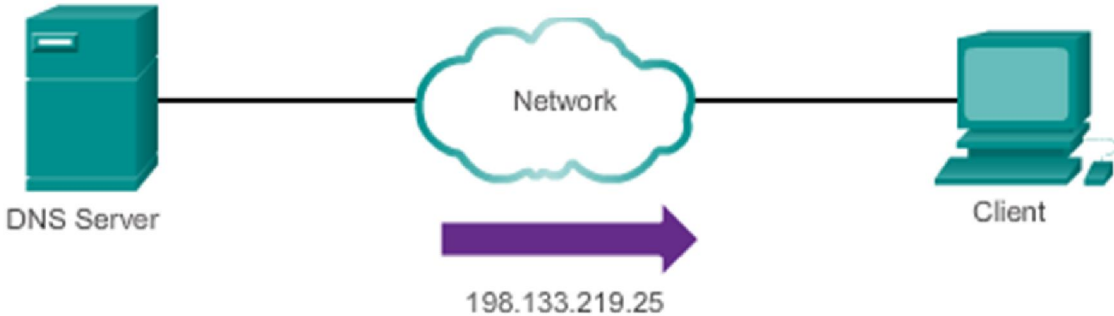
Providing IP Addressing Services Domain Name Service (cont.)

Resolving DNS Addresses Step3

A human legible name is resolved to its numeric network device address by the DNS protocol.



Resolving DNS Addresses Step4

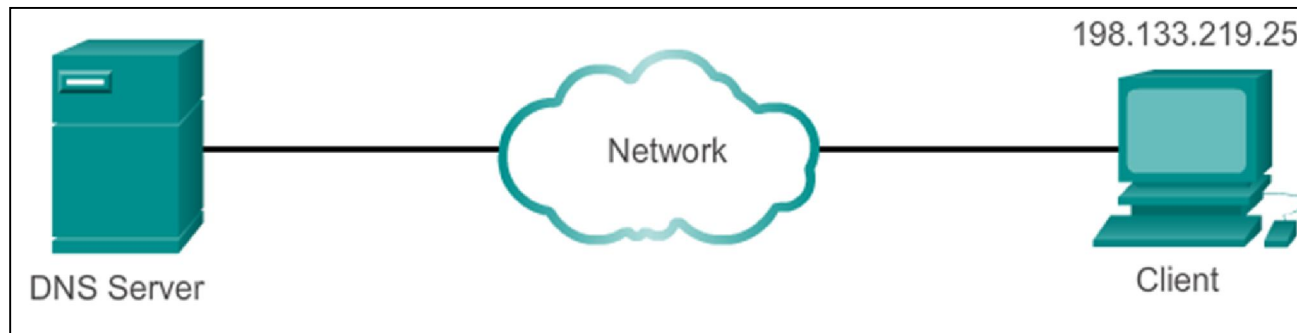


The number is returned back to the client for use in making requests of the server.



Providing IP Addressing Services Domain Name Service (cont.)

Resolving DNS Addresses Step 5



A domain name is resolved to its numeric network device address by the DNS protocol.



Providing IP Addressing Services

DNS Message Format

- DNS server stores different types of resource records used to resolve names
- Contains the name, address, and type of record.
- Record types are:
 - **A** – An end device address
 - **NS** – An authoritative name server
 - **CNAME** – The canonical name for an alias; used when multiple services have the single network address, but each service has its own entry in DNS
 - **MX** – Mail exchange record; maps a domain name to a list of mail exchange servers
- Unable to resolve the name using its stored records, contacts other servers.
- Server temporarily stores the numbered address that matches the name in cache memory.
- Windows **ipconfig /displaydns** displays all cached DNS.



Providing IP Addressing Services

DNS Hierarchy

Examples top-level domains:

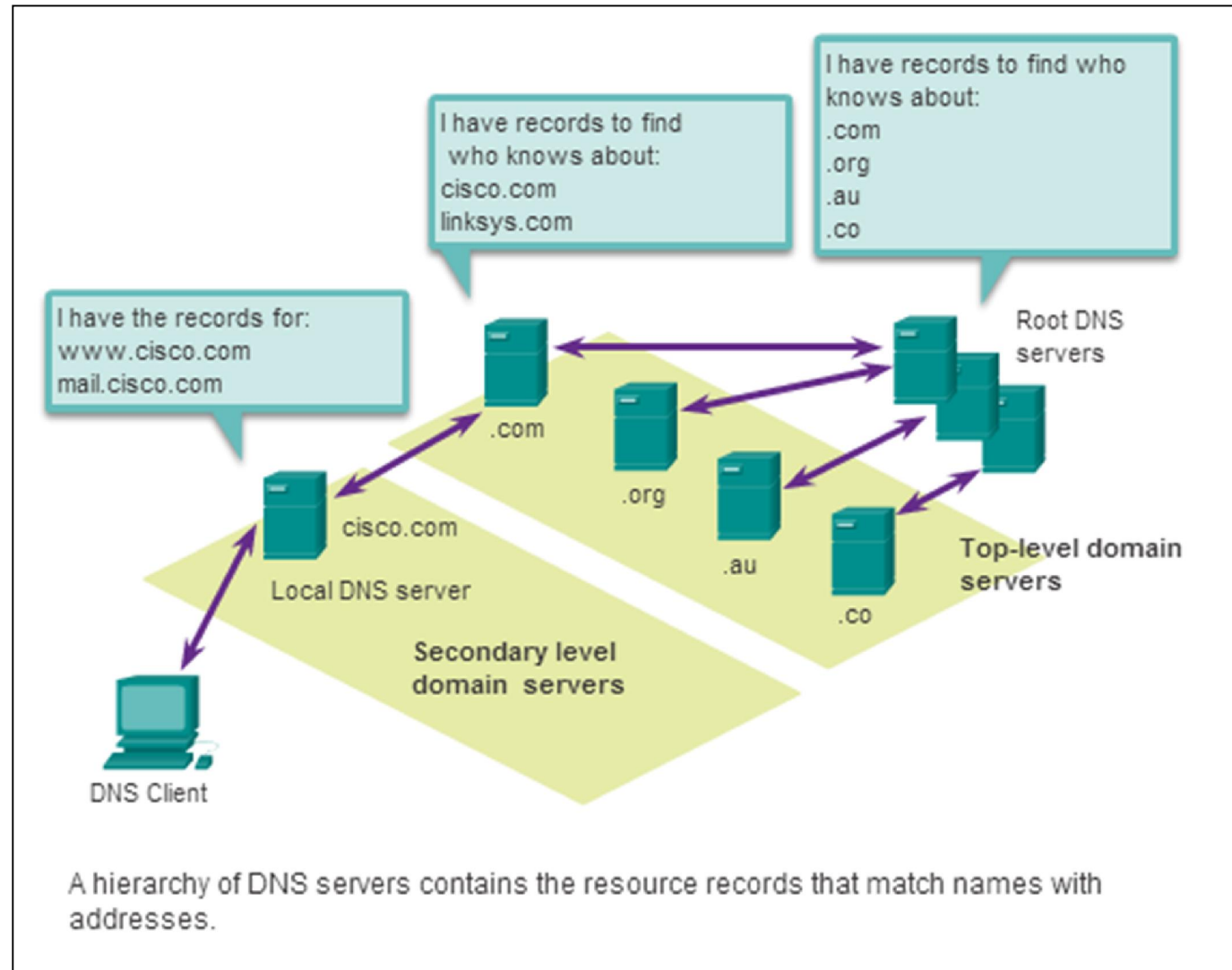
.au - Australia

.co - Colombia

.com - business or industry

.jp - Japan

.org - non-profit organization





Providing IP Addressing Services

nslookup

- Operating system utility called **nslookup** allows the user to manually query the name servers to resolve a given hostname.
- Utility can be used to troubleshoot name resolution issues and to verify the current status of the name servers.

```
C:\Documents and Settings>nslookup
Default Server: dns-sj.cisco.com
Address: 171.70.168.183

> www.cisco.com
Server: dns-sj.cisco.com
Address: 171.70.168.183

Name: www.cisco.com
Address: 198.133.219.25

> cisco.netacad.net
Server: dns-sj.cisco.com
Address: 171.70.168.183

Non-authoritative answer:
Name: cisco.netacad.net
Address: 128.107.229.50

>
```



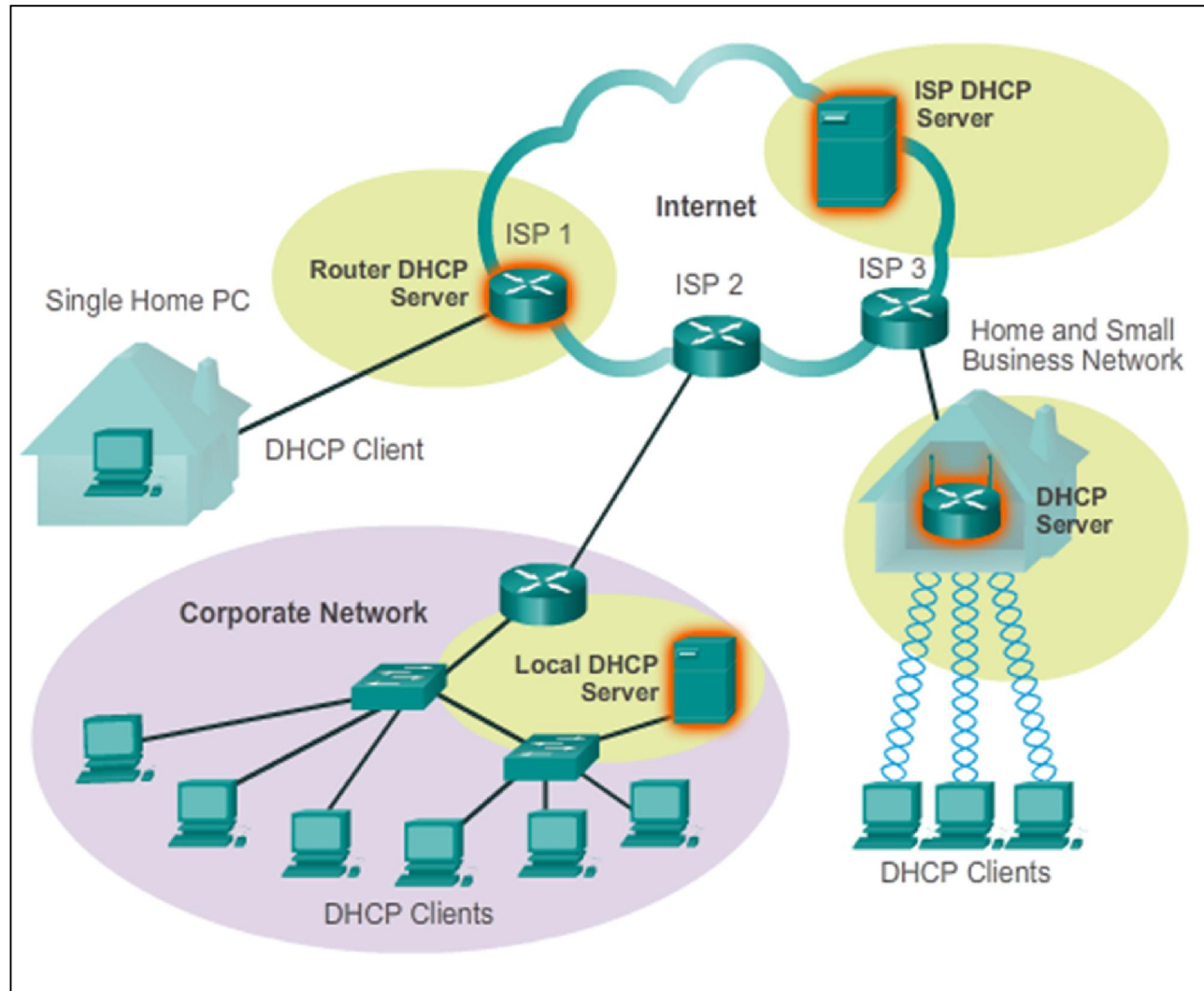
Providing IP Addressing Services

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol

- DHCP allows a host to obtain an IP address dynamically.
- DHCP server is contacted and address requested - chooses address from a configured range of addresses called a pool and “leases” it to the host for a set period.
- DHCP used for general purpose hosts such as end user devices, and static addressing is used for network devices such as gateways, switches, servers and printers.



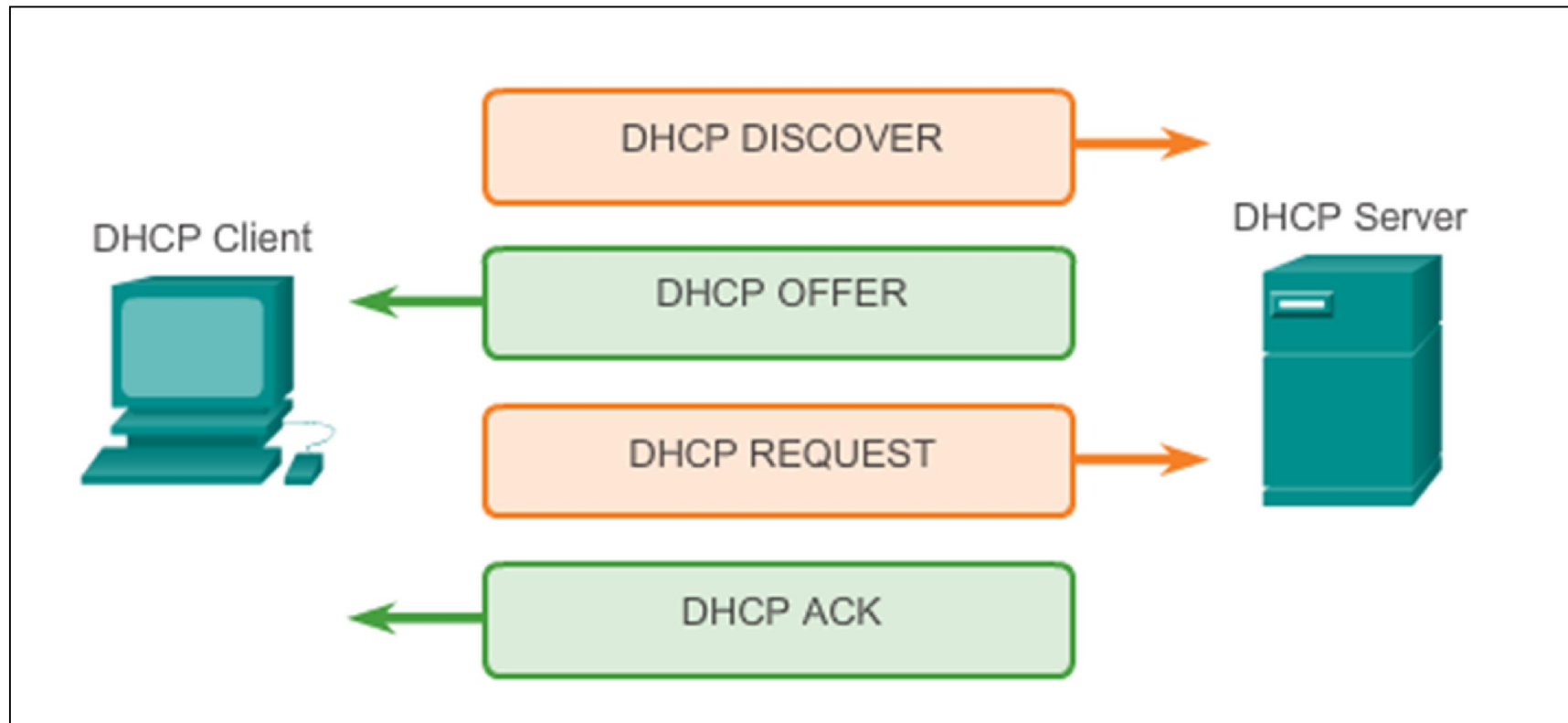
Providing IP Addressing Services Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (cont.)





Providing IP Addressing Services

DHCP Operation





Providing File Sharing Services

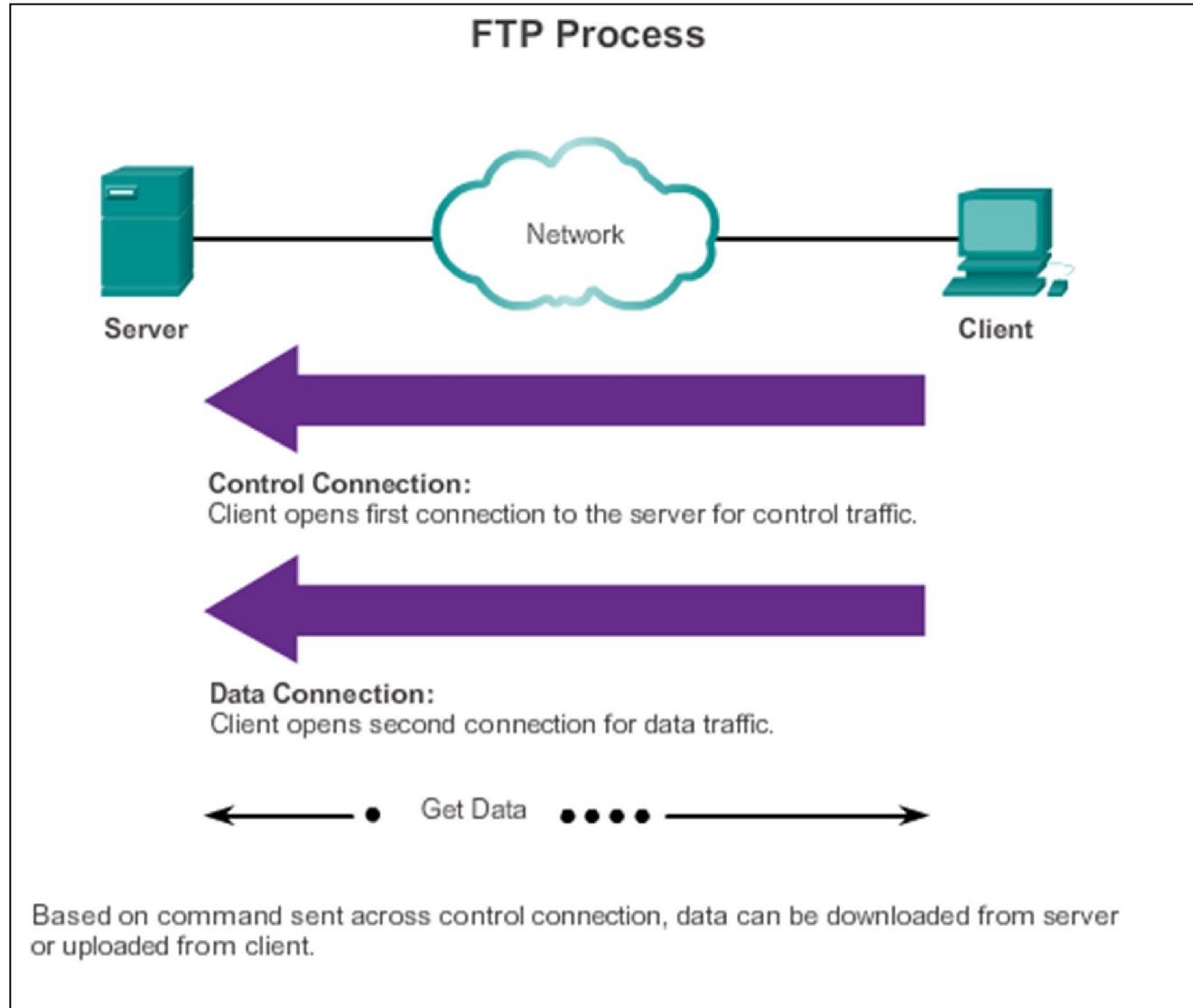
File Transfer Protocol

- FTP allow data transfers between a client and a server.
- FTP client is an application that runs on a computer that is used to push and pull data from a server running an FTP daemon.
- To successfully transfer data, FTP requires two connections between the client and the server, one for commands and replies, the other for the actual file transfer.



Providing File Sharing Services

File Transfer Protocol (cont.)

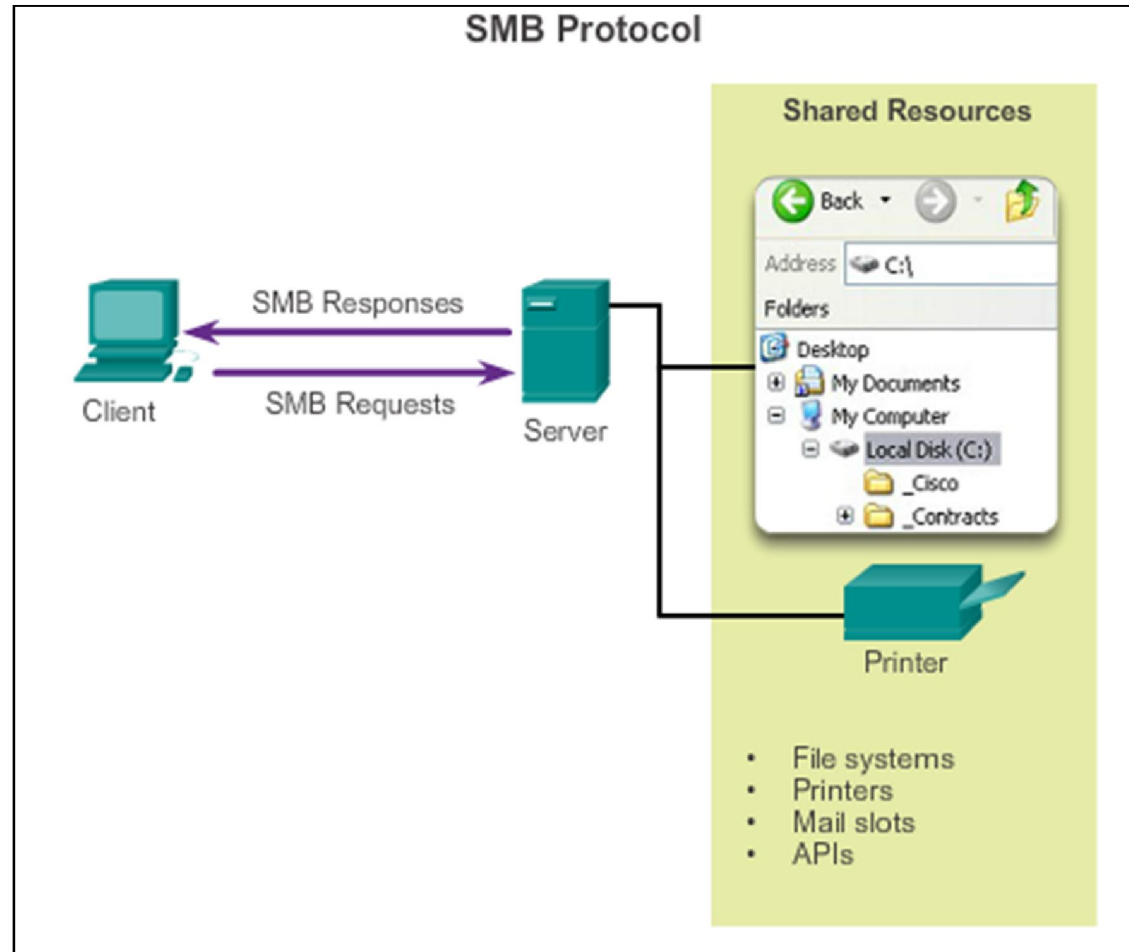




Providing File Sharing Services

Server Message Block

- Clients establish a long term connection to servers.
- After the connection is established, the user can access the resources on the server as if the resource is local to the client host.

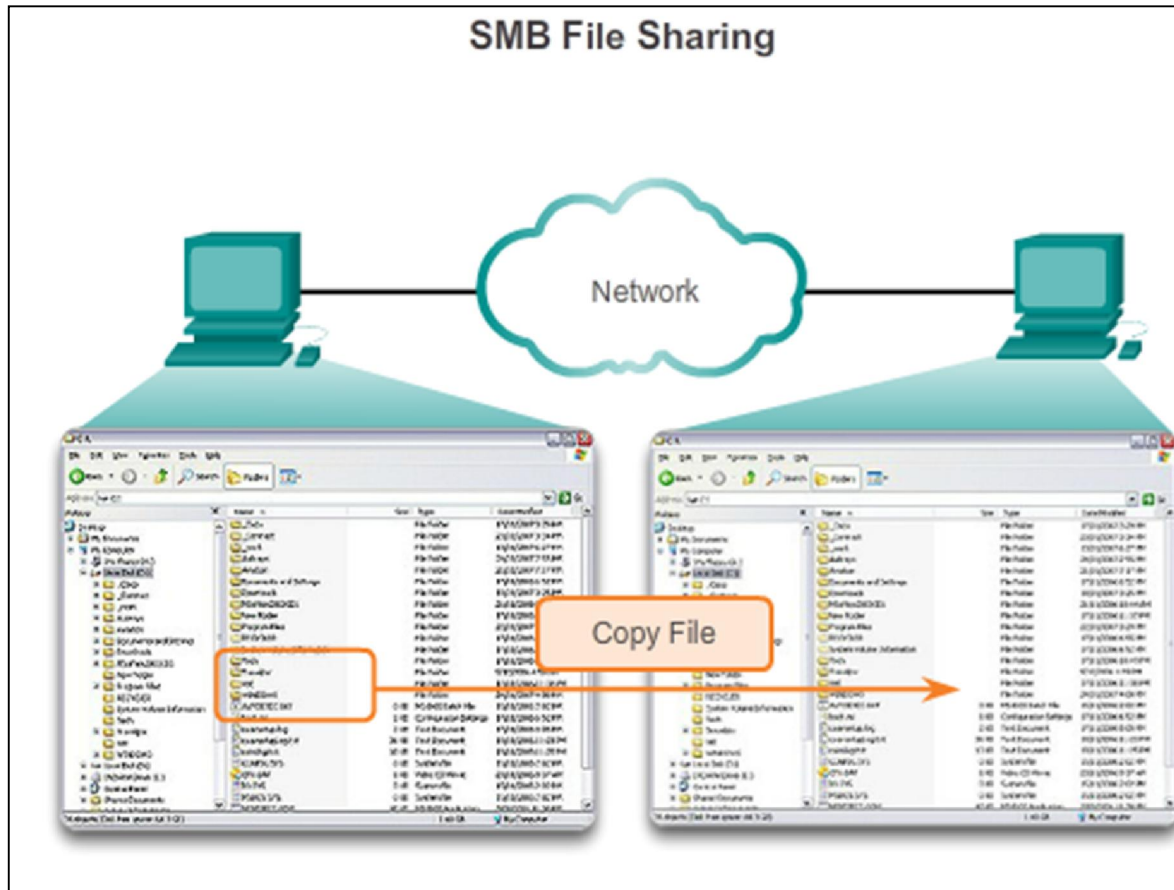


SMB is a client-server, request-response protocol. Servers can make their resources available to clients on the network.



Providing File Sharing Services

Server Message Block (cont.)



A file may be copied from PC to PC with Windows Explorer using the SMB protocol.



Application Layer Summary

- Applications are computer programs with which the user interacts and which initiate the data transfer process at the user's request.
- Services are background programs that provide the connection between the application layer and the lower layers of the networking model.
- Protocols provide a structure of agreed-upon rules and processes that ensure services running on one particular device to send and receive data from a range of different network devices.
- HTTP supports the delivery of web pages to end devices.
- SMTP, POP, and IMAP support sending and receiving email.



Application Layer Summary (cont.)

- SMB and FTP enable users to share files.
- P2P applications make it easier for consumers to seamlessly share media.
- DNS resolves the human legible names used to refer to network resources into numeric addresses usable by the network.
- All of these elements work together, at the application layer.
- The application layer enables users to work and play over the Internet.

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