

#### Unit 01.01.01 CS 5220: COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS

**Evolution of Communication Networks** 

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## What is a Communication Network?

- The equipment (hardware & software) and facilities that provide the basic communication service

Communication

Network

- Facilities
  - Copper wires, optical fiber ...
- Equipment
  - Routers, servers, switches, ...

#### **Network Architecture Evolution**





#### **Telegraph Networks**



- Telegraph: a message is transmitted across a network using signals
  - Drums, beacons, mirrors, smoke, flags, semaphores...
  - Electricity, light





# **Digital Communications**



- Morse code converts text message in sequence of dots & dashes
- Use transmission system designed to convey dots and dashes

	Morse Code		Morse Code		Morse Code		Morse Code
A	·	J	·	S		2	·· <u> </u>
В	<u> </u>	К	·	Т	—	3	· · · <u> </u>
С	_ · _ ·	L	· <u> </u>	U	· · <u> </u>	4	· · · · <u> </u>
D	<u> </u>	М		V	· · · -	5	
E		Ν	·	W	·	6	<u> </u>
F	· · <u> </u>	0		Х	··	7	···
G	·	Р	·	Y	·	8	··
Н		Q	·	Z		9	·
Ι	• •	R	· _ ·	1	·	0	

## **Electric Telegraph Networks**



- Electric telegraph networks exploded
  - Message switching & Store-and-Forward operation
  - Key elements: Framing, Multiplexing, Addressing, Routing, Forwarding



### **Elements of Telegraph Networks**

- Digital transmission
  - Text messages converted into symbols
  - Transmission system designed to convey symbols
- Multiplexing
  - Framing needed to recover text characters
- Message Switching
  - Messages contain source & destination addresses
  - Store-and-Forward: messages forwarded hop-by-hop across network
  - *Routing* according to destination address



## **Bell's Telephone**



- Alexander G. Bell (1876) working on harmonic telegraph to multiplexing discovered voice signals can be transmitted directly
  - Microphone converts voice pressure variation into *analogous* electrical signal
  - Loudspeaker converts electrical signal back into sound
- Basic telephone service involves two-way, real-time transmission of voice signals across a network
  - Signaling required to establish a call



# The N<sup>2</sup> Problem



- Initially, p2p direct communications for *N* users to be fully connected *directly* 
  - Requires too much space for cables
  - Inefficient & costly since connections not always on



# **Circuit Switching is Connection-oriented**

- Patchcord panel switch invented in 1878
- Operators connect users on demand
  - Establish circuit to allow electrical current to flow from inlet to outlet
- Only N connections required to central office



# **Hierarchical Tele-Network Structure**

• End-to-end connection requires collaborative switching





## **Elements of Telephone Networks**

- Digital transmission & switching
  - Digital voice; Time Division Multiplexing
- Circuit switching Connection oriented
  - User signals for call setup and tear-down
  - Route selected during connection setup
  - End-to-end connection across network
  - Signaling coordinates connection setup
- Hierarchical Network Structure
  - Decimal numbering system
  - Hierarchical structure; simplified routing; scalability



### **Network Architecture Evolution**

- Telegraph Networks
  - Message switching & store-and-forward
- Telephone Networks
  - Circuit Switching and connection oriented
- Computer Networks and the Internet
  - Packet switching
  - Virtual circuit switching
- Next-Generation Internet
  - ???



### **Summary of the Lesson**

• History often repeats itself

