The Book

6LoWPAN: The Wireless Embedded Internet

by Zach Shelby, Carsten Bormann

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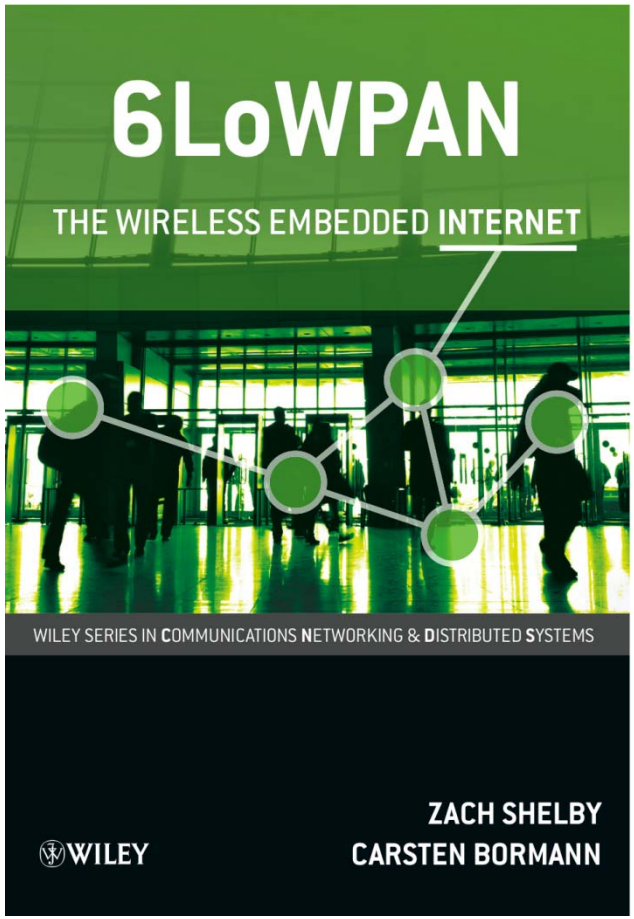
The world's first book on IPv6 over low power wireless networks and the new 6LoWPAN standards.

http://6lowpan.net

Companion web-site with blog, full companion course slides and exercises



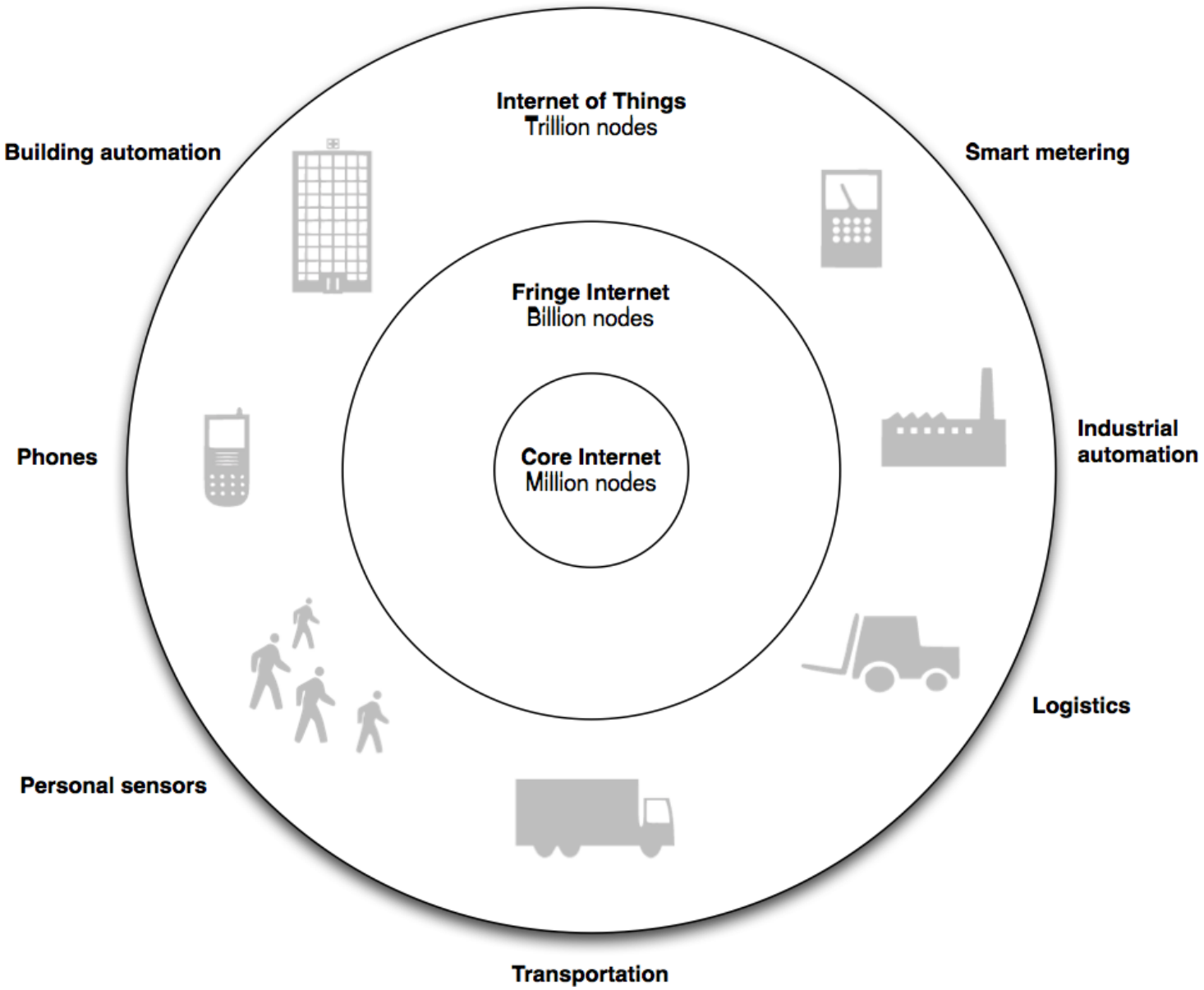
Outline

- Introduction
  - The Internet of Things
  - Applications of 6LoWPAN
- The Internet Architecture and Protocols
- Introduction to 6LoWPAN
- Link-Layer Technologies
  - IEEE 802.15.4
- The 6LoWPAN Format
- Bootstrapping
  - Link-Layer Commissioning
  - Neighbour Discovery

Outline

- Security
- Mobility & Routing
  - IP Mobility Solutions
  - Ad-hoc Routing Protocols
  - The IETF RPL Protocol
- Application Formats and Protocols
- System Examples
  - ISA100 Industrial Automation
  - Wireless RFID Infrastructure
  - Building Energy Savings

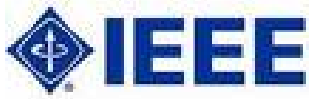
Introduction


Internet of Things
Trillion nodes
Fringe Internet
Billion nodes
Core Internet
Million nodes
Building automation
Smart metering
Phones
Industrial automation
Logistics
Personal sensors
Transportation

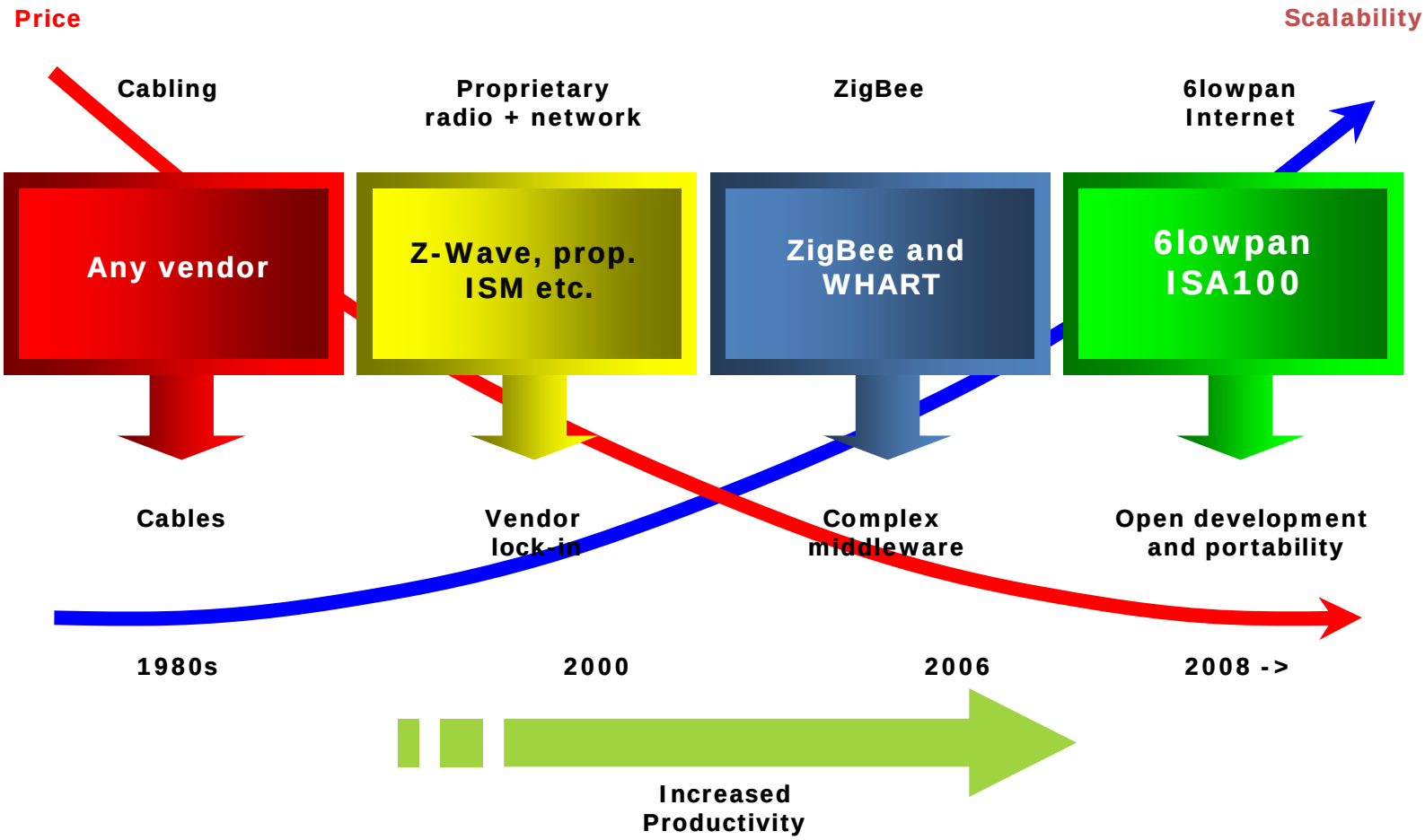
Benefits of 6LoWPAN Technology

- Low-power RF + IPv6 =

  The Wireless Embedded Internet
- 6LoWPAN makes this possible
- The benefits of 6LoWPAN include:
  - Open, long-lived, reliable **standards**
  - **Easy** learning-curve
  - Transparent **Internet** integration
  - Network **maintainability**
  - Global **scalability**
  - **End-to-end** data flows



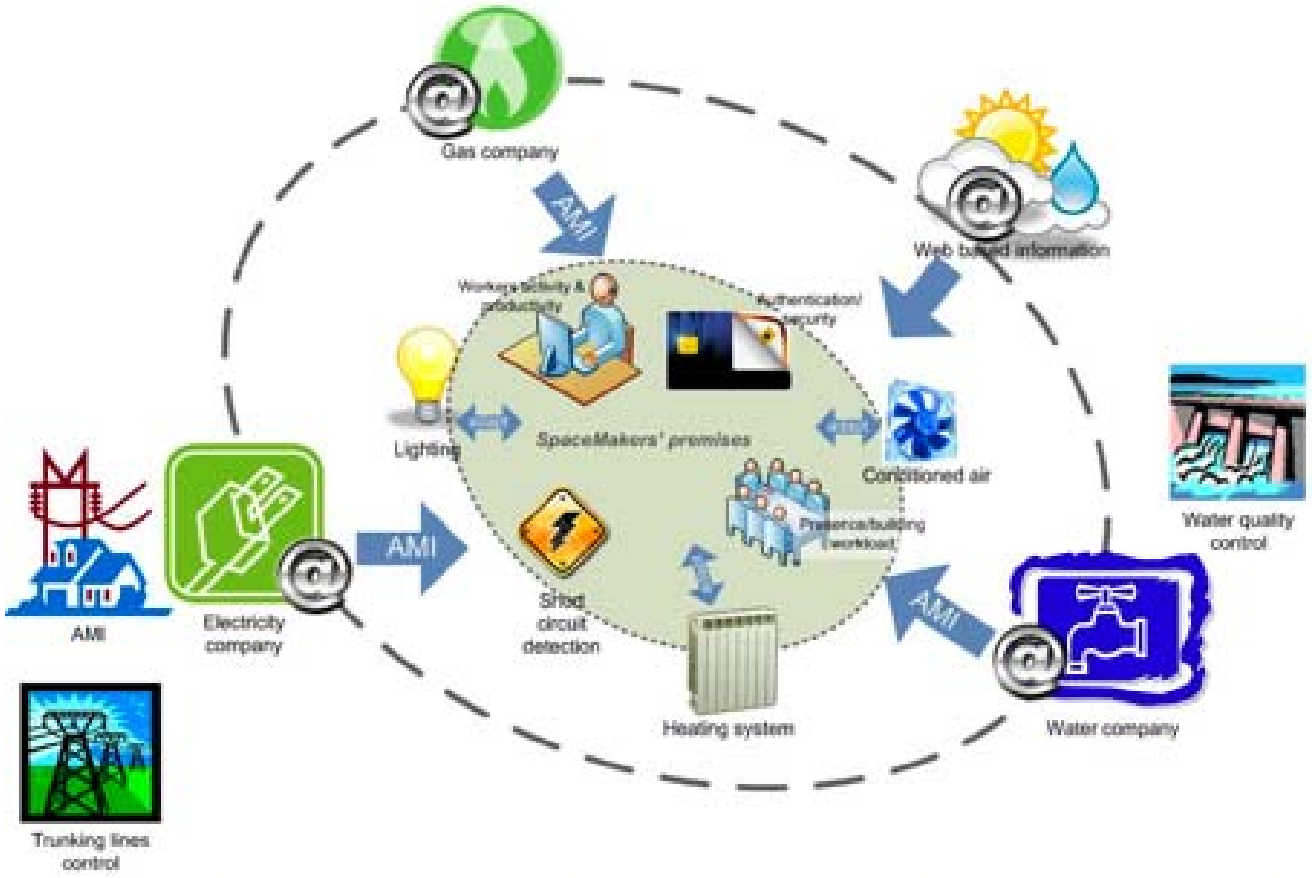
Evolution of Wireless Sensor Networks



6LoWPAN Applications

- 6LoWPAN has a broad range of applications
  - Facility, Building and Home Automation
  - Personal Sports & Entertainment
  - Healthcare and Wellbeing
  - Asset Management
  - Advanced Metering Infrastructures
  - Environmental Monitoring
  - Security and Safety
  - Industrial Automation

Facility Management



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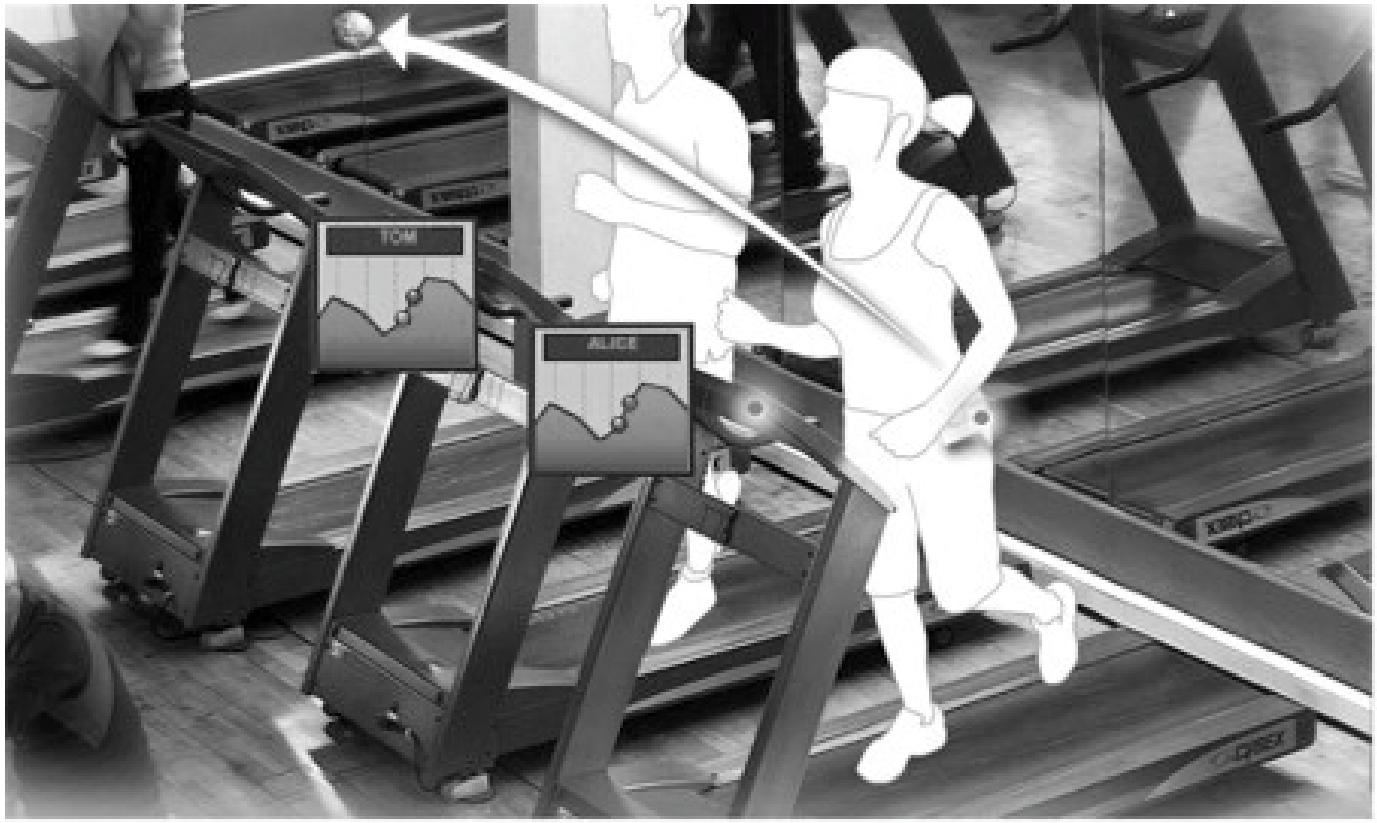
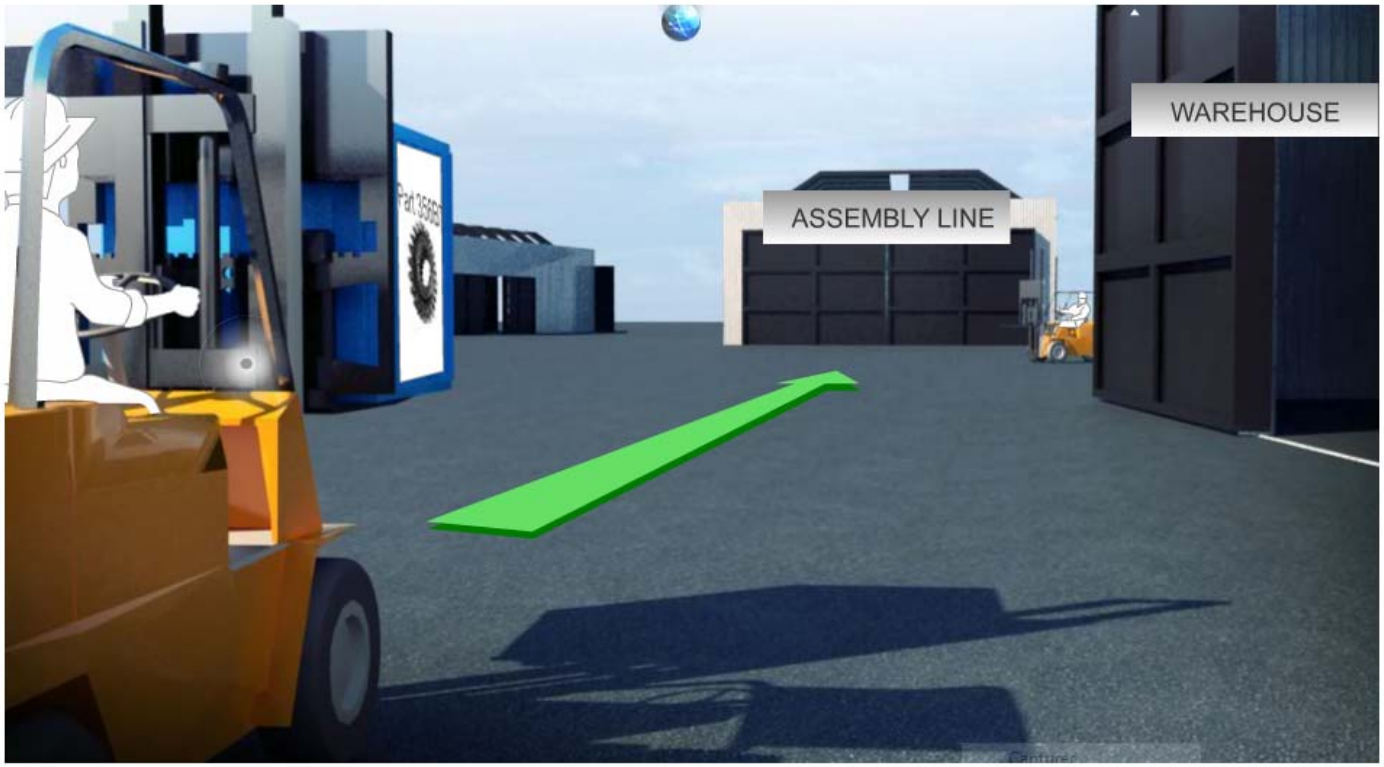
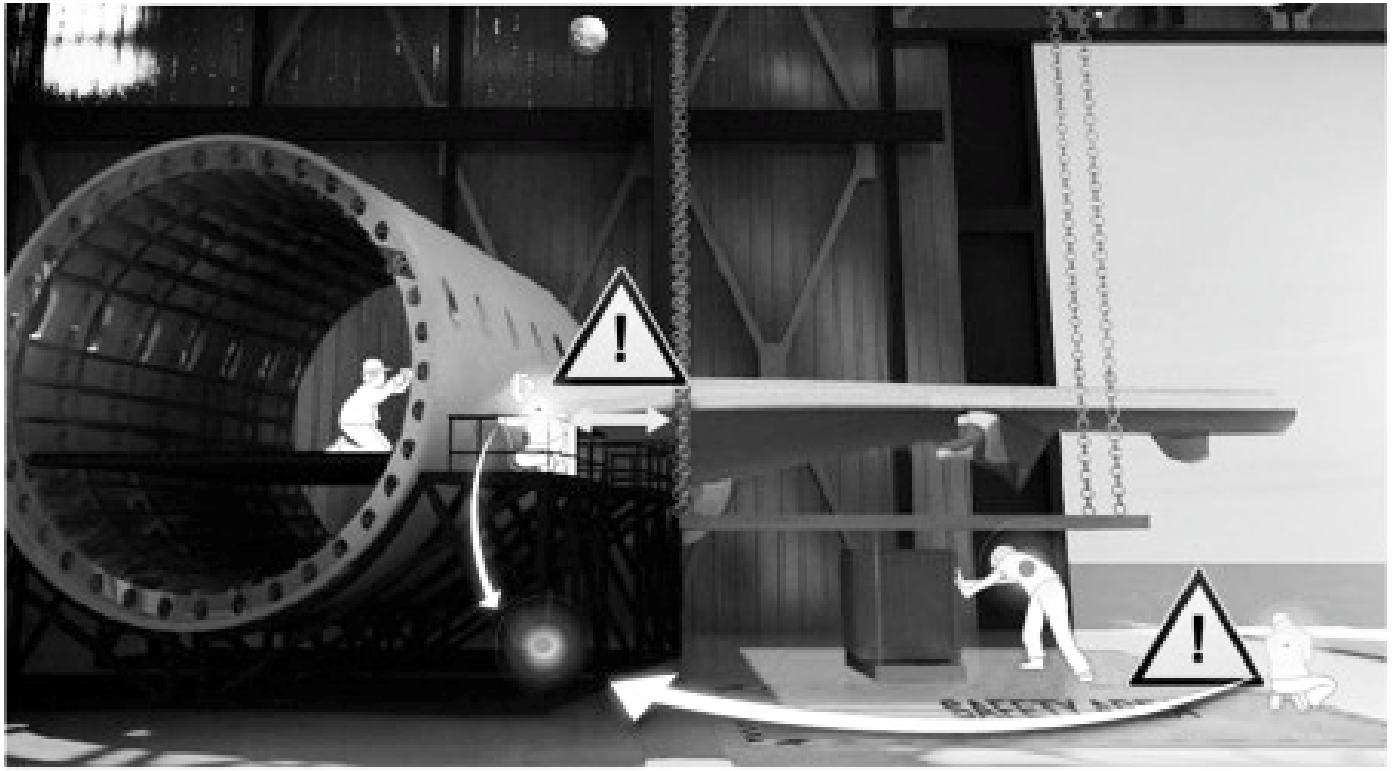
Fitness



Asset Management



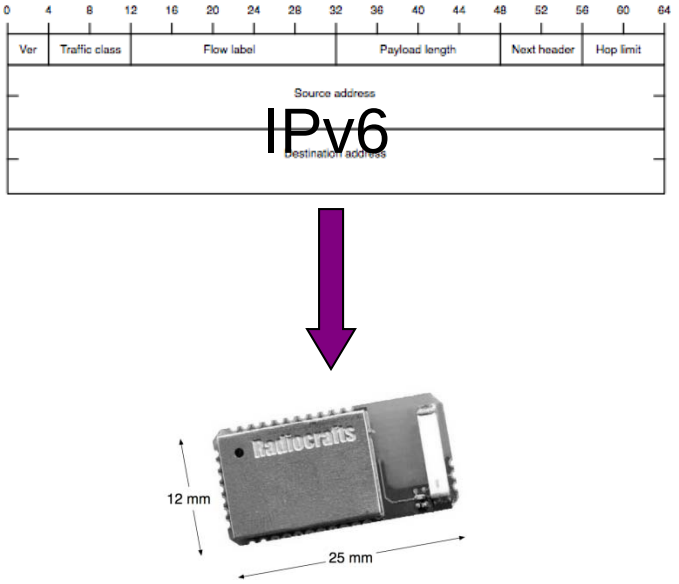
Industrial Automation



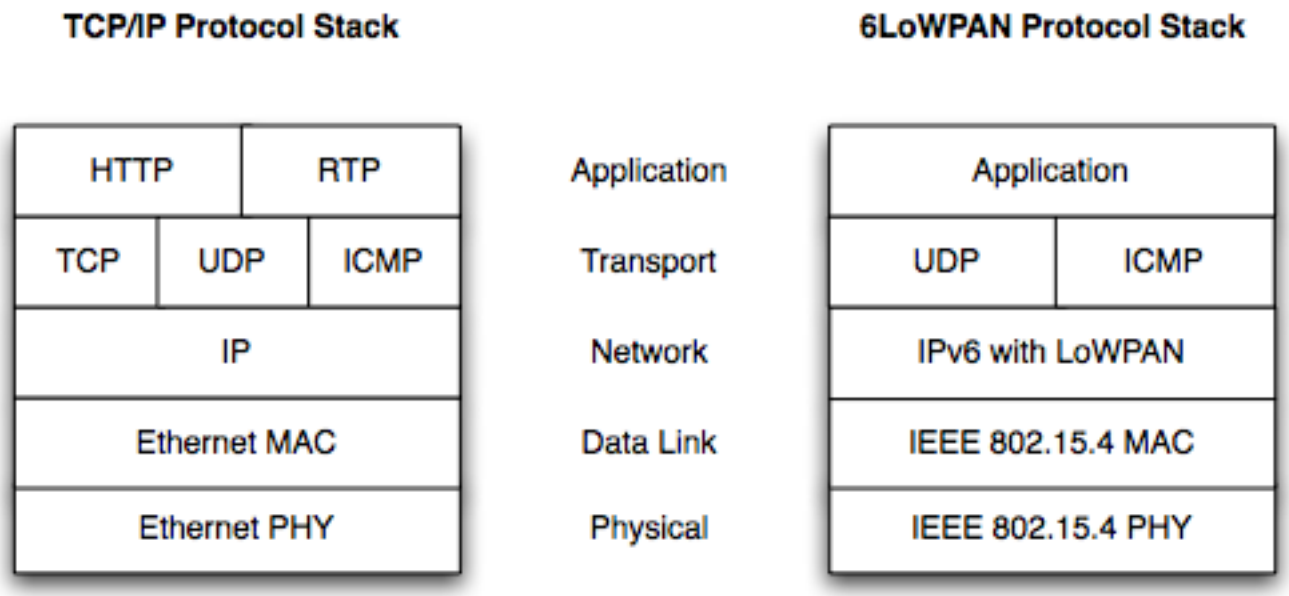
Introduction to 6LoWPAN

What is 6LoWPAN?

- IPv6 over Low-Power Wireless Area Networks
- Defined by IETF standards
  - RFC 4919, 4944
  - draft-ietf-6lowpan-hc and -nd
  - draft-ietf-roll-rpl
- Stateless header compression
- Enables a standard socket API
- Minimal use of code and memory
- Direct end-to-end Internet integration
  - Multiple topology options



Protocol Stack

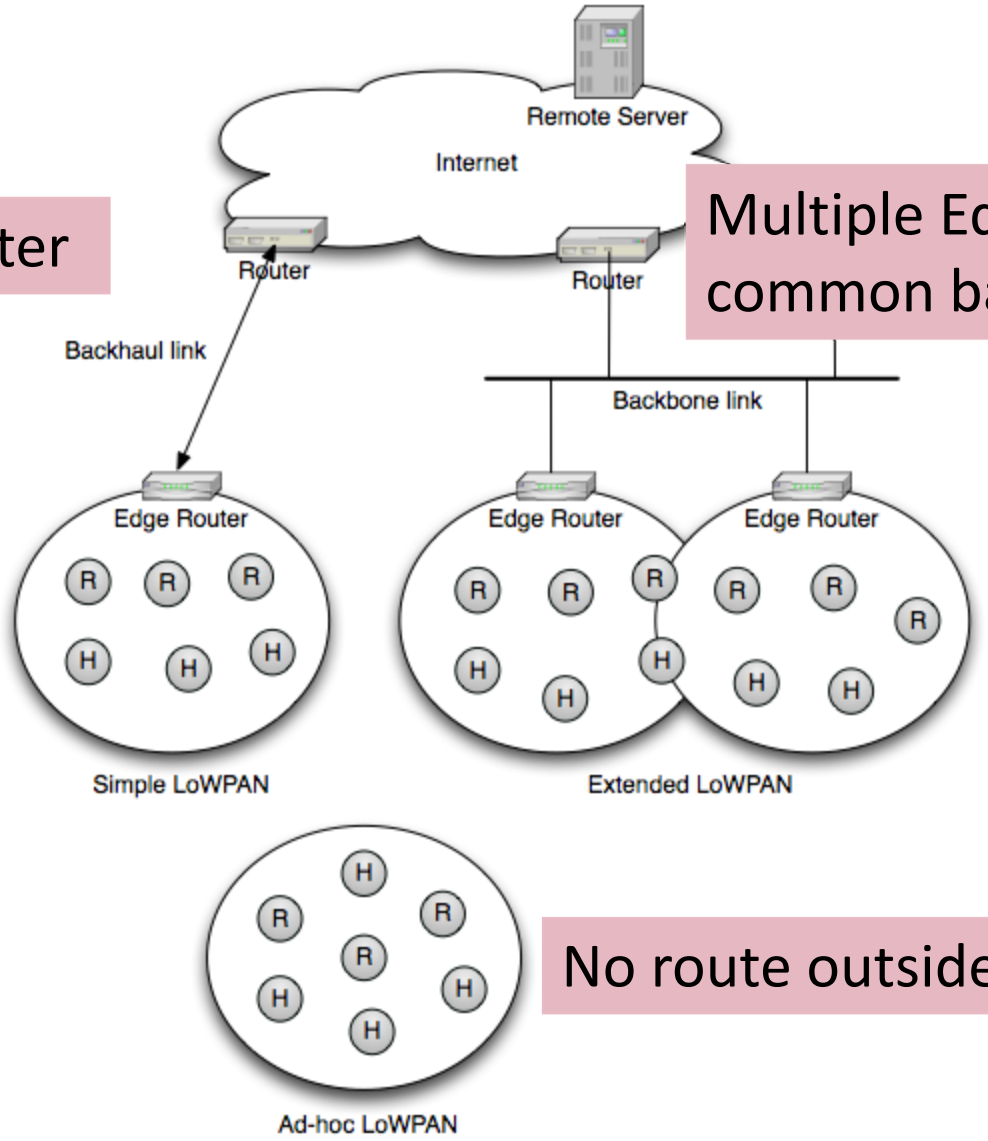


Features

- Support for 64-bit and 16-bit 802.15.4 addressing
- Useful with low-power link layers such as IEEE 802.15.4, narrowband ISM and power-line communications
- Efficient header compression
  - IPv6 base and extension headers, UDP header
- Network autoconfiguration using neighbor discovery (ND)
- Unicast, multicast and broadcast support
  - Multicast is compressed and mapped to broadcast
- Fragmentation
  - 1280 byte IPv6 MTU -> 127 byte 802.15.4 frames
- Support for IP routing (e.g. IETF RPL)

6LoWPAN Architecture

Single Edge Router



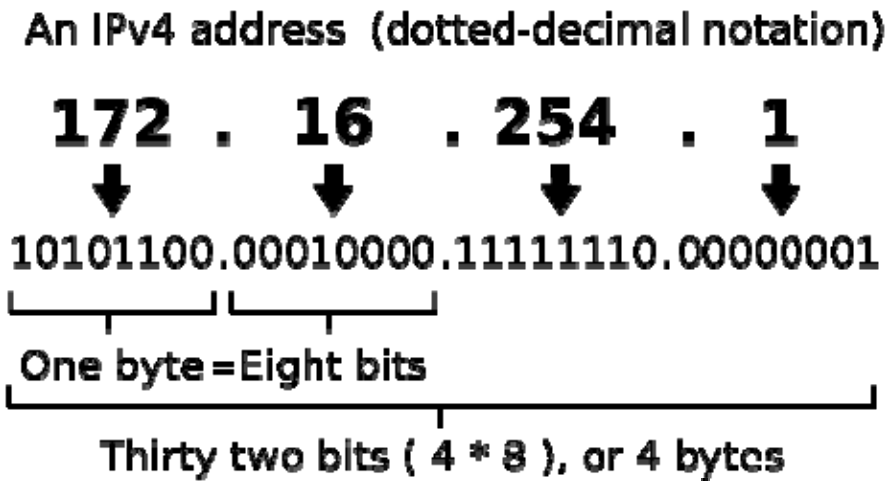
Multiple Edge Routers with common backbone link

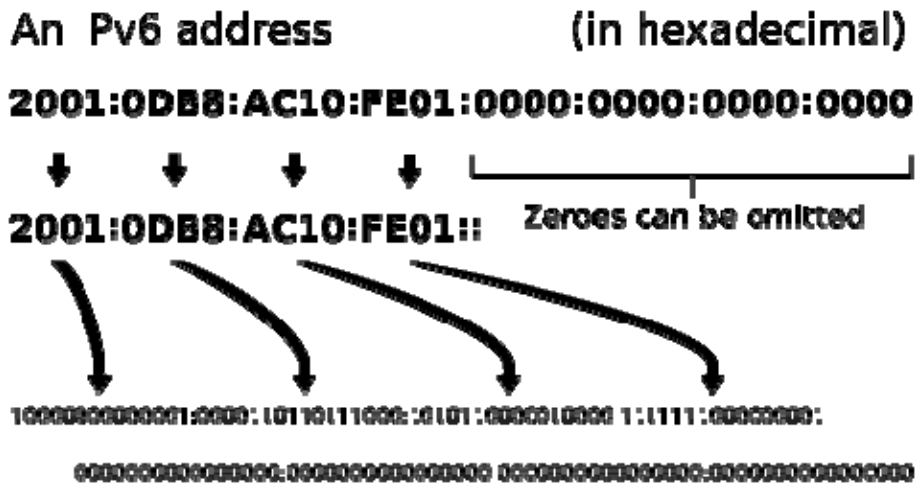
No route outside the LoWPAN

Internet Protocol v6

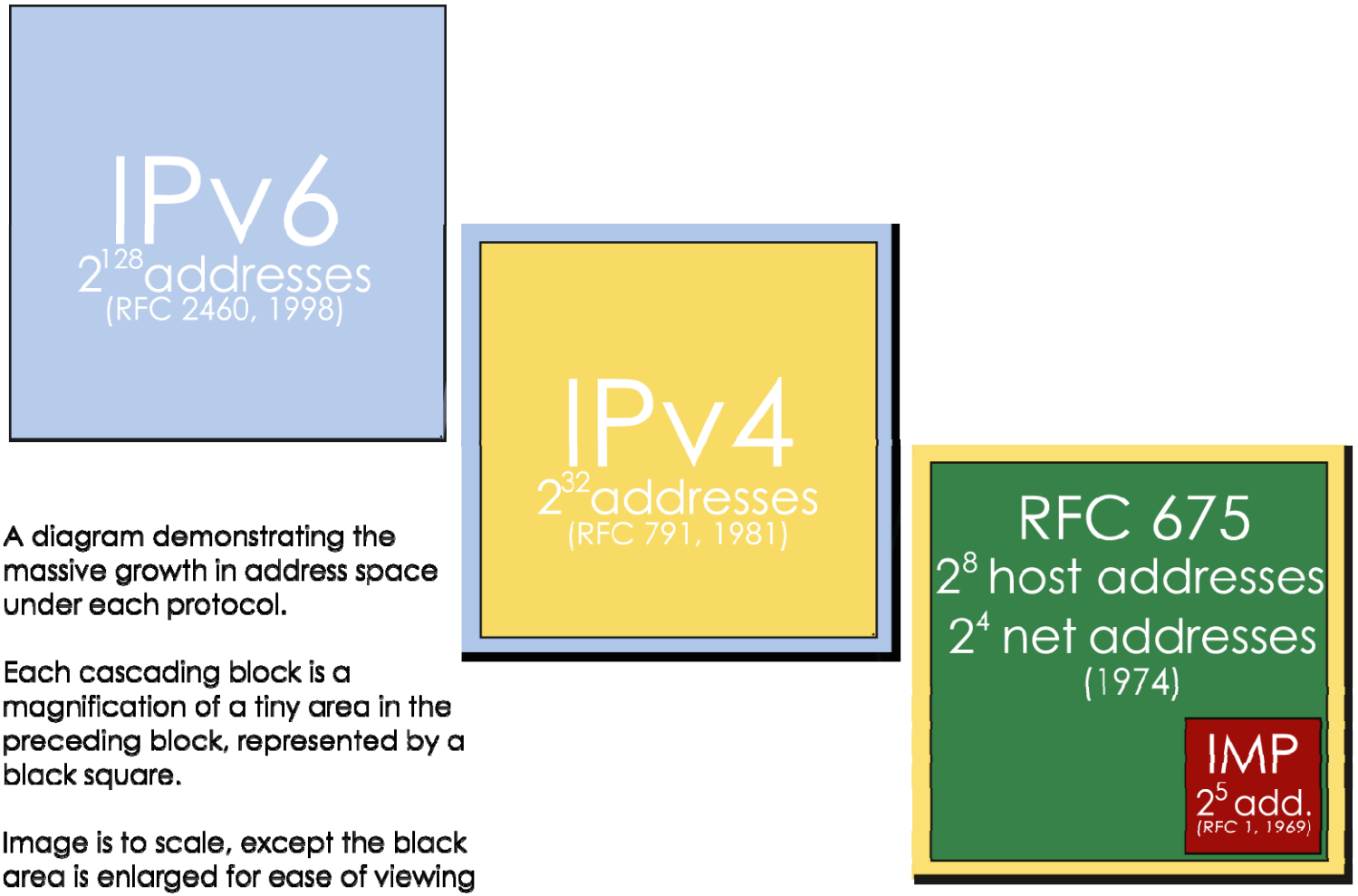
- IPv6 (RFC 2460) = the next generation Internet Protocol
  - Complete redesign of IP addressing
  - Hierarchical 128-bit address with decoupled host identifier
  - Stateless auto-configuration
  - Simple routing and address management
- Majority of traffic not yet IPv6 but...
  - Most PC operating systems already have IPv6
  - Governments are starting to require IPv6
  - Most routers already have IPv6 support
  - So the IPv6 transition is coming

IPv4 vs. IPv6 Addressing





Address Space Comparison

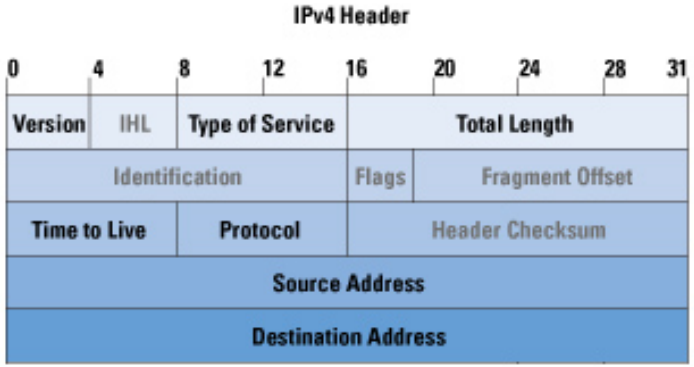


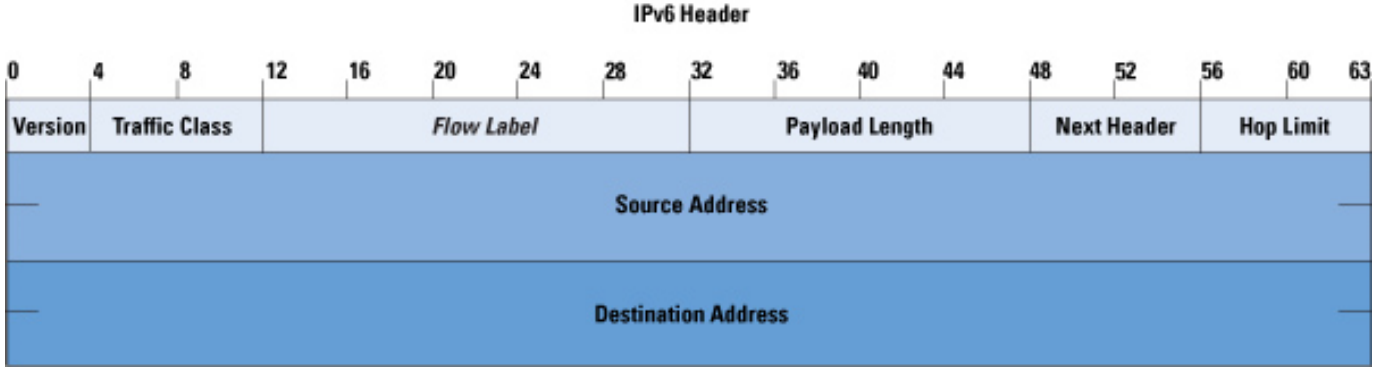
A diagram demonstrating the massive growth in address space under each protocol.

Each cascading block is a magnification of a tiny area in the preceding block, represented by a black square.

Image is to scale, except the black area is enlarged for ease of viewing

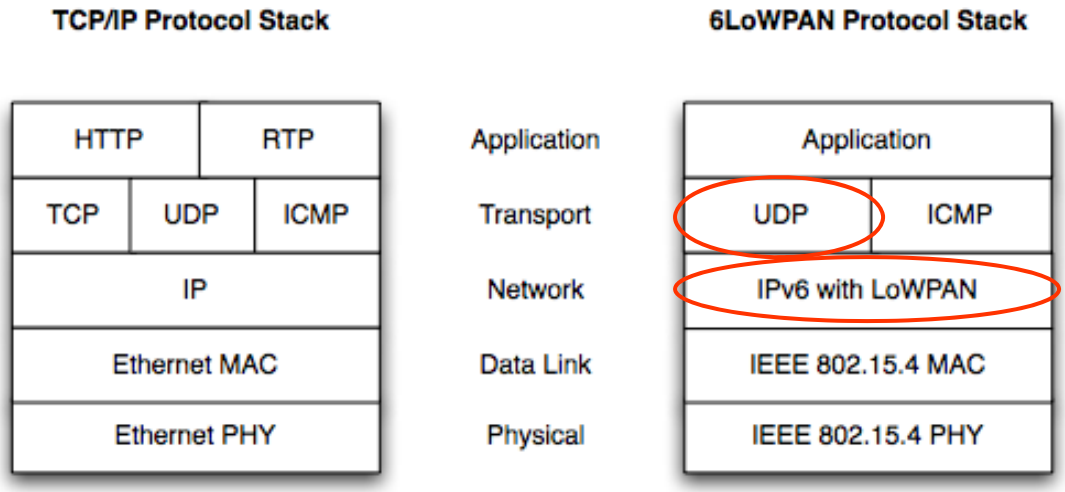
IPv4 vs. IPv6 Header





6LoWPAN Format

- 6LoWPAN is an adaptation header format
  - Enables the use of IPv6 over low-power wireless links
  - IPv6 header compression and UDP header compression



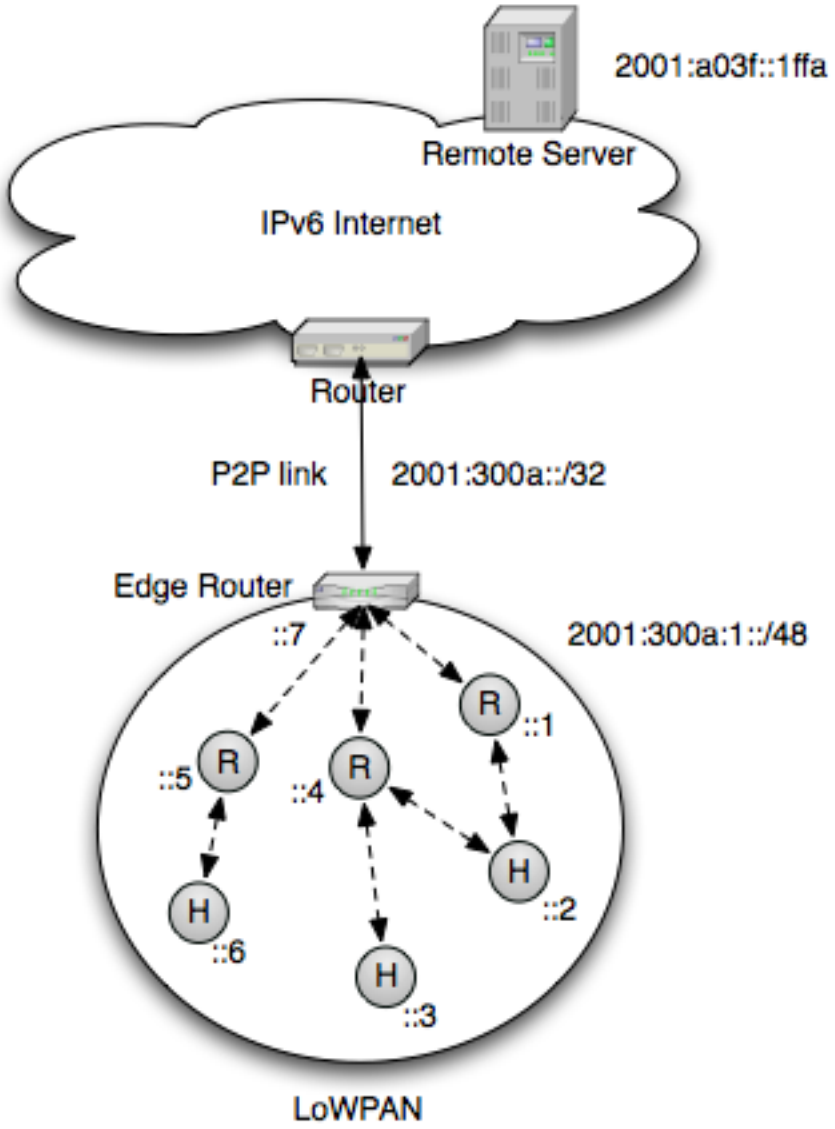
IPv6 Addressing

- 128-bit IPv6 address = 64-bit prefix + 64-bit Interface ID (IID)
- The 64-bit prefix is hierarchical
  - Identifies the network you are on and where it is globally
- The 64-bit IID identifies the network interface
  - Must be unique for that network
  - Typically is formed statelessly from the interface MAC address
  - Called Stateless Address Autoconfiguration (RFC2462)
- There are different kinds of IPv6 addresses

6LoWPAN Addressing

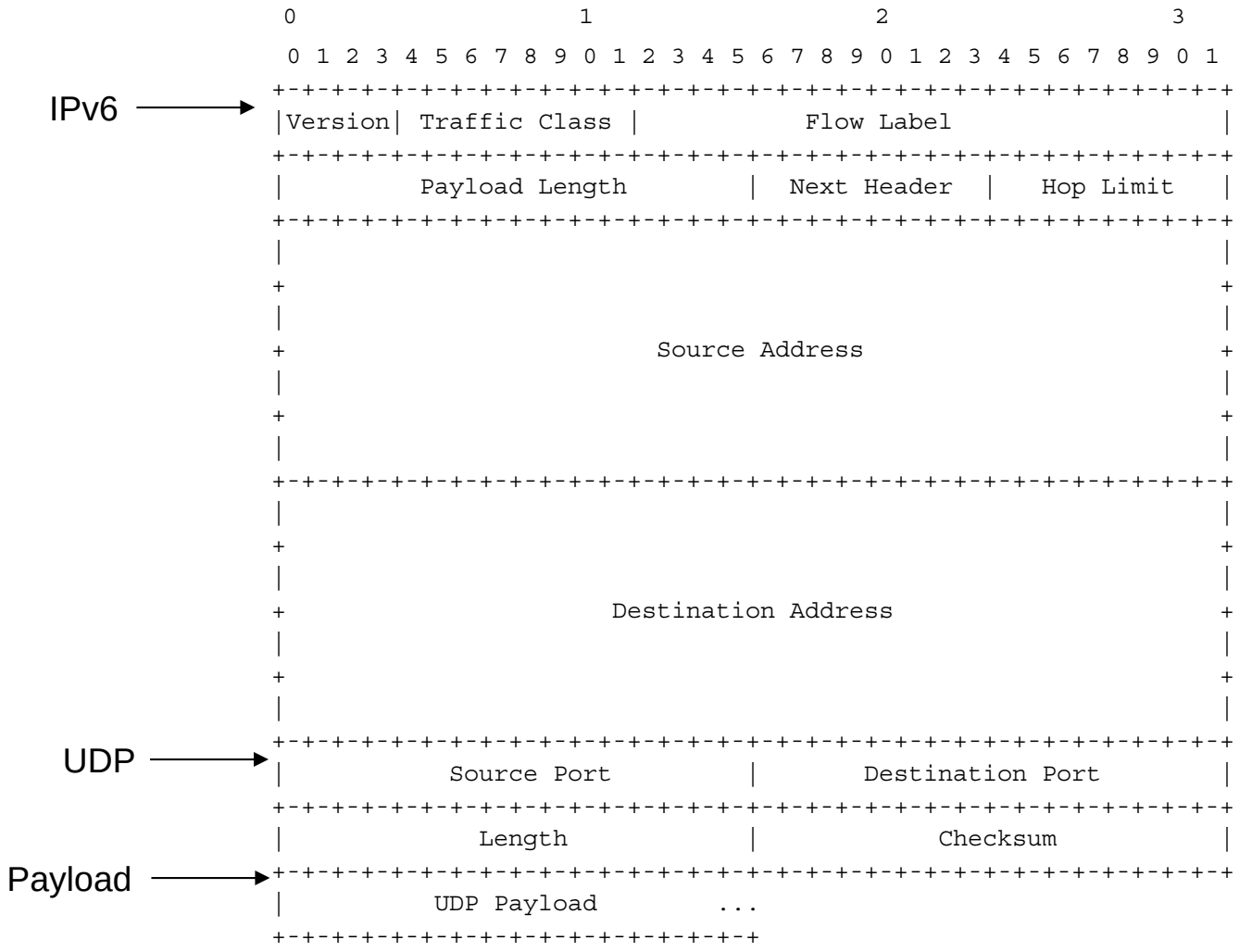
- IPv6 addresses are compressed in 6LoWPAN
- A LoWPAN works on the principle of
  - flat address spaces (wireless network is one IPv6 subnet)
  - with unique MAC addresses (e.g. 64-bit or 16-bit)
- 6LoWPAN compresses IPv6 addresses by
  - Eliding the IPv6 prefix
    - Global prefix known by all nodes in network
    - Link-local prefix indicated by header compression format
  - Compressing the IID
    - Elided for link-local communication
    - Compressed for multihop dst/src addresses

Addressing Example

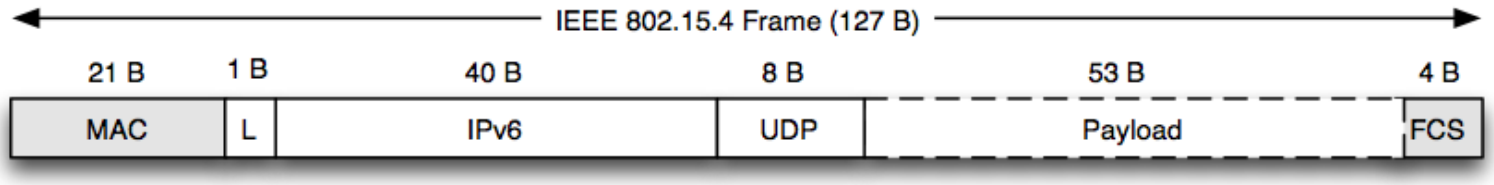


48 Bytes!

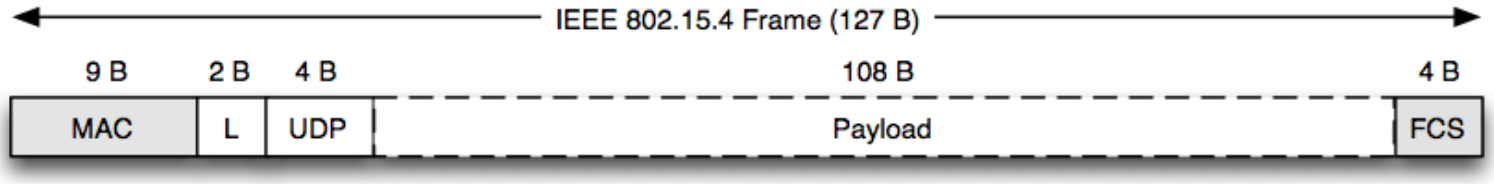
UDP/IPv6 Headers



Header Comparison



Full UDP/IPv6 (64-bit addressing)

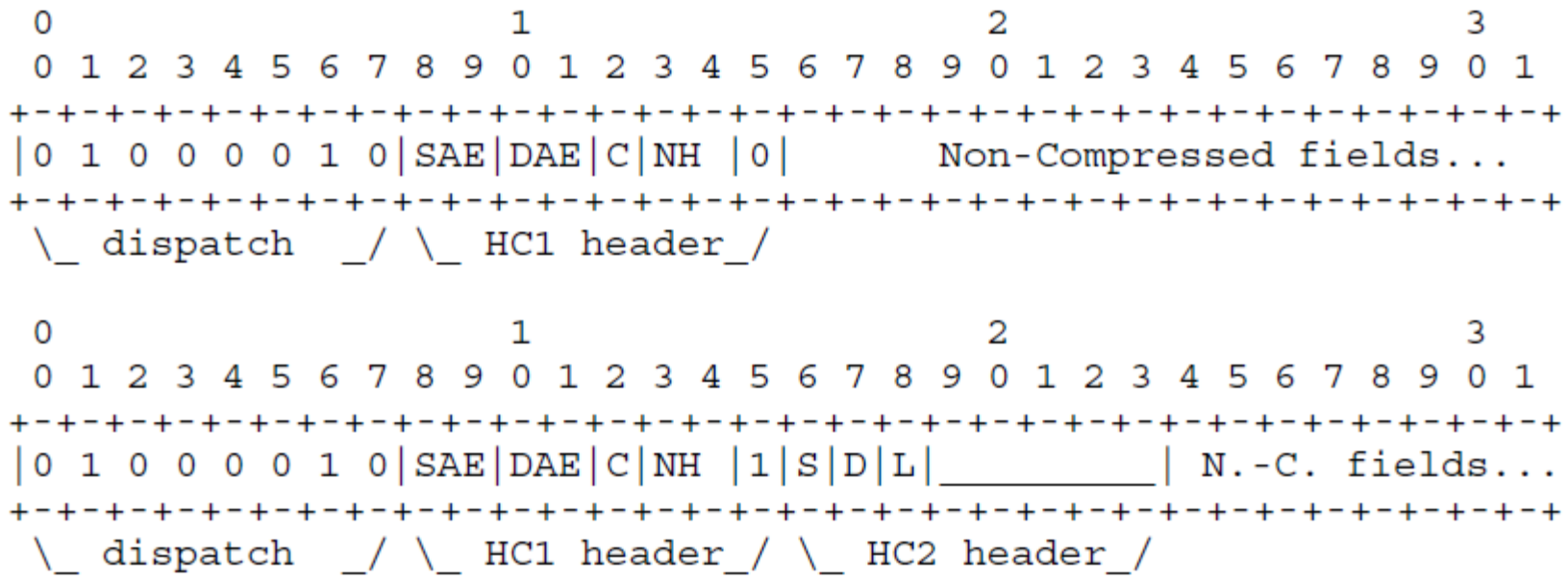


Minimal UDP/6LoWPAN (16-bit addressing)

6LoWPAN Stateless Header Compression

From	To	Allocation
00 000000	00 111111	NALP – Not a LoWPAN frame (NALP)
01 000000		reserved for future use
01 000001		IPv6 – uncompressed IPv6 packets
01 000010		LOWPAN_HC1 – compressed IPv6, see Section 2.6.1
01 000011	01 001111	reserved for future use
01 010000		LOWPAN_BC0 – broadcast, see Section 2.8
01 010001	01 011111	reserved for future use
01 100000	01 111111	proposed for LOWPAN_IPHC, see Section 2.6.2
01 111111		ESC – Additional Dispatch byte follows (preempted by IPHC)
10 000000	10 111111	MESH – Mesh header, see Section 2.5
11 000000	11 000111	FRAG1 – Fragmentation Header (first), see Section 2.7
11 001000	11 011111	reserved for future use
11 100000	11 100111	FRAGN – Fragmentation Header (subsequent), see Section 2.7
11 101000	11 101011	proposed for fragment recovery [ID-thubert-sfr]
11 101100	11 111111	reserved for future use

6LoWPAN Stateless Header Compression



SAE or DAE value	Prefix	IID
00	sent in-line	sent in-line
01	sent in-line	elided and derived from L2 or mesh address
10	elided and assumed to be link-local (FE80::/64)	sent in-line
11	elided and assumed to be link-local (FE80::/64)	elided and derived from L2 or mesh address

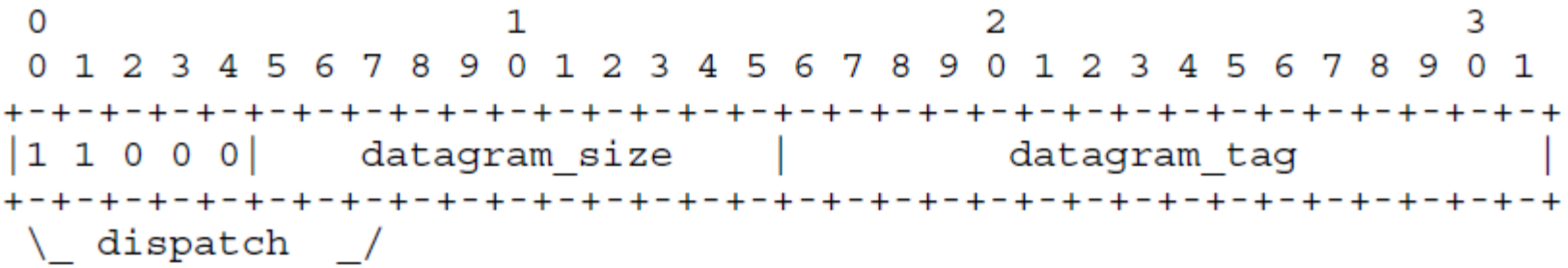
00	Next header sent in-line
01	Next header = 17 (UDP)
10	Next header = 1 (ICMP)
11	Next header = 6 (TCP)

Fragmentation

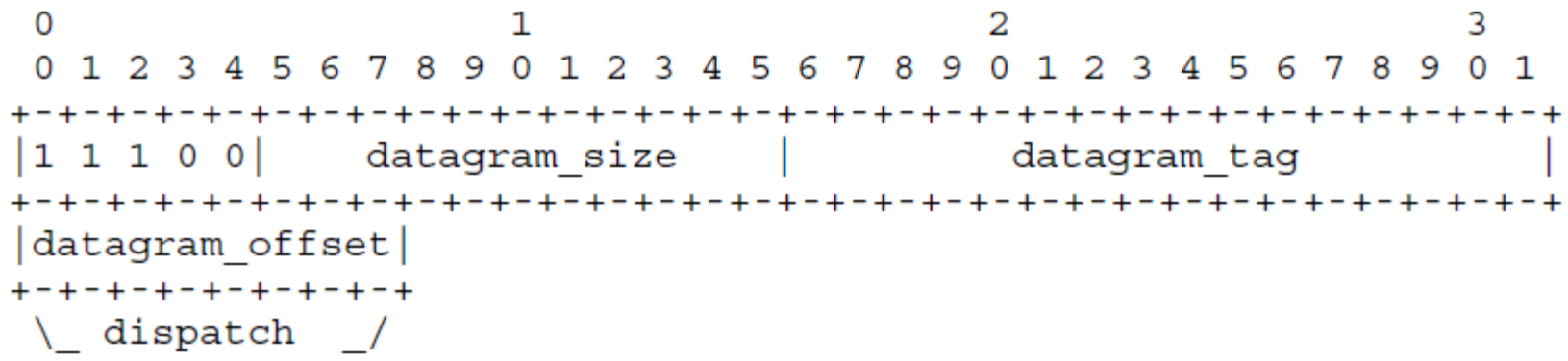
- IPv6 requires underlying links to support Minimum Transmission Units (MTUs) of at least 1280 bytes
- IEEE 802.15.4 leaves approximately 80-100 bytes of payload!
- RFC4944 defines fragmentation and reassembly of IPv6
- The performance of large IPv6 packets fragmented over low-power wireless mesh networks is poor!
  - Lost fragments cause whole packet to be retransmitted
  - Low-bandwidth and delay of the wireless channel
  - 6LoWPAN application protocols should avoid fragmentation
  - Compression should be used on existing IP application protocols when used over 6LoWPAN if possible
- Fragment recovery is currently under IETF consideration

Fragmentation

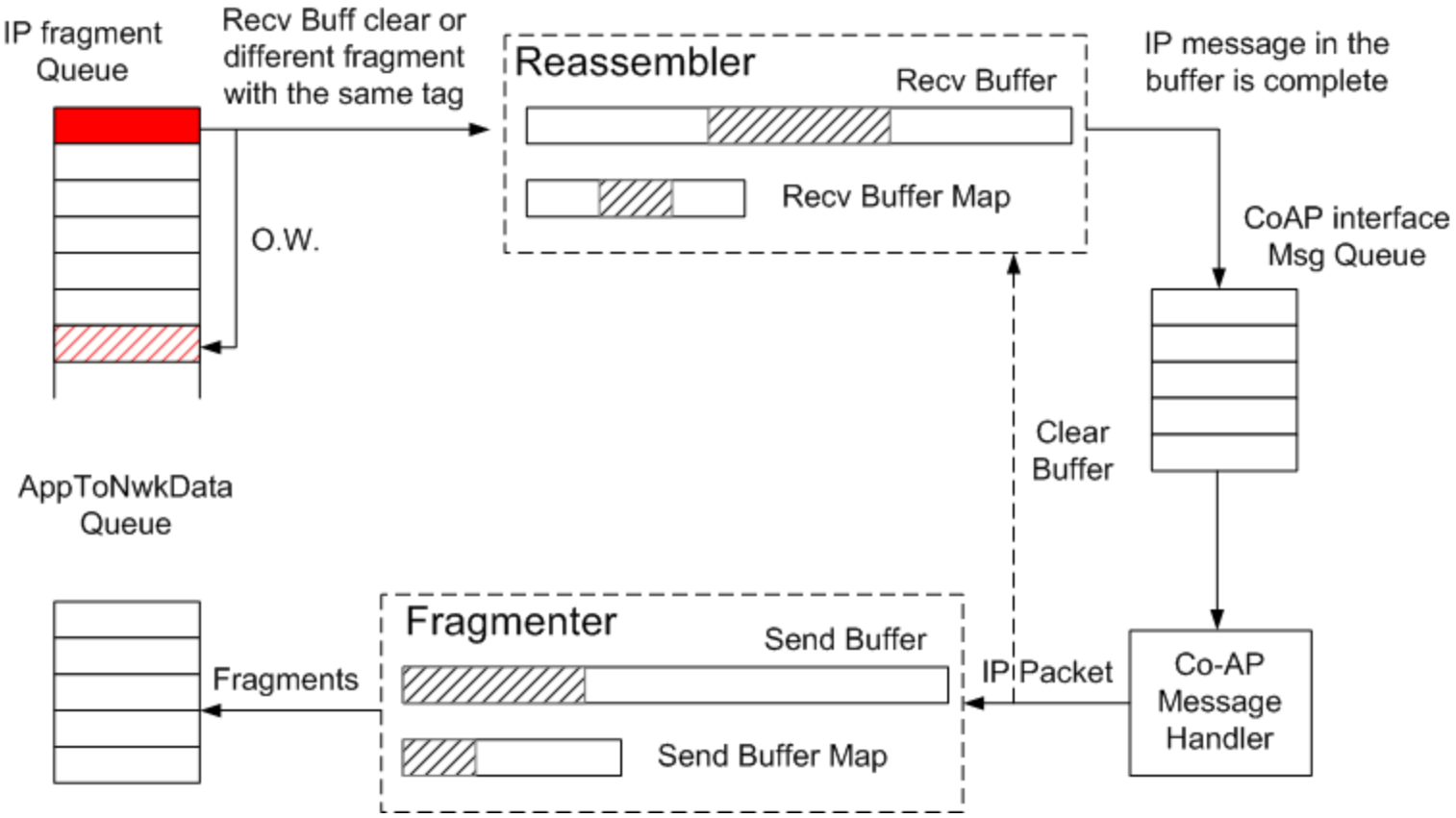
Initial 6LoWPAN fragment



Non-initial 6LoWPAN fragment



Fragmentation: An echo example



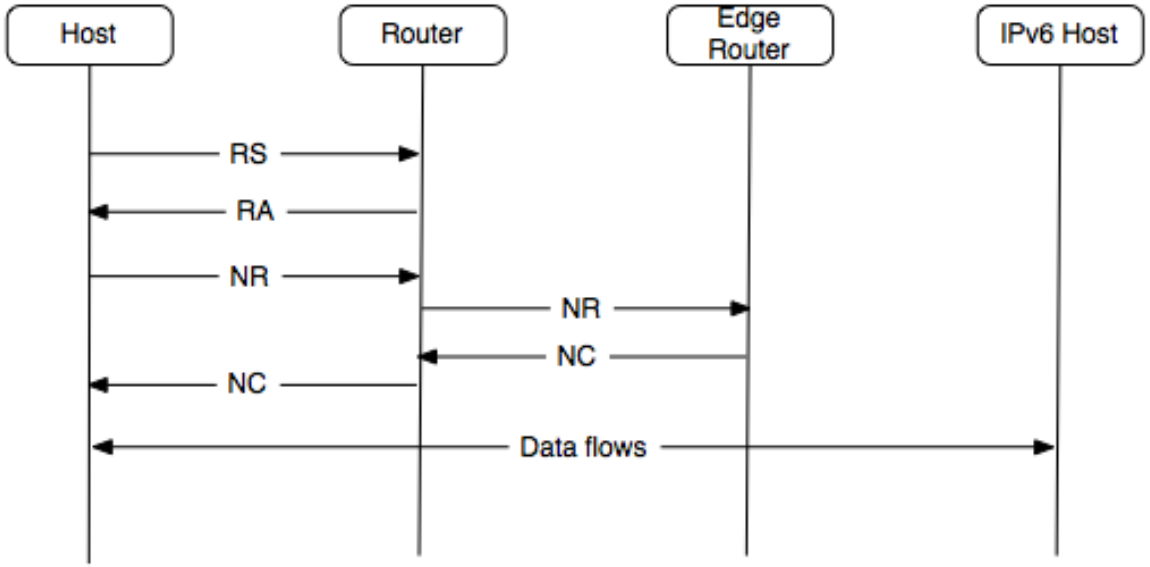
6LoWPAN Setup & Operation

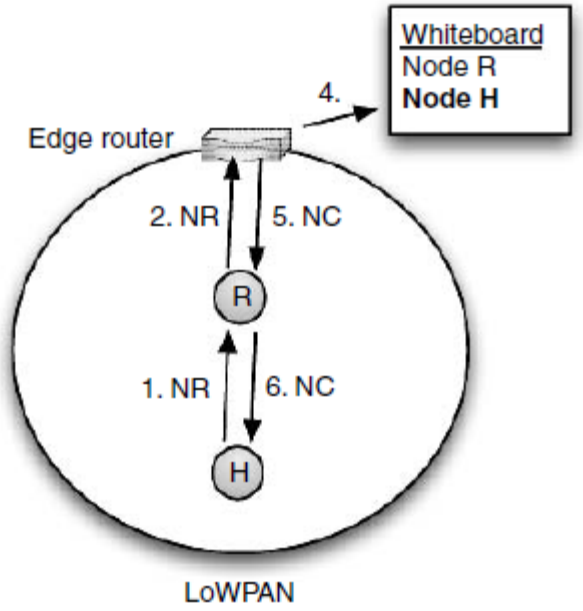
- Autoconfiguration is important in embedded networks
- In order for a 6LoWPAN network to start functioning:
  - Link-layer connectivity between nodes (commissioning)
  - Network layer address configuration, discovery of neighbors, registrations (bootstrapping)
  - Routing algorithm sets up paths (route initialization)
  - Continuous maintenance of 1-3

Commissioning and Neighbor Discovery

- Link Layer Commissioning
  - In order for nodes to communicate with each other, they need to have compatible physical and link-layer settings.
- 6LoWPAN Neighbor Discovery provides:
  - An appropriate link and subnet model for low-power wireless addressing
  - Minimized node-initiated control traffic
  - Node Registration (NR) and Confirmation (NC)
  - Duplicate Address Detection (DAD) and recovery
  - Support for extended Edge Router infrastructures

Typical 6LoWPAN-ND Exchange

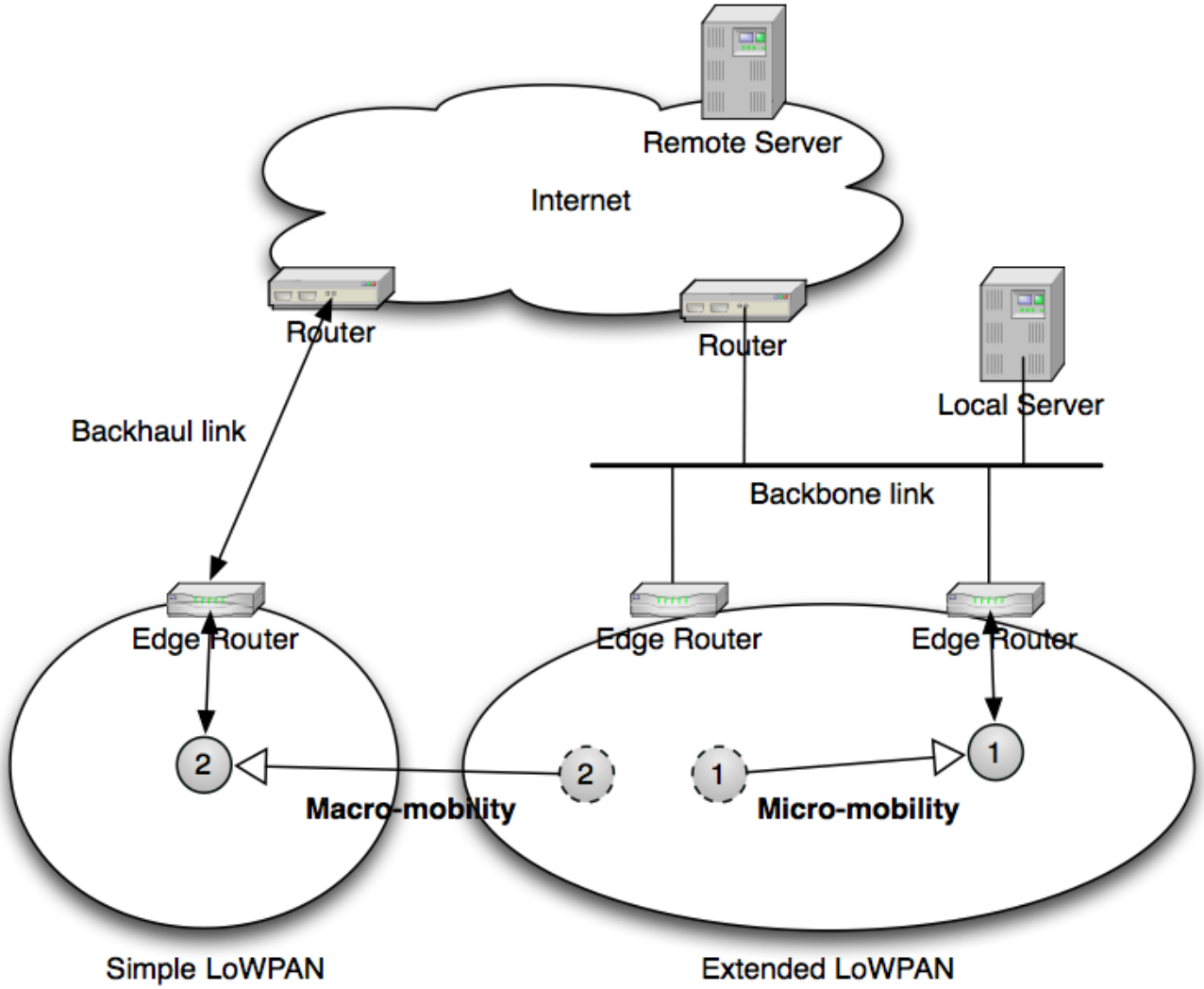




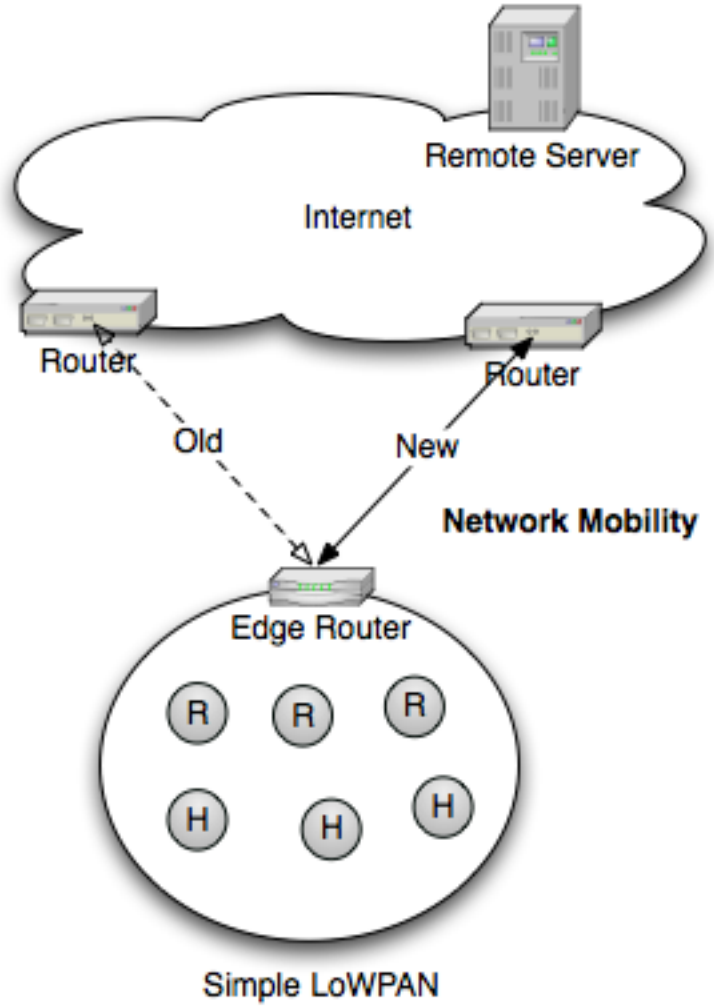
Mobility

- Mobility involves two processes
  - Roaming - *moving from one network to another*
  - Handover - *changing point of attachment (and data flows)*
- Mobility can be categorized as
  - Micro-mobility - *within a network domain*
  - Macro-mobility - *between network domains (IP address change)*
- Consider also *Node* vs. *Network* mobility
- What causes mobility?
  - Physical movement, Radio channel, Network performance, Sleep schedules, Node failure

Node Mobility



Network Mobility

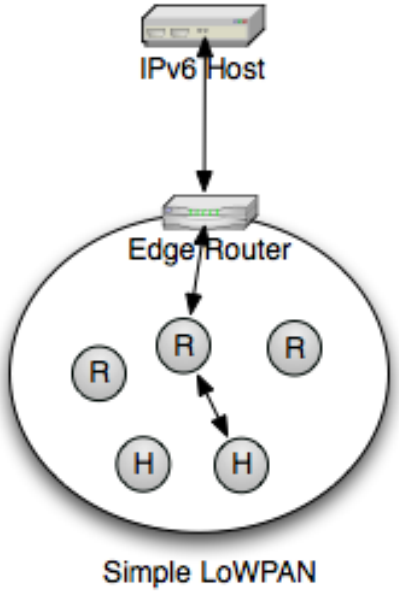


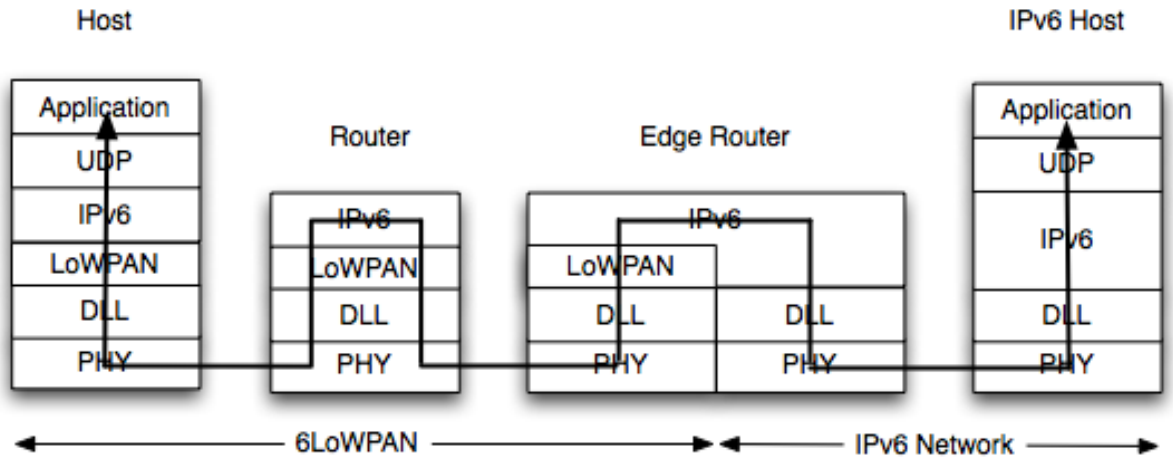
Dealing with Mobility

- Micro-mobility
  - Do nothing (restart)
  - Link-layer techniques (e.g. GPRS, WiFi)
  - 6LoWPAN-ND extended LoWPANs
- Macro-mobility
  - Do nothing (restart)
  - Application layer (SIP, UUID, DNS)
  - Mobile IPv6 [RFC3775] and Proxy Home Agent (network layer)
- Network mobility
  - Do nothing (restart all nodes)
  - NEMO [RFC3963]

6LoWPAN Routing

- We consider IP routing
- Routing in a LoWPAN
  - Single-interface routing
  - Flat address space (exact-match)
  - Stub network (no transit routing)





Routing Protocols for 6LoWPAN

- IP is agnostic to the routing protocol used
  - It forwards based on route table entries
- Thus 6LoWPAN is routing protocol agnostic
- Special consideration for routing over LoWPANs
  - Single interface routing, flat topology
  - Low-power and lossy wireless technologies
  - Specific data flows for embedded applications
- MANET protocols useful in some ad-hoc cases
  - e.g. AODV, DYMO
- New IETF working group formed
  - Routing over low-power and lossy networks (ROLL)
  - Developed specifically for embedded applications

Application Protocols

- The processes of applications communicate over IP using an Internet Socket approach
- 6LoWPAN also uses the Internet Socket paradigm
- Application protocols used with 6LoWPAN however have special design and performance requirements

Application Protocols (Cont.)