

# Let me tell you what I heard at a conference...

## Objectives

**Describe the purpose and function of the data link layer in preparing communication for transmission on specific media.**

In this activity, you will discuss how communication within a single data-link layer domain can be performed immediately by addressing the intended node directly. You will also consider the increasing difficulty of communication if multiple nodes in a single domain need to communicate.

## Background/Scenario

You and your colleague are attending a networking conference. There are many lectures and presentations held during this event, and because they overlap, each of you can attend only a limited set of sessions. Therefore, you decide to split up, each of you attending a separate set of presentations, and after the event ends, you share the slides and the knowledge each of you gained during the event.

Answer the following questions:

- How would you personally organize a conference where multiple sessions are held at the same time? Would you put all of them into a single conference room, or would you use multiple rooms? Explain your answer.
- Assume that the conference room is properly fitted with audiovisual equipment to display large-size video and amplify the speaker's voice. If a person wanted to attend a specific session, does it matter which seat the person takes, or is it sufficient for the person to sit anywhere as long as it is in an appropriate conference room?
- What are the potential consequences or benefits if the speech from one conference room somehow leaked into another?
- If questions or inquiries arise during a presentation, should an attendee simply shout out a question, or should there be some process of assuring that attendees are given an opportunity to ask questions that everyone can hear? What would happen without this process?
- Can a session run out of time without going through the entire intended content if an interesting topic elicits a larger discussion where many attendees have questions? If you did not want this to happen, what would be the best way to ensure that it does not occur?
- Imagine that the session is in a panel format, which allows more free discussion of attendees with the panelists and among themselves. If a person wants to address another person within the same room, can it be done directly? If so, how is this possible? How would a panelist invite another person to join who is not presently in the room?
- What benefit, if any, was achieved by the isolation of multiple sessions into separate conference rooms if, after the event, people could meet and share the information?

## Required Resources

Recording capabilities (paper, tablet, etc.) for reflective comments to be shared with the class.

## Reflection

1. How would you personally organize a conference where multiple sessions are held at the same time? Would you put all of them into a single conference room, or would you use multiple rooms? What would be the reason? Explain your answer.
  
2. Assume that the conference room is properly fitted with audiovisual equipment to display large-size video and amplify the speaker's voice. If a person wanted to attend a specific session, does it matter which seat will the person take, or is it sufficient for the person to sit anywhere as long as it is in appropriate conference room?
  
3. What are the potential consequences or benefits if the speech from one conference room somehow leaked into another?
  
4. If questions or inquiries arise during a presentation, should an attendee simply shout out his/her question, or should there be some process of assuring that attendees are given an opportunity to ask questions that everyone can hear? What would happen without this process?

