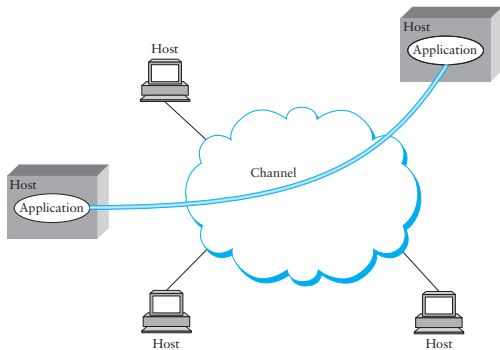


Outline

- 1 Networking overview
- 2 Systems issues
- 3 Implementing networking in the kernel
- 4 Network file systems

Computer networking



- **Goal: two applications on different computers exchange data**
- **Requires inter-process (not just inter-node) communication**

The 7-Layer and 4-Layer Models

	OSI	TCP/IP
7	Application	Applications (FTP, SMTP, HTTP, etc.)
6	Presentation	
5	Session	
4	Transport	TCP (host-to-host)
3	Network	IP
2	Data link	Network access (usually Ethernet)
1	Physical	

Link Layer: Ethernet

- Originally designed for shared medium (coax), now generally not shared medium (switched)
- Vendors give each device a unique 48-bit *MAC address*
 - Specifies which card should receive a packet
- Ethernet switches can scale to switch local area networks (thousands of hosts), but not much larger

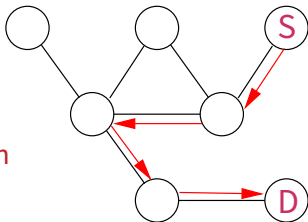
- **Packet format:**

64	48	48	16	32	
Preamble	Dest addr	Src addr	Type	Body	CRC

 - Preamble helps device recognize start of packet
 - CRC allows receiving card to ignore corrupted packets
 - Body up to 1,500 bytes for same destination
 - All other fields must be set by sender's OS (NIC cards tell the OS what the card's MAC address is, Special addresses used for broadcast/multicast)

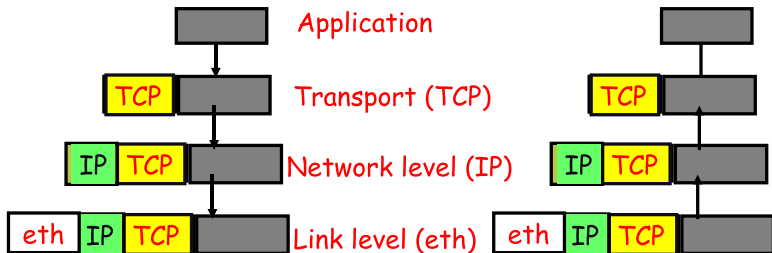
Network Layer: Internet Protocol (IP)

- **IP used to connect multiple networks**
 - Runs over a variety of physical networks—Ethernet, DSL, 5G
- **Every host has a unique 4-byte IP address (16-bytes for IPv6)**
 - (Or at least thinks it has, when there is address shortage)
- **Packets are *routed* based on destination IP address**
 - Address space is structured to make routing practical at global scale
 - E.g., 171.66.*.* goes to Stanford
 - So **packets need IP addresses in addition to MAC addresses**
- **Inside IP: UDP or TCP transport layer adds 16-bit *port number***
 - UDP – unreliable datagram protocol, exposes lost/reordered/delayed (but typically not corrupted) packets
 - TCP – transmission control protocol \approx reliable pipe



Principle: Encapsulation

- Stick packets inside packets
- How you realize packet switching and layering in a system
 - E.g., an Ethernet packet may *encapsulate* an IP packet
 - An IP router *forwards* a packet from one Ethernet to another, creating a new Ethernet packet containing the same IP packet
 - In principle, an inner layer should not depend on outer layers (not always true)



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Unreliability of IP

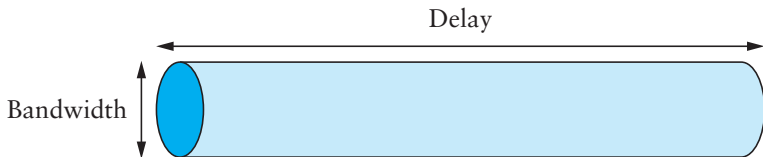
- **Network does not deliver packets reliably**
 - May drop, reorder, delay, corrupt, duplicate packets
- **OS must implement reliable TCP on top of IP**
- **Straw man: Wait for ack for each packet**
 - Send a packet, wait for acknowledgment, send next packet
 - If no ack, timeout and try again
- **Problems?**

Unreliability of IP

- **Network does not deliver packets reliably**
 - May drop, reorder, delay, corrupt, duplicate packets
- **OS must implement reliable TCP on top of IP**
- **Straw man: Wait for ack for each packet**
 - Send a packet, wait for acknowledgment, send next packet
 - If no ack, timeout and try again
- **Problems:**
 - Low performance over high-delay network (bandwidth is one packet per round-trip time)
 - Possible congestive collapse of network (if everyone keeps retransmitting when network overloaded)

Performance: Bandwidth-delay

- Network *delay* over WAN will never improve much
- But *throughput* (bits/sec) is constantly improving
- Can view network as a pipe



- For full utilization want # bytes in flight \geq bandwidth \times delay
(But don't want to overload the network, either)
- What if protocol doesn't involve bulk transfer?
 - E.g., ping-pong protocol will have poor throughput
- Another implication: **Concurrency & response time critical for good network utilization**

A little bit about TCP

- **Want to save network from congestion collapse**
 - Packet loss usually means congestion, so back off exponentially
- **Want multiple outstanding packets at a time**
 - Get transmit rate up to n -packet window per round-trip
- **Must figure out appropriate value of n for network**
 - Slowly increase transmission by one packet per acked window
 - When a packet is lost, cut window size in half
- **Connection set up and teardown complicated**
 - Sender never knows when last packet might be lost
 - Must keep state around for a while (2MSL, e.g., 4 min) after close
- **Lots more hacks required for good performance**
 - Initially ramp n up faster (but too fast caused collapse in 1986 [[Jacobson](#)], so TCP had to be changed)
 - Fast retransmit when single packet lost

Lots of OS issues for TCP

- **Have to track unacknowledged data**
 - Keep a copy around until recipient acknowledges it
 - Keep timer around to retransmit if no ack
 - Receiver must keep out of order segments & reassemble
- **When to wake process receiving data?**
 - E.g., sender calls `write (fd, message, 8000);`
 - First TCP segment arrives, but is only 512 bytes
 - Could wake recipient, but useless w/o full message
 - TCP sets “PUSH” bit at end of 8000 byte write data
- **When to send short segment, vs. wait for more data**
 - Usually send only one unacked short segment
 - But bad for some apps, so provide `NODELAY` option
- **Must ack received segments very quickly**
 - Otherwise, effectively increases RTT, decreasing bandwidth

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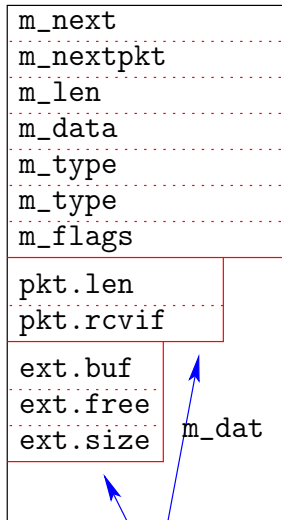
Sockets

- **Sockets \approx bi-directional pipes**
- **Name endpoints by IP address and 16-bit *port number***
- **A *connection* is thus named by 5 components**
 - Protocol (TCP), local IP, local port, remote IP, remote port
 - Note TCP requires connected sockets, while UDP does not
- **Kernel stores connection state in a *protocol control block structure (PCB)***
 - Keep all PCB's in a hash table
 - When packet arrives (if destination IP address belongs to host), use 5-tuple to find PCB and determine what to do with packet

Socket implementation

- **Need to implement layering efficiently**
 - Add UDP header to data, Add IP header to UDP packet, ...
 - De-encapsulate Ethernet packet so IP code doesn't get confused by Ethernet header
- **Don't store packets in contiguous memory**
 - Moving data to make room for new header would be slow
- **BSD solution: mbufs [Leffler]**
(Note [Leffler] calls `m_nextpkt` by old name `m_act`)
 - Small, fixed-size (256 byte) structures
 - Makes allocation/deallocation easy (no fragmentation)
- **BSD Mbufs working example for this lecture**
 - Linux uses `sk_buffs`, which are similar idea

mbuf details



optional

- **Packets made up of multiple mbufs**
 - *Chained* together by `m_next`
 - Such linked mbufs called *chains*
- **Chains linked with `m_nextpkt`**
 - Linked chains known as *queues*
 - E.g., device output queue
- **Total mbuf size 256 B \Rightarrow \sim 230 data bytes (depends on size of pointers)**
 - First in chain has `pkt` header
- **Cluster mbufs have more data**
 - `ext` header points to data
 - Up to 2 KB not collocated with mbuf
 - `m_dat` not used
- **`m_flags` is bitwise or of various bits**
 - E.g., if cluster, or if `pkt` header used

Adding/deleting data with mbufs

- **m_data always points to start of data**
 - Can be `m_data`, or `ext.buf` for cluster mbuf
 - Or can point into middle of that area
- **To strip off a packet header (e.g., TCP/IP)**
 - Increment `m_data`, decrement `m_len`
- **To strip off end of packet**
 - Decrement `m_len`
- **Can add data to mbuf if buffer not full**
- **Otherwise, add data to chain**
 - Chain new mbuf at head/tail of existing chain

mbuf utility functions

- `mbuf *m_copym(mbuf *m, int off, int len, int wait);`
 - Creates a copy of a subset of an mbuf chain
 - Doesn't copy clusters, just increments reference count
 - `wait` says what to do if no memory (`wait` or return `NULL`)
- `void m_adj(struct mbuf *mp, int len);`
 - Trim `|len|` bytes from head or (if negative) tail of chain
- `mbuf *m_pullup(struct mbuf *n, int len);`
 - Put first `len` bytes of chain contiguously into first mbuf
- **Example: Ethernet packet containing IP datagram**
 - Trim Ethernet header using `m_adj`
 - Call `m_pullup (n, sizeof (ip_hdr));`
 - Access IP header as regular C data structure

Socket implementation

- **Each socket fd has associated socket structure with:**
 - Send and receive buffers
 - Queues of incoming connections (on listen socket)
 - A *protocol control block* (PCB)
 - A *protocol handle* (`struct protosw *`)
- **PCB contains protocol-specific info. E.g., for TCP:**
 - 5-tuple of protocol (TCP), source/destination IP address and port
 - Information about received packets & position in stream
 - Information about unacknowledged sent packets
 - Information about timeouts
 - Information about connection state (setup/teardown)

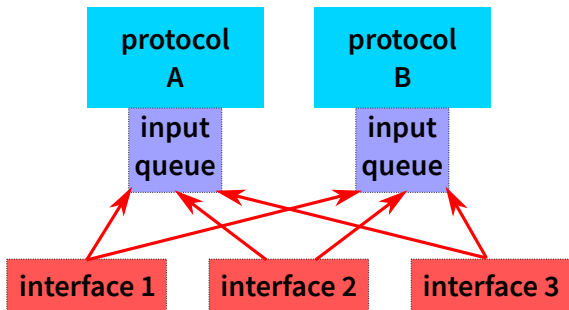
- **Goal: abstract away differences between protocols**
 - In C++, might use virtual functions on a generic socket struct
 - Here just put function pointers in `protosw` structure
- **Also includes a few data fields**
 - *domain, type, protocol* – to match `socket` syscall args, so know which `protosw` to select
 - *flags* – to specify important properties of protocol
- **Some protocol flags:**
 - `ATOMIC` – exchange atomic messages only (like UDP, not TCP)
 - `ADDR` – address given with messages (like unconnected UDP)
 - `CONNREQUIRED` – requires connection (like TCP)
 - `WANTRCVD` – notify socket of consumed data (e.g., so TCP can wake up a sending process blocked by flow control)

- `pr_slowtimo` – **called every 1/2 sec for timeout processing**
- `pr_drain` – **called when system low on space**
- `pr_input` – **returns mbuf chain of data read from socket**
- `pr_output` – **takes mbuf chain of data written to socket**
- `pr_usrreq` – **multi-purpose user-request hook**
 - Used for bind/listen/accept/connect/disconnect operations
 - Used for out-of-band data

Network interface cards

- **Each NIC driver provides an `ifnet` data structure**
 - Like `protosw`, tries to abstract away the details
- **Data fields:**
 - Interface name (e.g., “eth0”)
 - Address list (e.g., Ethernet address, broadcast address, ...)
 - Maximum packet size
 - Send queue
- **Function pointers**
 - `if_output` – prepend header and enqueue packet
 - `if_start` – start transmitting queued packets
 - Also `ioctl`, `timeout`, `initialize`, `reset`

Input handling



- **NIC driver figures out protocol of incoming packet**
- **Enqueues packet for appropriate protocol handler**
 - If queue full, drop packet (can create livelock [Mogul])
- **Posts “soft interrupt” for protocol-layer processing**
 - Runs at lower priority than hardware (NIC) interrupt
...but higher priority than process-context kernel code

Routing

- **An OS must route all transmitted packets**
 - Machine may have multiple NICs plus “loopback” interface
 - Which interface should a packet be sent to, and what MAC address should packet have?
- **Routing is based purely on the destination address**
 - Even if host has multiple NICs w. different IP addresses
 - (Though linux lets you select a routing table by source IP)
- **OS maintains routing table**
 - Maps IP address & prefix-length → next hop
- **Use radix tree for efficient lookup**
 - Branch at each node in tree based on single bit of target
 - When you reach leaf, that is your next hop
- **Most OSes provide packet forwarding**
 - Received packets for non-local address routed out another interface

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Network file systems

- **What's a network file system?**
 - Looks like a file system (e.g., FFS) to applications
 - But data potentially stored on another machine
 - Reads and writes must go over the network
 - Also called distributed file systems
- **Advantages of network file systems**
 - Easy to share if files available on multiple machines
 - Often easier to administer servers than clients
 - Access way more data than fits on your local disk
 - Network + remote buffer cache faster than local disk
- **Disadvantages**
 - Network + remote disk slower than local disk
 - Network or server may fail even when client OK
 - Complexity, security issues

NFS version 2 [Sandberg]

- **Background: ND (networked disk)**
 - Creates disk-like device even on diskless workstations
 - Can create a regular (e.g., FFS) file system on it
 - But no sharing—Why?
- **ND idea still used today by Linux [NBD](#)**
 - Useful for network booting/diskless machines, not file sharing
- **Some Goals of NFS**
 - Access same FS from multiple machines simultaneously
 - Maintain Unix semantics
 - Crash recovery
 - Competitive performance with ND
- **NFS version 2 protocol specified in [\[RFC 1094\]](#)**

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 - But no sharing—Why?
 - FFS assumes disk doesn't change under it
- **ND idea still used today by Linux [NBD](#)**
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 - Access same FS from multiple machines simultaneously
 - Maintain Unix semantics
 - Crash recovery
 - Competitive performance with ND
- **NFS version 2 protocol specified in [\[RFC 1094\]](#)**

NFS implementation

- **Virtualized the file system with *vnodes***
 - Ersatz virtual functions/interface/trait (like `protosw`)
- **Vnode structure represents an open (or openable) file**
- **Bunch of generic “vnode operations”:**
 - lookup, create, open, close, getattr, setattr, read, write, fsync, remove, link, rename, mkdir, rmdir, symlink, readdir, readlink, ...
 - Called through function pointers, so most system calls don't care what type of file system a file resides on
- **NFS vnode operations perform *Remote Procedure Calls (RPC)***
 - Client sends request to server over network, awaits response
 - Each system call may require a series of RPCs
 - System mostly determined by RPC [RFC 1831] *Protocol*
 - Uses XDR protocol specification language [RFC 1832]

Stateless operation

- **Designed for “stateless operation”**
 - Motivated by need to recover from server crashes
- **Requests are self-contained**
- **Requests are idempotent**
 - Unreliable UDP transport
 - Client retransmits requests until it gets a reply
 - Writes must be stable before server returns
- **Can this really work?**

Stateless operation

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- **Requests are self-contained**
- **Requests are ^{mostly} idempotent**
 - Unreliable UDP transport
 - Client retransmits requests until it gets a reply
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- **Can this really work?**
 - Of course, FS not stateless – it stores files
 - E.g., *mkdir* can't be idempotent – second time dir exists
 - But many operations, e.g., *read*, *write* are idempotent
 - Importantly, server doesn't track open files, so reboot doesn't invalidate any file descriptors on clients

NFS version 3

- **Same general architecture as NFS 2**
- **Specified in RFC 1813 (subset of Open Group spec)**
 - XDR defines C structures that can be sent over network; includes tagged unions (to know which union field active)
 - Protocol defined as a set of Remote Procedure Calls (RPCs)
- **New access RPC**
 - Supports clients and servers with different uids/gids
- **Better support for caching**
 - Unstable writes while data still cached at client
 - More information for cache consistency
- **Better support for exclusive file creation**

NFSv3 File handles

```
struct nfs_fh3 {  
    /* XDR notation for variable-length array  
     * with 0-64 opaque bytes: */  
    opaque data<64>;  
};
```

- **Server assigns an opaque file handle to each file**
 - Client obtains first file handle out-of-band (mount protocol)
 - File handle hard to guess – security enforced at mount time
 - Subsequent file handles obtained through lookups
- **File handle internally specifies file system & file**
 - Device number, i-number, *generation number*, ...
 - Generation number changes when inode recycled
- **Handle generally *doesn't* contain filename**
 - Clients may keep accessing an open file after it's renamed

File attributes

```
struct fattr3 {
    specdata3 rdev;
    ftype3 type;
    uint64 fsid;
    uint32 mode;
    uint64 fileid;
    uint32 nlink;
    nfstime3 atime;
    uint32 uid;
    nfstime3 mtime;
    uint32 gid;
    nfstime3 ctime;
    uint64 size;
};
uint64 used;
```

- Most operations can optionally return `fattr3`
- Attributes used for cache-consistency

Lookup

```
struct diropargs3 {
    nfs_fh3 dir;
    filename3 name;
};

struct lookup3resok {
    nfs_fh3 object;
    post_op_attr obj_attributes;
    post_op_attr dir_attributes;
};

union lookup3res switch (nfsstat3 status) {
    case NFS3_OK:
        lookup3resok resok;
    default:
        post_op_attr resfail;
};
```

- **Maps** $\langle \text{directory handle, filename} \rangle \rightarrow \text{handle}$
 - Client walks hierarchy one file at a time
 - No symlinks expanded or file system boundaries crossed
 - Client must expand symlinks

Create

```
struct create3args {  
    diropargs3 where;  
    createhow3 how;  
};
```

```
union createhow3 switch (createmode3 mode) {  
    case UNCHECKED:  
    case GUARDED:  
        sattr3 obj_attributes;  
    case EXCLUSIVE:  
        createverf3 verf;  
};
```

- UNCHECKED – **succeed if file exists**
- GUARDED – **fail if file exists**
- EXCLUSIVE – **persistent record of create**

Read

```
struct read3args {
    nfs_fh3 file;
    uint64 offset;
    uint32 count;
};

struct read3resok {
    post_op_attr file_attributes;
    uint32 count;
    bool eof;
    opaque data<>;
};
```

```
union read3res switch (nfsstat3 status) {
case NFS3_OK:
    read3resok resok;
default:
    post_op_attr resfail;
};
```

- **Offset explicitly specified (not implicit in handle)**
- **Client can cache result**

Data caching

- **Client can cache blocks of data read and written**
- **Consistency based on times in `fat_t3`**
 - **mtime**: Time of last modification to file
 - **ctime**: Time of last change to inode
(Changed by explicitly setting mtime, increasing size of file, changing permissions, etc.)
- **Algorithm: If mtime or ctime changed by another client, flush cached file blocks**

Write discussion

- **When is it okay to lose data after a crash?**
 - *Local file system?*

Write discussion

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If no calls to *fsync*, OK to lose 30 seconds of work after crash
 - *Network file system?*

Write discussion

- **When is it okay to lose data after a crash?**
 - *Local file system?*
If no calls to *fsync*, OK to lose 30 seconds of work after crash
 - *Network file system?*
What if server crashes but not client?
Application not killed, so shouldn't lose previous writes
- **NFSv2 addresses problem by having server write data to disk before replying to a write RPC**
 - Caused performance problems
- **Could NFS2 clients just perform write-behind?**
 - Implementation issues – used blocking kernel threads on write
 - Semantics – how to guarantee consistency after server crash
 - Solution: small # of pending write RPCs, but write through on close; if server crashes, client keeps re-writing until acked

NFSv2 write call

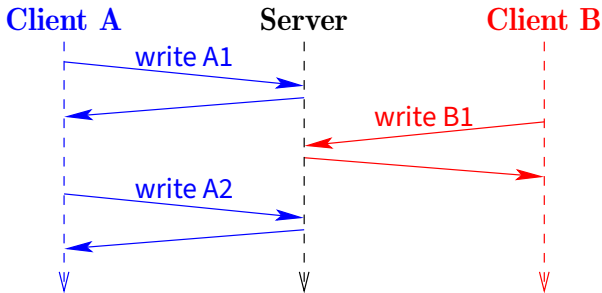
```
struct writeargs {
    fhandle file;
    /* ... */
    unsigned offset;
    /* ... */
    nfsdata data;
};

union attrstat
    switch (stat status) {
case NFS_OK:
    fattr attributes;
default:
    void;
};
```

```
attrstat NFSPROC_WRITE(writeargs) = 8;
```

- **On successful write, returns new file attributes**
- **Can NFSv2 keep cached copy of file after writing it?**

Write race condition



- **Suppose client overwrites 2-block file**
 - Client A knows attributes of file after writes A1 & A2
 - But client B could overwrite block 1 between the A1 & A2
 - No way for client A to know this hasn't happened
 - Must flush cache before next file read (or at least open)

NFSv3 Write arguments

```
struct write3args {
    nfs_fh3 file;
    uint64 offset;
    uint32 count;
    stable_how stable;
    opaque data<>;
};

enum stable_how {
    UNSTABLE = 0,
    DATA_SYNC = 1,
    FILE_SYNC = 2
};
```

- **Two goals for NFSv3 write:**

- Don't force clients to flush cache after writes
- Don't equate *cache* consistency with *crash* consistency
I.e., don't wait for disk just so another client can see data

Write results

```
struct write3resok {
    wcc_data file_wcc;
    uint32 count;
    stable_how committed;
    writeverf3 verf;
};

union write3res
    switch (nfsstat3 status) {
case NFS3_OK:
    write3resok resok;
default:
    wcc_data resfail;
};
```

```
struct wcc_attr {
    uint64 size;
    nfstime3 mtime;
    nfstime3 ctime;
};

struct wcc_data {
    wcc_attr *before;
    post_op_attr after;
};
```

- **Several fields added to achieve these goals**

Data caching after a write

- **Write will change mtime/ctime of a file**
 - “after” will contain new times
 - With NFSv2, would require cache to be flushed
- **With NFSv3, “before” contains previous values**
 - If `before` matches cached values, no other client has changed file
 - Okay to update attributes without flushing data cache

Write stability

- **Server write must be at least as stable as requested**
- **If server returns write UNSTABLE**
 - Means permissions okay, enough free disk space, ...
 - But data not on disk and might disappear (after crash)
- **If DATA_SYNC, data on disk, maybe not attributes**
- **If FILE_SYNC, operation complete and stable**

Commit operation

- **Client cannot discard any UNSTABLE write**
 - If server crashes, data will be lost
- **COMMIT RPC commits a range of a file to disk**
 - Invoked by client when client cleaning buffer cache
 - Invoked by client when user closes/flushes a file
- **How does client know if server crashed?**
 - Write and commit return `writeverf3`
 - Value changes after each server crash (can be boot time)
 - Client must resend all writes if `verf` value changes

Attribute caching

- **Close-to-open consistency**
 - Annoying if writes not visible after a file close (Edit file, compile on another machine, get old version)
 - Nowadays, all NFS opens fetch attributes from server
- **Still, lots of other need for attributes (e.g., `ls -al`)**
- **Attributes cached between 5 and 60 seconds**
 - Files recently changed more likely to change again
 - Do weighted cache expiration based on age of file
- **Drawbacks:**
 - Must pay for round-trip to server on every file open
 - Can get stale info when `stat`ting a file

NFS version 4 [RFC 3530]

- **Much more complicated than version 3**
 - NFS2: 27 page spec, NFS3: 126 pages, NFS4: 275 pages, NFS4.1: 617 pages
- **Designed to run over higher-latency networks**
 - Support for multi-component lookups to save RTTs
 - Support for batching multiple operations in one RPC
 - Support for leases (in two slides) and stateful (open, close) operation
- **Designed to be more generic and less Unix-specific**
 - E.g., support for extended file attributes, etc.
- **Lots of security stuff**
- **NFS 4.1 [RFC5661] has better support for NAS**
 - Store file data and metadata in different places

Callbacks

- **NFSv2 and v3 poll server for cache consistency**
 - Client requests attributes (via ACCESS) when file opened
 - Attributes validate or invalidate cached copy of file
- **Alternative: Server calls back to clients caching file (AFS)**
 - Invalidate immediately, rather than when cache needed
 - Requires server to maintain list of all clients caching info
- **Advantages**
 - Tight consistency, 0 RTT opens of cached files
- **Disadvantages**
 - Server must maintain a lot of state
 - Updates potentially slow
 - ▷ Must persistently record who is caching things on server
 - ▷ Must wait for n clients to acknowledge invalidations
 - When a client goes down, other clients will block

Leases

- **Hybrid mix of polling and callbacks**
 - Server agrees to notify client of changes for a limited period of time – the lease term
 - After the lease expires, client must poll for freshness
- **Avoids paying for a server round trip in many cases**
- **Server doesn't need to keep long-term track of callbacks**
 - E.g., lease time can be shorter than crash-reboot—no need to keep callbacks persistently
- **If client crashes, resume normal operation after lease expiration**