Chapter 23.15-23.19

Network Address Translation



different source port numbers

source, destination (as usual)

- Motivation: local network uses just one IP address as far as outside world is concerned:
 - range of addresses not needed from ISP: just one IP address for all devices
 - can change addresses of devices in local network without notifying outside world
 - can change ISP without changing addresses of devices in local network
 - devices inside local net not explicitly addressable, visible by outside world (a security plus).

Implementation: NAT router must:

outgoing datagrams: replace (source IP address, port #) of every outgoing datagram to (NAT IP address, new port #)

 ... remote clients/servers will respond using (NAT IP address, new port #) as destination addr.

remember (in NAT translation table) every (source IP address, port #) to (NAT IP address, new port #) translation pair

incoming datagrams: replace (NAT IP address, new port #) in dest fields of every incoming datagram with corresponding (source IP address, port #) stored in NAT table



16-bit port-number field:

60K simultaneous connections with a single LAN-side address!

NAT is controversial:

routers should only process up to layer 3

violates end-to-end argument

 NAT possibility must be taken into account by app designers, eg, P2P applications

address shortage should instead be solved by IPv6