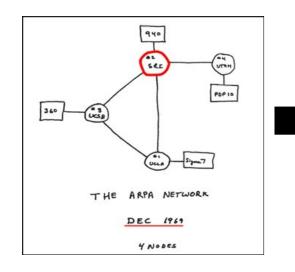
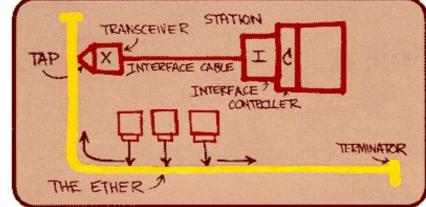
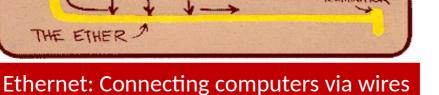
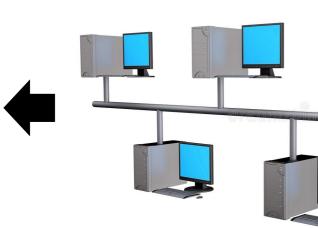
While all this was happening, in parallel, humans started thinking about connecting computers











Channel or medium and access control





G. Bell, S. Fuller and D. Siewiorek, Editors

Ethernet: Distributed Packet Switching for Local Computer Networks

Robert M. Metcalfe and David R. Boggs Xerox Palo Alto Research Center

Ethernet is a branching broadcast communication system for carrying digital data packets among locally distributed computing stations. The packet transport mechanism provided by Ethernet has been used to build systems which can be viewed as either local computer networks or loosely coupled multiprocessors. An Ethernet's shared communication facility, its Ether, is a passive broadcast medium with no central control. Coordi-

1. Background

One can characterize spectrum of activities vary tralization, with one extrem networking and the other ex ing. Remote computer network nection of previously isolated, w rather large computing systems. Multiprocessing is the

construction of previously monolithic and serial computing systems from increasingly numerous and smaller pieces computing in parallel. Near the middle of this spectrum is local networking, the interconnection of computers to gain the resource sharing of computer networking and the parallelism of multiprocessing. The separation between computers and the associ-

ated bit rate of their communication can be used to divide the distributed computing spectrum into broad activities. The product of separation and bit rate, now about 1 gigabit-meter per second (1 Gbmps), is an indication of the limit of current communication technology and can be expected to increase with time:

Activity	Separation	Bit rate	
Remote networks	> 10 km	< .1 Mbps	
Local networks	101 km	1-10 Mbps	
Multiprocessors	< .1 km	> 10 Mbps	

1.1 Remote Computer Networking Computer networking evolved from

20 milestones in Ethernet's first 40 years

The idea of protocols/code for communication

1976