

Process Groups

- Any set of processes that want to cooperate
- Processes can join/leave a group
- A process can belong to many groups
- Groups can be either open or closed
- Use multicast rather than point-to-point messages - group name (address) provides a useful level of indirection
- Example uses
 - data dissemination (e.g., news)
 - replicated servers

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Multicast Addresses

- Subrange of IP address space reserved for MC (class D for IPv4)
- IPv4: 28 bits of possible MC addresses
- Ethernet: uses 23 bits for multicast
- Mapping 28 bits onto 23 bits: 32 IP addresses map into each one of the Ethernet addresses
- Ethernet host joins IP MC group by configuring device to receive Ethernet MC address. IP at host must inspect packet if actually directed to this host

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- Each host on a LAN periodically announces the groups it belongs to using IGMP
- Augment update message (LSP) to include set of groups that have members on a particular LAN
- Each router uses Dijkstra's algorithm to compute shortest-path spanning tree for each source/group pair
- Each router caches tree for currently active source/ group pairs

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• MPLS:

- enable IP capabilities on devices that do not have capability to forward IP datagrams in normal manner.
- forward IP packets along 'explicit routes'.
- support certain types of virtual private network services.

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