Cisco Lab@Politecnico di Torino

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http://staff.polito.it/fulvio.risso/
Main objectives

- **Main use: teaching**
  - So, features, not performances

- **Not experimental devices, but what students will use in their work life**
  - Students are happier
  - Total cost of ownership (install/restore)
  - Simpler CLI (compared to using several Linux daemons)
  - More features
  - Smaller (and less power hungry)
  - Not very expensive

- **Easier to manage**
  - Everyday use (student accounts)
  - Re-configuration (e.g. Different logical topologies)
  - Easy to restore (e.g., in case the OS is deleted from FLASH)

- **Possibility to generate and capture network traffic**
Why is the lab remote?

- **H24 availability**
  - We can use it also in courses with large number of students

- **To control the lab better**
  - Student do no have physical access
    - E.g. they cannot break a cable
Structure of the lab

Characteristics

- 9 routers, controlled by a single PC
- Remote access to the “master” server
- Possibility to change the logical topology by reconfiguring the intermediate switch
How the lab looks like

General view

Routers details
Physical devices

- **Router: Cisco 1700 / Cisco 870**
  - Entry-level
    - Low cost, but it maintains all the features of the high-end devices (although it is slower)
  - Maximum size for FLASH and RAM
  - “Switched” ports (can be user either as a router, or as a switch)

- **Switch: Cisco 2950**
  - Reconfigurable L2 switch, VLAN, 2 GE ports (for sniffing)

- **Server: standard PC, Windows 2003 Server**
  - Pentium 4HT, 3.0GHz, 1GB RAM, 40GB HD
  - Windows 2003
    - RDP is currently the best solution for remote desktop
  - Multi-serial card

- **Total cost**
  - About 15K€
Rear view of a router: Cisco 1721

- Serial port (WIC)
- Console port
- Ethernet 10BaseT (WIC)
- ON/OFF switch
- Kensington lock
- Serial led
- ON/OFF switch
- AUX port
- Ethernet led
- On board FastEthernet
- Ethernet led
- Power
Connection between devices: console

Console cable: usually RJ45 on one site, DB9 on the other side (often made with a straight Ethernet cable with one adapter on one side)
Ethernet cables (1)
Ethernet cables (2)

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DTE/DCE cables

DCE/DTE: usually connected to a geographical modem (e.g. HDSL)
Lab: connected back-to-back (required to set the interface speed on the DCE)
Multiserial card
The Netlab server

Internet

Public interface (for remote access)

Sniffing interface (No IP address)

Interface on the NetLab LAN (ping, ...)

[Diagram of a computer connected to the Internet and LAN, with interfaces labeled as described.]
A possible logical topology
Physical topology

R1: Cisco 1711VPN/K9

R2: Cisco 1711VPN/K9

Cisco Catalyst 2950T-48 SI

HP dc5100
Access to the remote lab (1)

- **Physical address of the Windows 2003 servers**
  - Labreti-mondovi.ipv6.polito.it
  - Labreti-torino.ipv6.polito.it

- **Remote Desktop**
  - Windows XP/Vista: Use Remote Desktop Connection
  - UNIX: use *rdesktop*
Access to the remote lab (2)
Access to the remote lab (3)
Available apps (1)

Command prompt
For ping, traceroute...
Please take in mind which interface the server is using, and the availability of an IP path

TFTP server
- Server not active by default (security issues)
- Please note the root folder
Available apps (2)

Interfaces:
- Sniffing interface (passive interface, sniffing only)
  - Captures traffic flowing on all the other interfaces (except serial links)
  - Captures all traffic (so, please set the proper filter)
- Interface toward routers backbone LAN (active interface)
Online website

Accesso ai router del laboratorio

L'accesso da remoto alle risorse del laboratorio è schematizzato nella figura seguente.

La modalità standard di accesso agli apparati è attraverso un cavo seriale, che tuttavia richiede di essere fisicamente vicini all'apparato stesso. Per permettere anche un accesso remoto al laboratorio, gli apparati da configurare sono stati collegati (via seriale RS-232) al server di laboratorio. Quindi si è attivato sul server la funzionalità di "server remoto", ossia la capacità di accettare comandi (ad es. quelli impartiti tramite mouse e tastiera) da remoto, che vengono recapitati al server stesso attraverso la rete Internet. Ovviamente, questa funzionalità remotizza anche lo schema che viene visualizzato sullo stesso terminale da cui provengono i comandi.

Pertanto, i passi necessari ad accedere agli apparati da configurare sono i seguenti:

- Accesso al server di laboratorio, remotizzandone l'input e l'output su un terminale utente remoto
- Accesso a configurazione degli apparati, una volta aperta una sessione di lavoro virtuale con il server di laboratorio
Some tips: switched/routed interfaces

Switched Ethernet interfaces

Routed Ethernet interface

!! Please take care about interfaces marked with “*” on the network map!!
Some tips: Groups and Workplaces

- **Groups**
  - Max 4 students/group
  - Each group has its own password (ask the Assistant for credentials)
  - Please use your workplace (not the entire physical topology)
  - Workplace may vary according to the different assignment
Some tips: logistics

- Remote Desktop
  - Log-off explicitly
  - Please do not DISCONNECT or CLOSE
    - !! Router may be blocked !!

- Access to routers
  - Please refer to the appropriate slides
  - !! Remember to initialize routers before use !!

- When capturing traffic with Analyzer
  - Please check that you are using the sniffing interface
Some tips: assistance and lab hours

- **Routers are available H24, assistance is not**
  - A professor will be available only during lab hours for consultancy
  - Lab hours are NOT intended as the sole time for lab exercises
    - In other terms, you have to complete your exercises at home, and come to the lab if you have trouble
    - This is valid only for assignments involving Cisco routers

- **Suggestions:**
  - Do your exercises at home, then come to the lab if you need help
  - In this case, please bring with you all the required material
    - Router configs (time is always missing... So better having configs ready)
    - Valid accounts in order to be able to reproduce the problem on the routers)
Lab and assistance

- Lab hours can be used as consultancy hours
- If you want to get a better use of this time, please do your exercises at home, and if something does not work, please come and ask
  - You have to try before asking
  - If something does not work, please come with your configuration scripts ready
Some tips: troubleshooting

- **Routers are real devices so, you may expect...**
  - Strange behaviours
  - Cable not working
  - Need to reboot the device

- **If your target destination does not reply to your pings...**
  - Is your local interface up? (interface + line)
  - Is there a route to the remote destination?
  - Is your interface replying to a local “ping”?
  - Is the interface on the other side of the link replying to a “ping”?
  - Switch to the next router and repeat these steps
**NOTES**

*: Switched interface (requires the configuration of VLANs)

**: DCE interface (required the configuration of the clockrate)
NOTES
*: Switched interface (requires the configuration of VLANs)
# Physical topology

**Cisco Catalyst 2950T-48 SI - Mondovi**

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