Week 7-Subnetting

Thursday, 7 September 2017 12:5

In the original IPv4 address, there are two levels of hierarchy: a network and a host. These two levels of addressing allow for basic network groupings that facilitate in routing packets to a destination network. A router forwards packets based on the network

Subdividing a network adds a level to the network hierarchy, creating, in essence,

levels: a network, a subnetwork, and a host. Introducing an additional level to the hierarchy creates additional sub-groups within an IP network that facilitates faster packet delivery and added filtration, by helping to minimize 'local' traffic.

A problem with a large broadcast domain is that these hosts can generate excessive broadcasts and negatively affect the network

Excessive broadcast traffic results in:

- Slow network operations due to the significant amount of traffic it can cause
- Slow device operations because a device must accept and process each broadcast packet

The solution is to reduce the size of the network to create smaller broadcast domains in a process called *subnetting*. These smaller network spaces are called *subnets*.

Subnetting reduces overall network traffic and improves network performance. It also enables an administrator to implement security policies such as which subnets are allowed or not allowed to communicate together.

n-number of host bits borrowed.

Number of subnets possible=2ⁿ

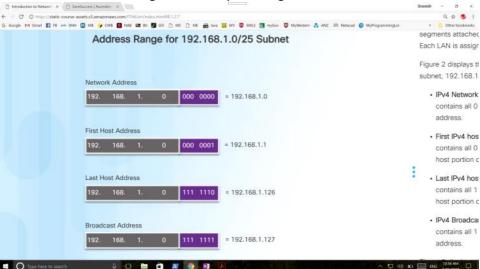
Where n is the number of bits borrowed

Number of hosts possible = $2^{N}-2$

Where N = number of host bits = 32 - number of network bits.

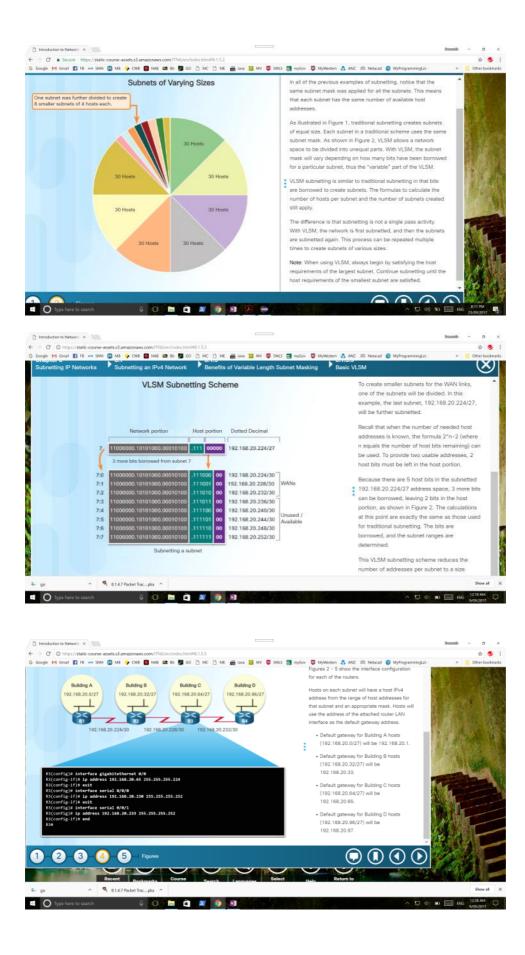
Magic number- place value of the last 1 in the network bit

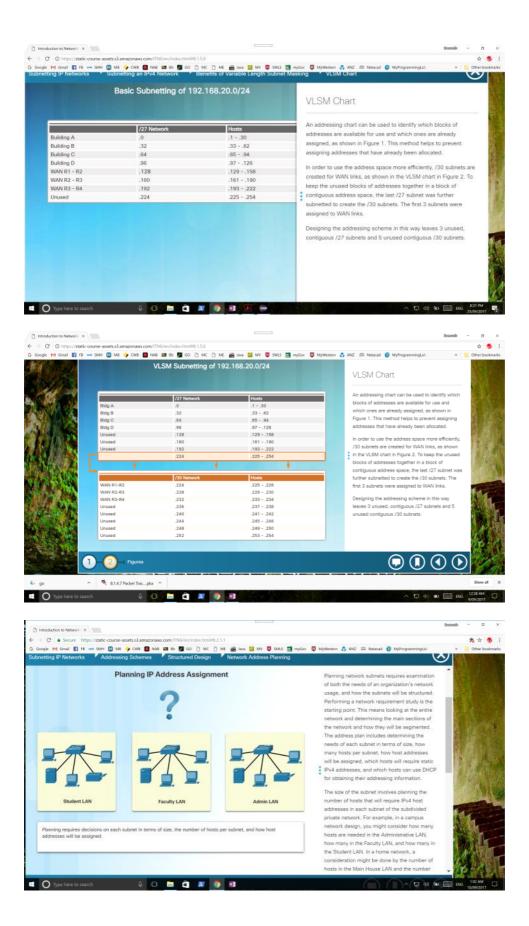
Subnets start from 0 and gets added by the magic number for the next subnet till it reaches 255.

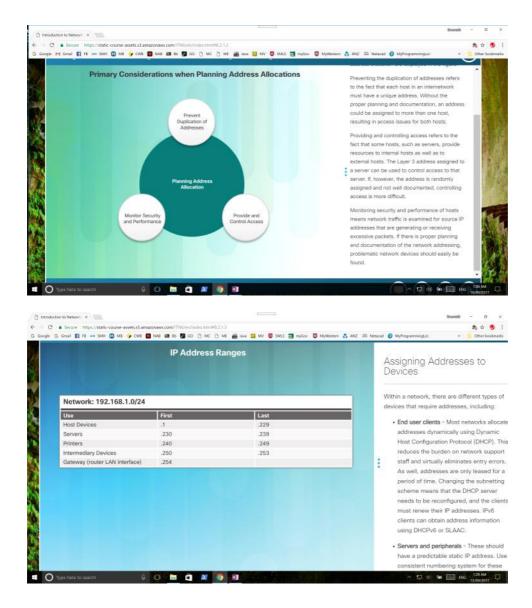


The last two bits cannot be borrowed from the last octet because there would be no host addresses available. Therefore, the longest prefix length possible when subnetting is /30 or 255.255.255.252. There is an inverse relationship between the number of subnets and the number of hosts. The more bits borrowed to create subnets, the fewer host bits available. If more host addresses are needed, more host bits are required, resulting in fewer subnets.

Subnetting a subnet, or using Variable Length Subnet Mask (VLSM), was designed to avoid wasting addresses.







IPv6 subnetting is about building an addressing hierarchy based on the number of subnetworks needed.

An IPv6 link-local address is never subnetted because it exists only on the local link. However, an IPv6 global unicast address can be subnetted.

The IPv6 global unicast address normally consists of a /48 global routing prefix, a 16 bit subnet ID, and a 64 bit interface ID.

The 16 bit subnet ID section of the IPv6 global unicast address can be used by an organization to create internal subnets.