

IPTV Glossary

CoS (Class of Service)

A 3 bit Layer-2 QOS identifier.
(See QOS definition, other column.)

DSCP (Differentiated Service Code Point)

A Layer-3 QOS identifier. Aka DiffServ.

IGMP (Internet Group Management Protocol)

IGMP is a communications protocol used to manage the membership of Internet Protocol multicast groups. IGMP is used by IP hosts and adjacent multicast routers to establish multicast group memberships.

IGMP Snooping

When IGMP snooping is enabled in a switch it analyzes all IGMP packets between hosts connected to the switch and multicast routers in the network. When a switch hears an IGMP report from a host for a given multicast group, the switch adds the host's port number to the multicast list for that group. And, when the switch hears an IGMP leave, it removes the host's port from the table entry.

IP Address

An IP address is a unique address on a network. End IP enabled devices talk to each other using an IP address. Example: 10.5.2.1

Layers

When you hear network geeks refer to layer2, layer3, layer4 and so on, they are referring to the OSI (Open Systems Interconnection) model. Layer2 switches only know about MAC addresses and cannot route IP traffic from one subnet to another. A Layer3 switch can route IP traffic from one subnet to another.

Use this link for a more detailed description of the OSI layers: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osi_model

MAC (Media Access Control) Address

A 6 byte hex value. The first 3 bytes define the manufacturer and the last three are unique to the device. Devices communicate with each other using the MAC address at layer 2. Example: 00:11:11:33:72:5b or 0011.1133.725b

Multicast

Multicast is broadcast traffic from one source to many destinations.

QOS (Quality of Service)

Packet classification enables network managers to specify policies that identify network traffic that can then be partitioned into multiple priority levels or classes of service (COS). The network manager can define classes using the three precedence bits in the type-of-service (TOS) field in the IP packet header. After classification, the network edge ensures that packets within a class receive appropriate service levels, such as allocated rates and loss probability. Another option often used at the edge is to apply policy routing capabilities.

Unicast

Unicast traffic is sent from one source to one destination.

Queue

A logical amount of memory and bandwidth on a physical port.



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