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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview

Computer networks and the Internet have become commonplace parts of modern life, even in the world's most remote locations. In this book we'll begin our journey toward understanding these exciting networks and the Internet. We'll begin with the basic hardware and software components that comprise the Internet. We'll first describe some of the Internet's hardware components and software components. We'll then describe the Internet from a more abstract perspective, describing the services that the Internet provides to its distributed applications. We'll also describe the protocols that are used by the Internet and its components. We'll then describe the Internet's underlying hardware components and software components. We'll then describe the Internet's underlying hardware components and software components. We'll then describe the Internet's underlying hardware components and software