

The Network Stack

Computing

The layers a packet passes through, and what each adds.

The practical four-layer model, with the OSI numbers alongside.

Layer	Carries	Examples
Application (7)	Meaning	HTTP, DNS, SMTP
Transport (4)	Ports, reliability	TCP, UDP
Internet (3)	Addressing, routing	IP, ICMP
Link (2)	Local delivery	Ethernet, Wi-Fi, ARP

TCP guarantees order and delivery; UDP guarantees neither and is faster. Video calls choose UDP deliberately.