Demystifying Networking
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Lecture – 04
From the CEO's Company to Layers in a Network

As you just saw, a manager is required to keep track of various things. The manager ensures that the entire package is created and now this package sometimes may need to be dismantled in order to be shift and so on. While this may sound like an artificial example, what actually happens in a network is something very similar. The application layer is what corresponds to the manager in this case. It's the application layer task to ensure that the request is sent. For example, if we are considering a client and a server or imagine that you are making a request for a webpage, it's the application layer which ensures that the entire web page is sent from the web server to your computer.

Now, this could be a very large page and the same problems as we saw in the analogy may exist in the network. Hence, the page has to be split into chunks. This is similar to what we saw in the analogy as the manager having the dispatch section, where there are different people who are able to carry only 30 kilos, sending things by different routes and so on and so forth. So, at a very rough level if we look at what are the key ideas that have been discussed through this analogy, the first idea is one of layering.

So, there are different layers which have different functions. The managers layer function is to keep track of the entire shipment, the next layers function is to make sure that there are packages created and the third layers function which is the dispatch, it's function is to actually carry the package from one place to the other. Similarly, in a network there are multiple layers we will come to see how that works in a network. The other idea that we have seen, is one of chunking or segmentation as it is called in networking parallel.