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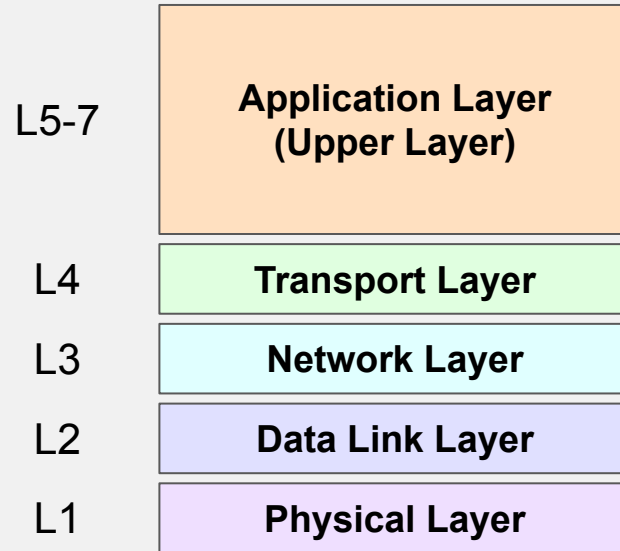
istic Informatique  
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# Network Security

## *LAN, VLAN, War in the LAN?*

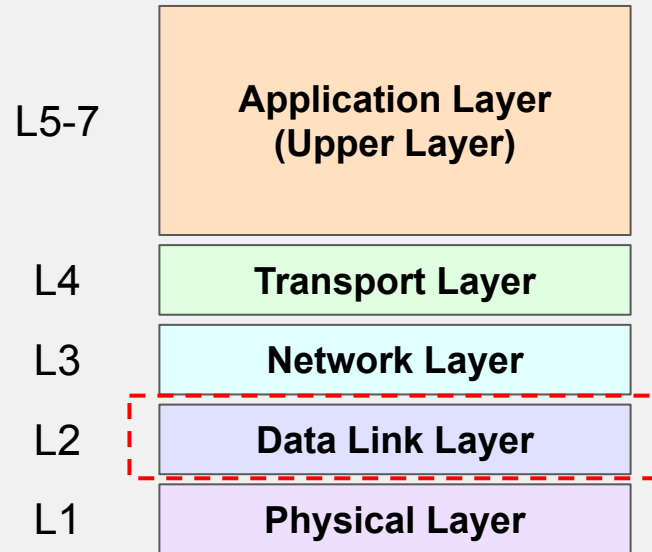
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2025/2026

# Recall TCP/IP Model



**TCP/IP Model**

# Today's Topic: Link Layer



**TCP/IP Model**

# MAC, CAM, and STP

# MAC Addresses

**Layer 2 Address:** 48 bits unique interface identifier

1234.5678.9ABC

**Manufacturer Code**

1234.56XX.XXXX

**Interface Identifier**

XXXX.XX78.9ABC

**Broadcast**

FFFF.FFFF.FFFF

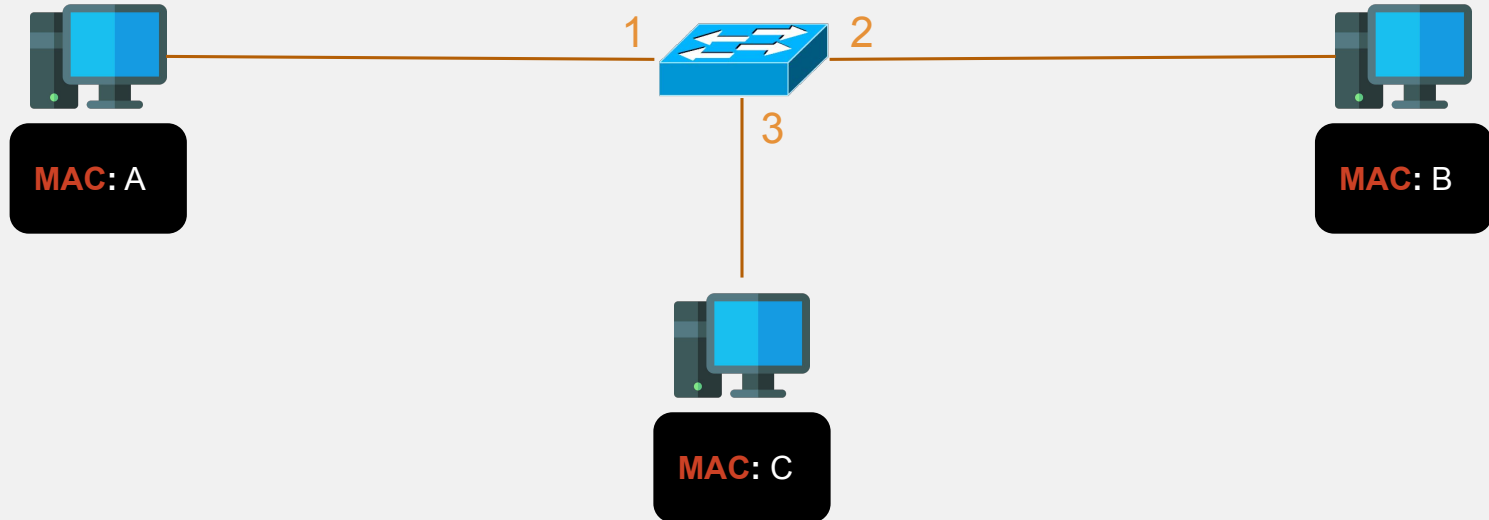
# CAM Table

## **Content Addressable Memory (CAM) Table:**

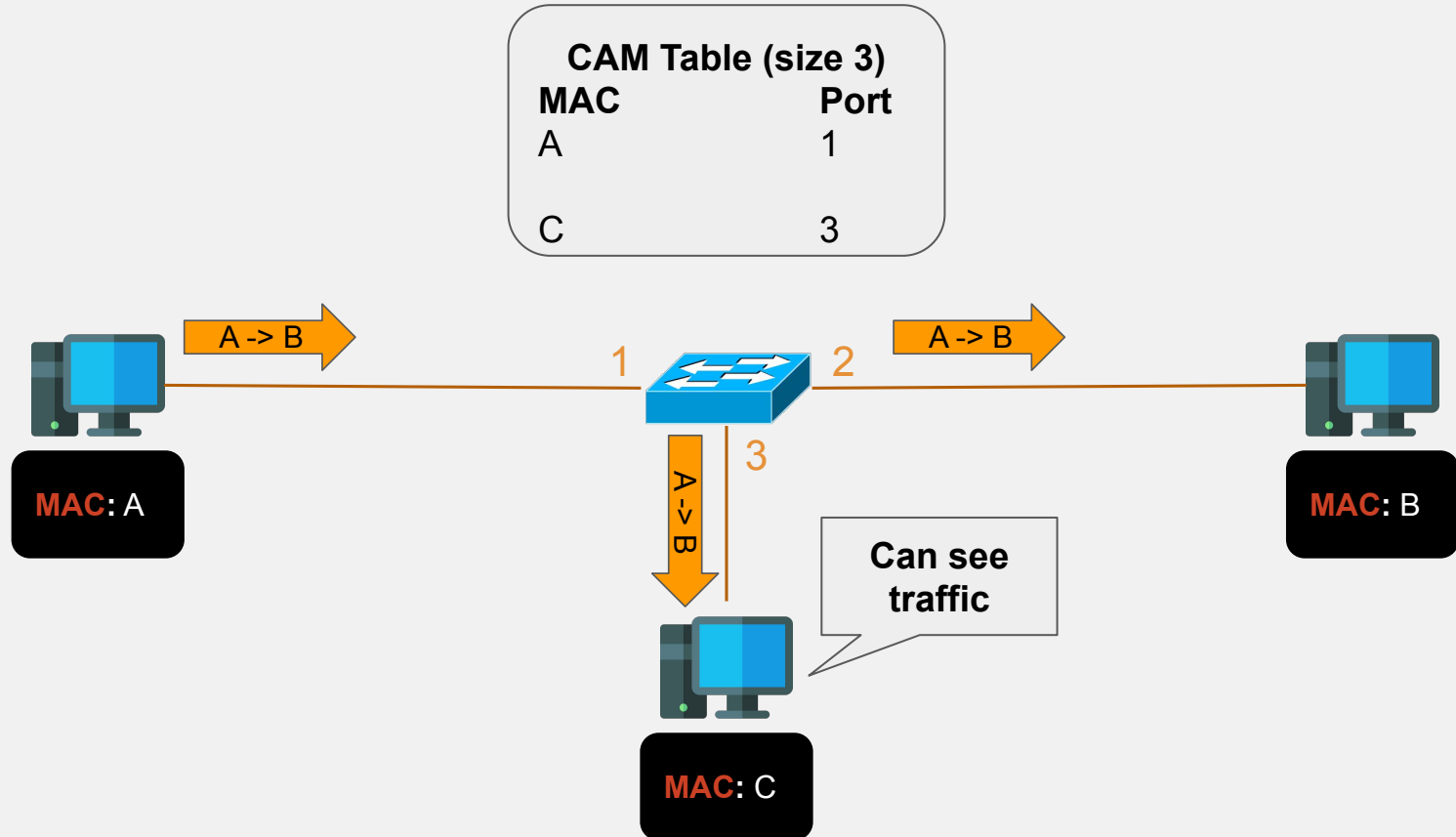
- ☐ Here to help the switch memorize MAC addresses for routing.
- ☐ Memory table in a switch.
- ☐ Used to store MAC addresses linked to a specific port (network interface).
- ☐ Fixed size.

# CAM Table Expected Behaviour 1/4

CAM Table (size 3)	
MAC	Port
A	1
C	3

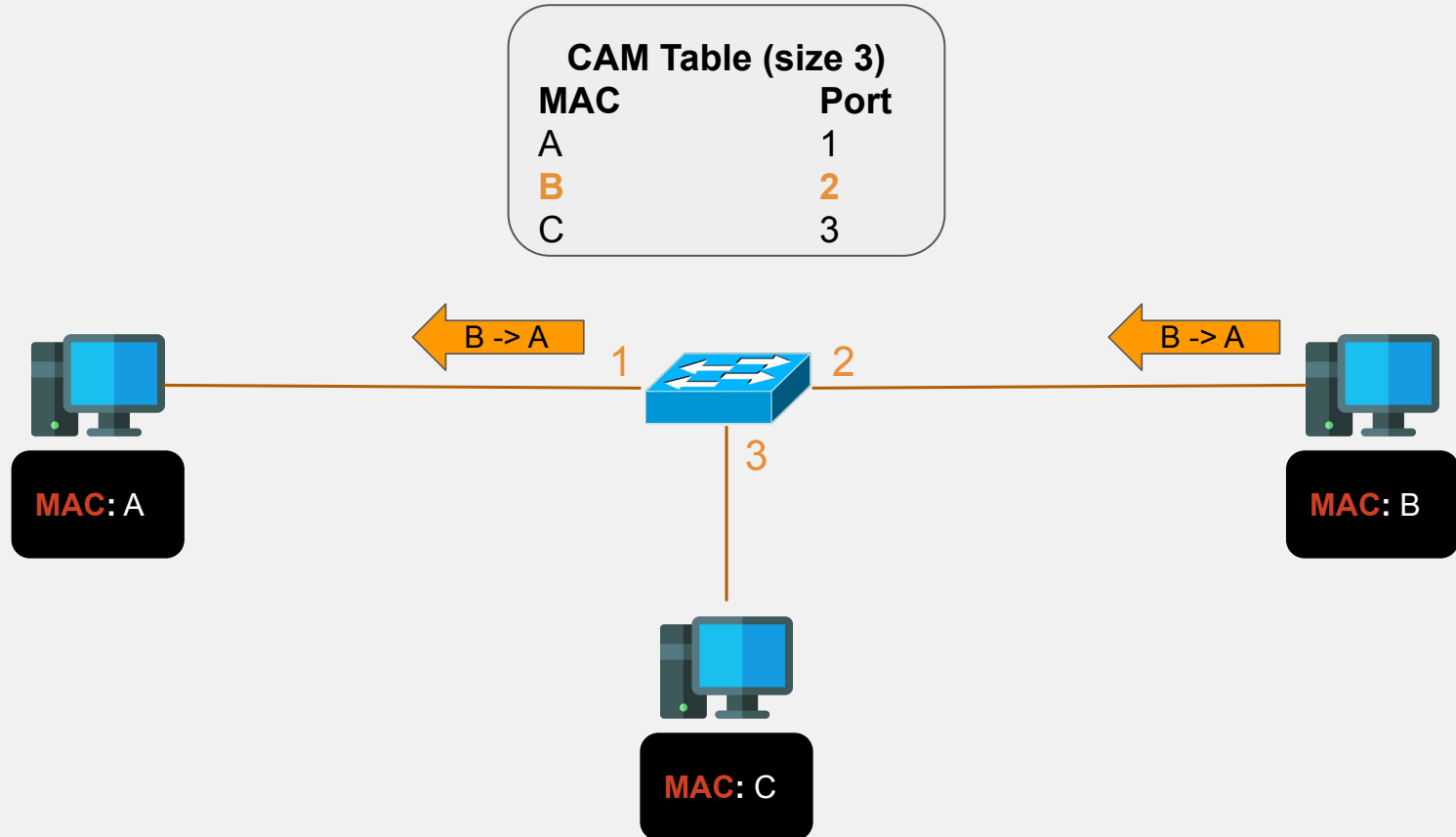


# CAM Table Expected Behaviour 2/4

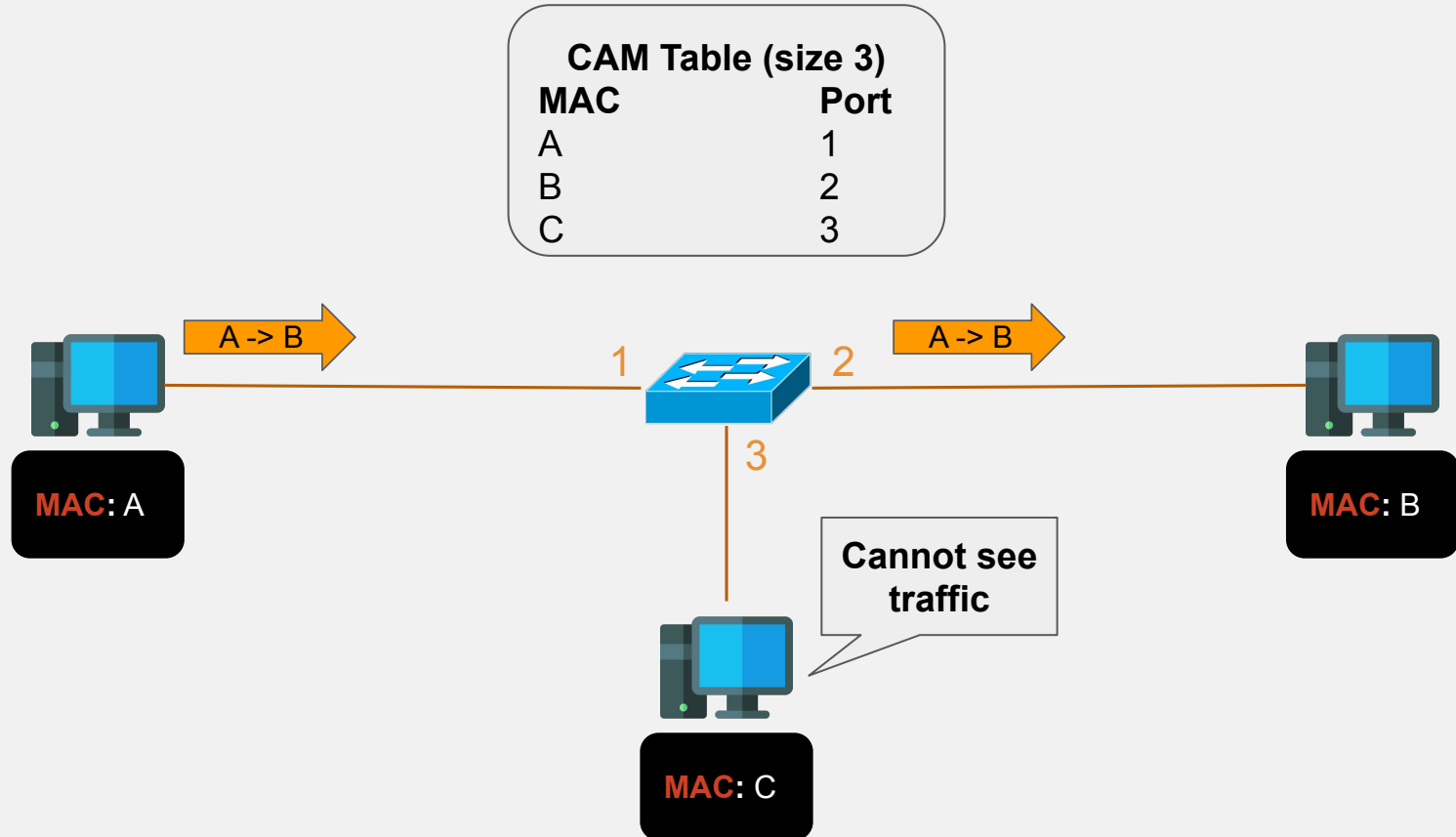




# CAM Table Expected Behaviour 3/4



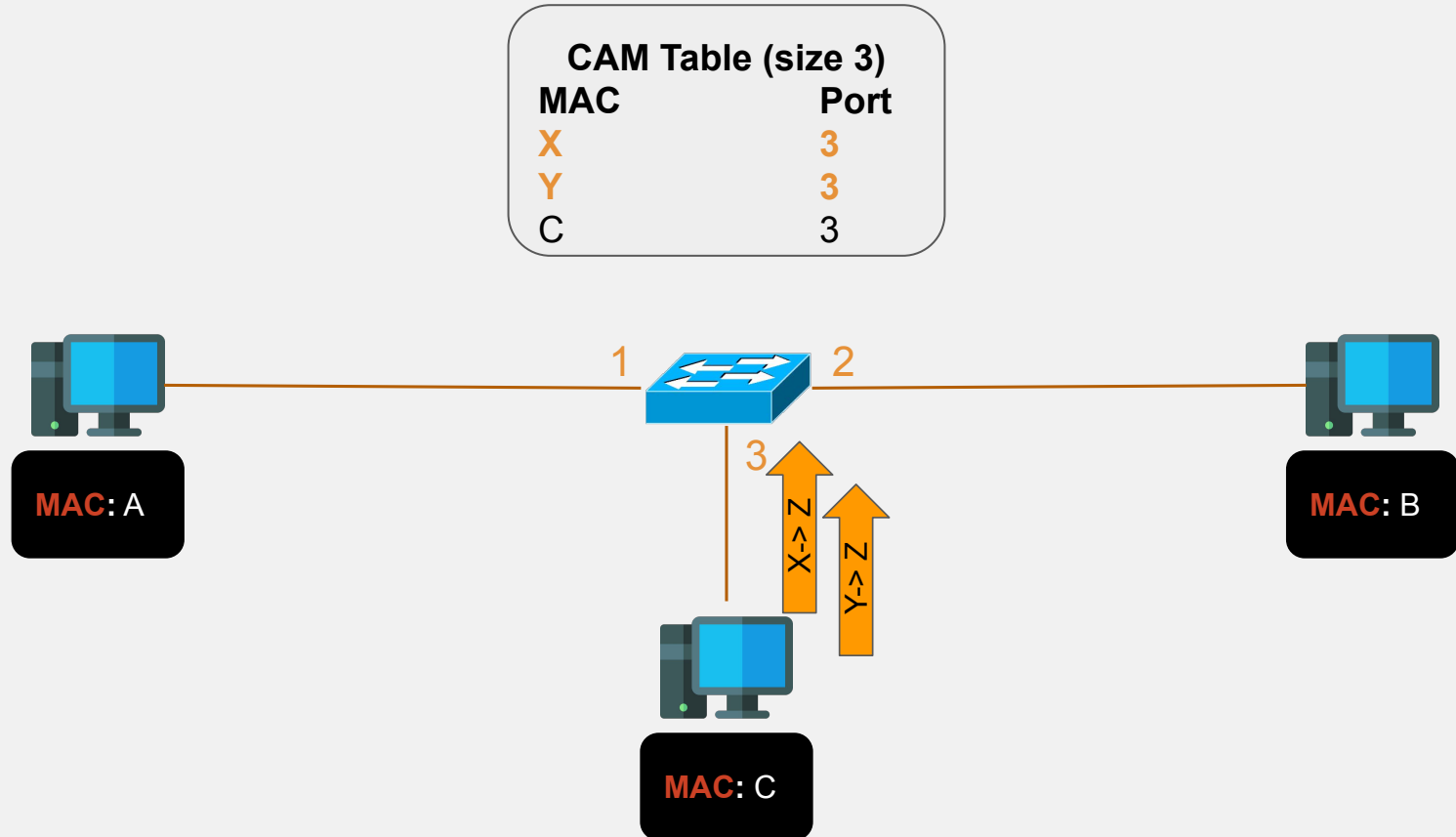
# CAM Table Expected Behaviour 4/4



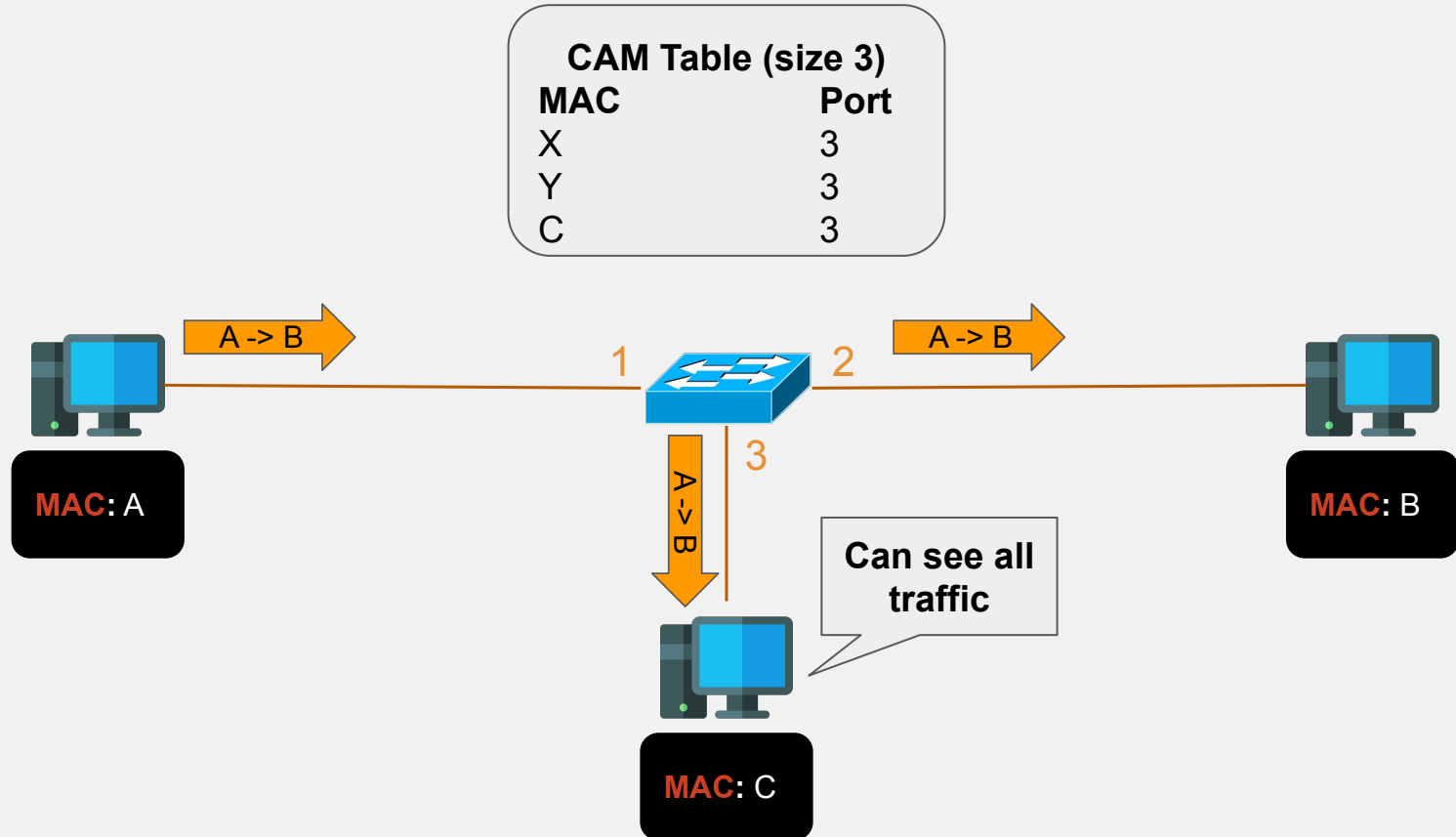
# CAM Attack: CAM Overflow

- **Main Issue: Limited Size**

# CAM Overflow 1/2



## CAM Overflow 2/2



# Cisco Catalyst CAM Tables

**In the Network lab rooms:**



*Catalyst 2960 Series*

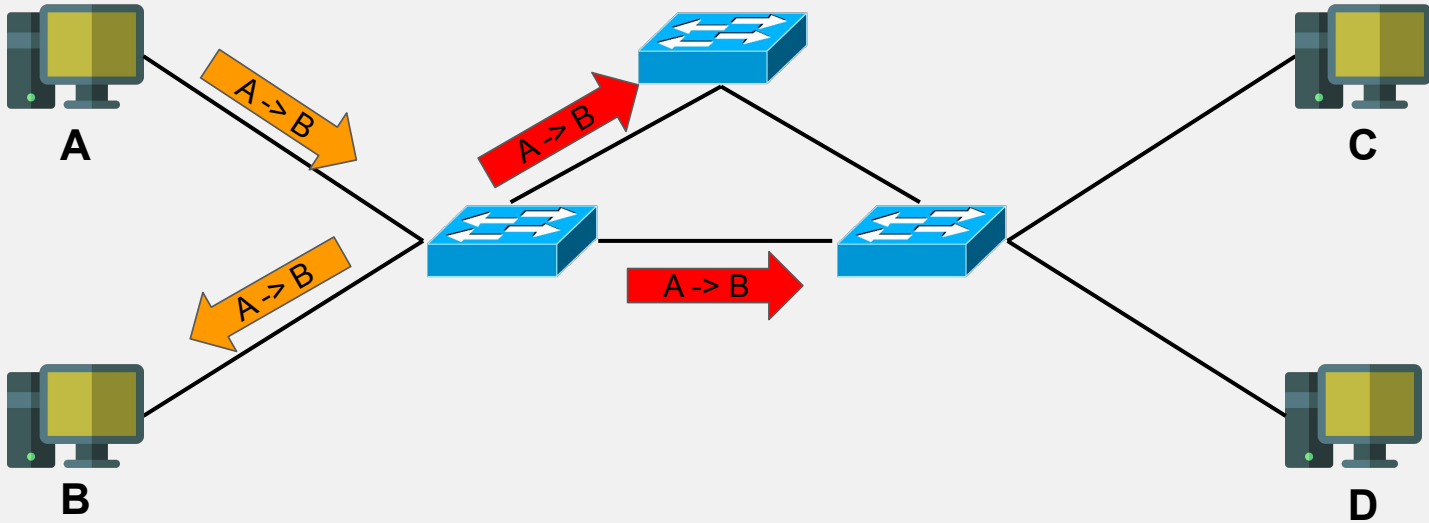
The Catalyst CAM table uses hash functions to store entries. The flooding attack needs to send many frame but can done in under a minute.

# Flooding Mitigation: Port Security

Can be configured directly on the switch:

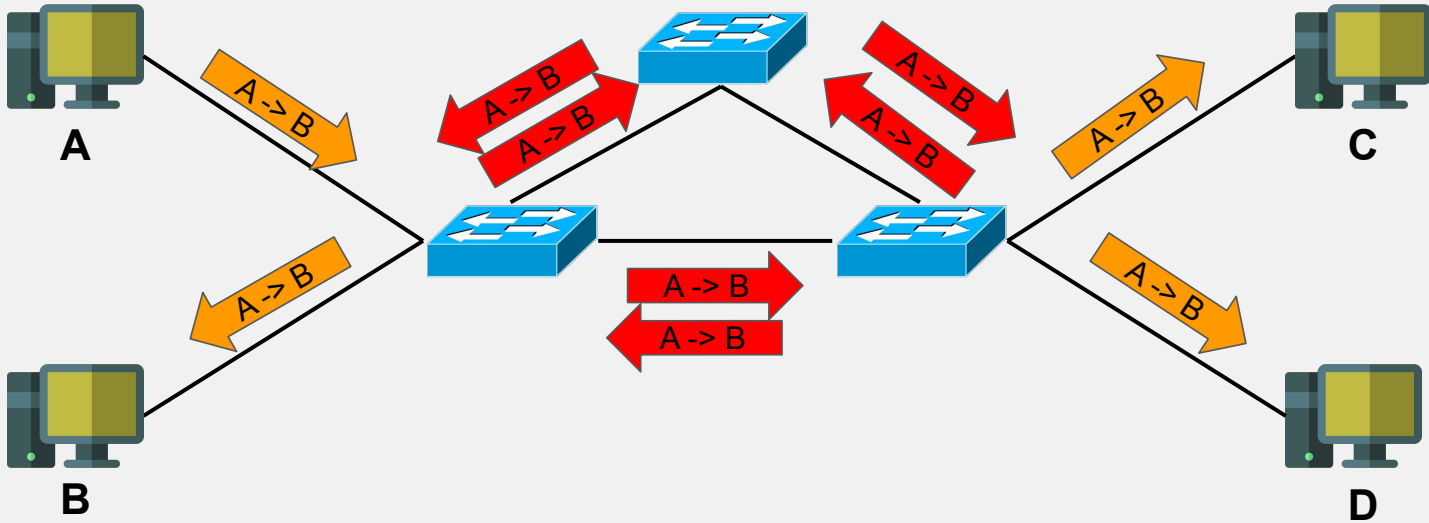
- ☐ Can define the max number of MAC addresses linked to a port.
- ☐ Can even shutdown the port if violation are spotted.

## Another problem: Broadcast Storm 1/2





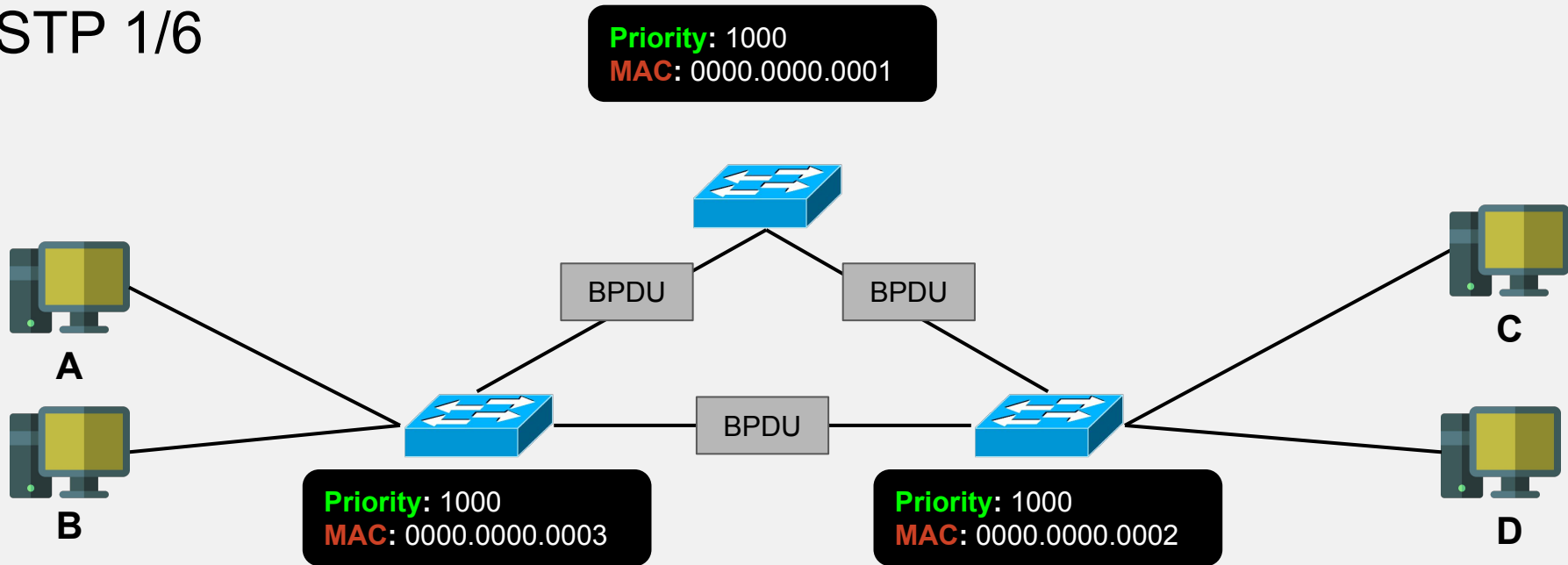
## Another problem: Broadcast Storm 2/2



# Spanning Tree Protocol (STP)

- **STP**
  - Here to avoid broadcast loop.
  - Define a **root bridge**: the main switch of the tree.
    - Elected by exchanging **Bridge Protocol Data Units** (BPDUs)
  - Calculate which port to block based on **priority** and **speed**.

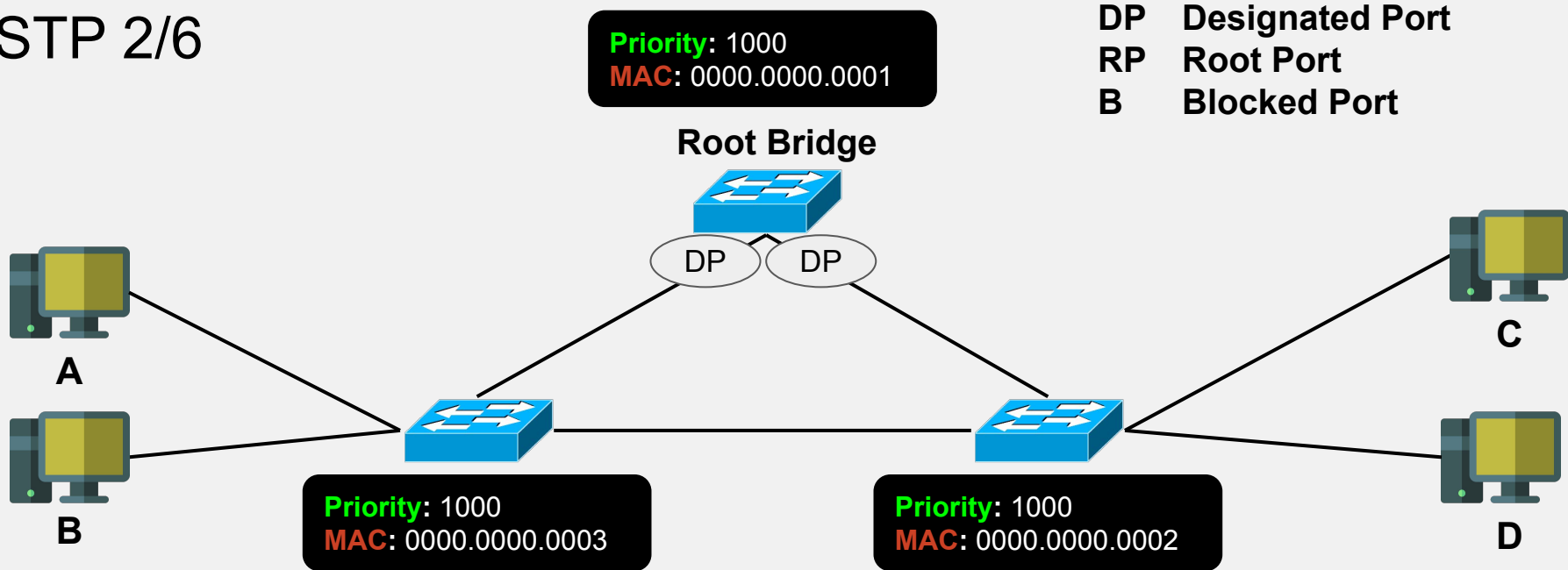
# STP 1/6



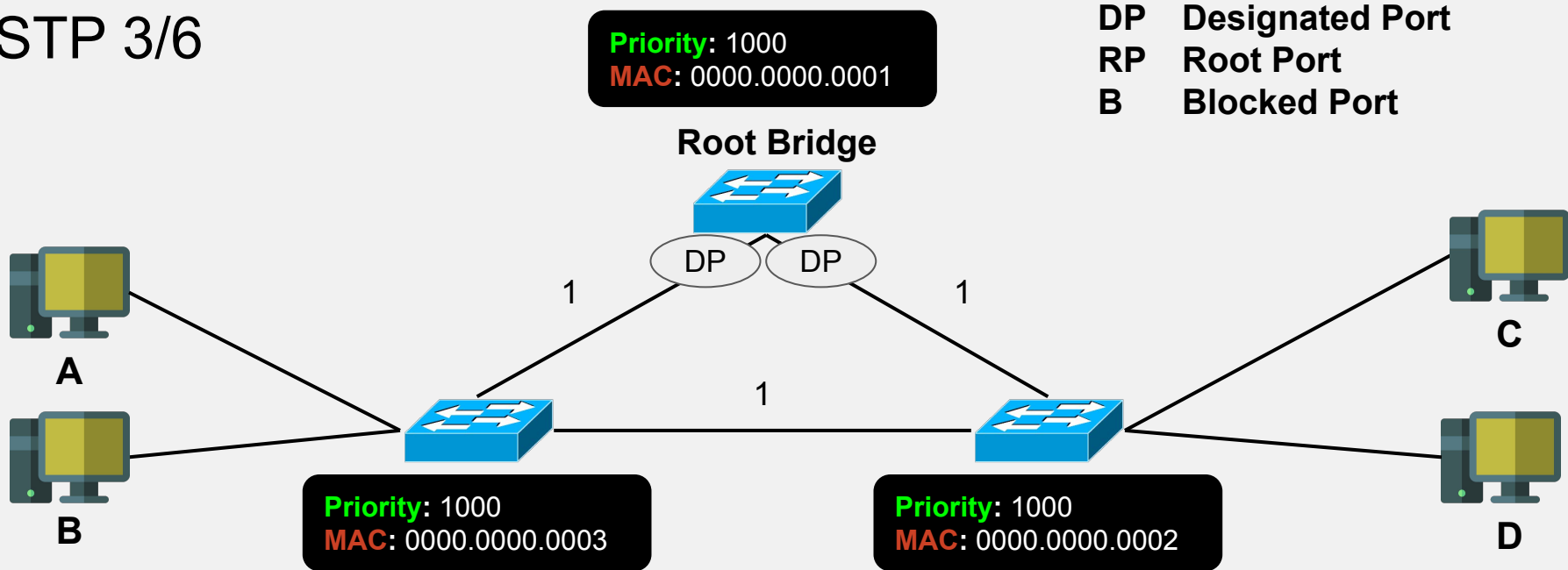
Switches exchange BPDUs with Bridge ID (BID) inside:  
BID = **Priority** + **MAC** (+ VLAN)

The switch with the **lowest** BID becomes the **root bridge**.

## STP 2/6

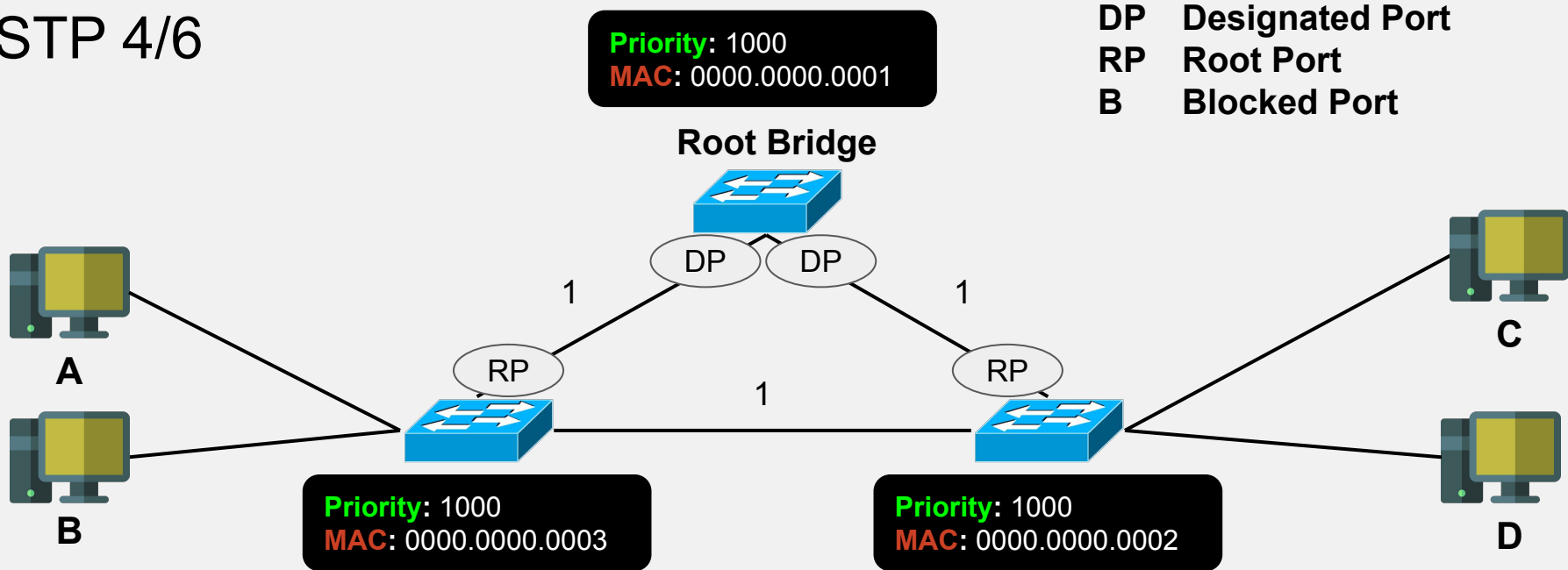


# STP 3/6



**Root ports** are defined by the **lowest path cost** to the root bridge.

## STP 4/6



**What about the last two ports?**

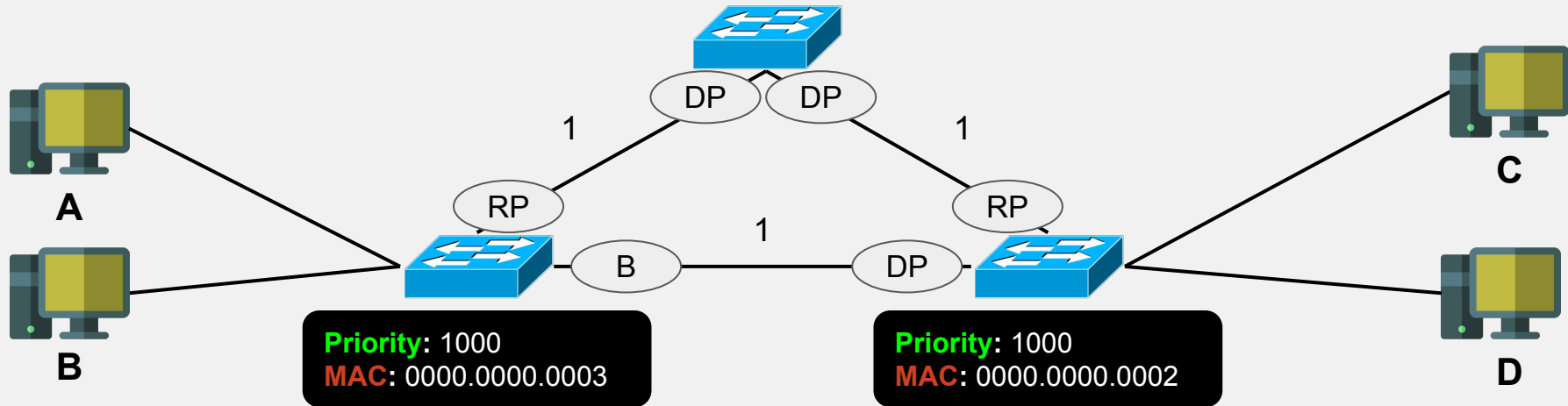
We keep open the one from the lowest BID.

# STP 5/6

**Priority:** 1000  
**MAC:** 0000.0000.0001

DP Designated Port  
RP Root Port  
B Blocked Port

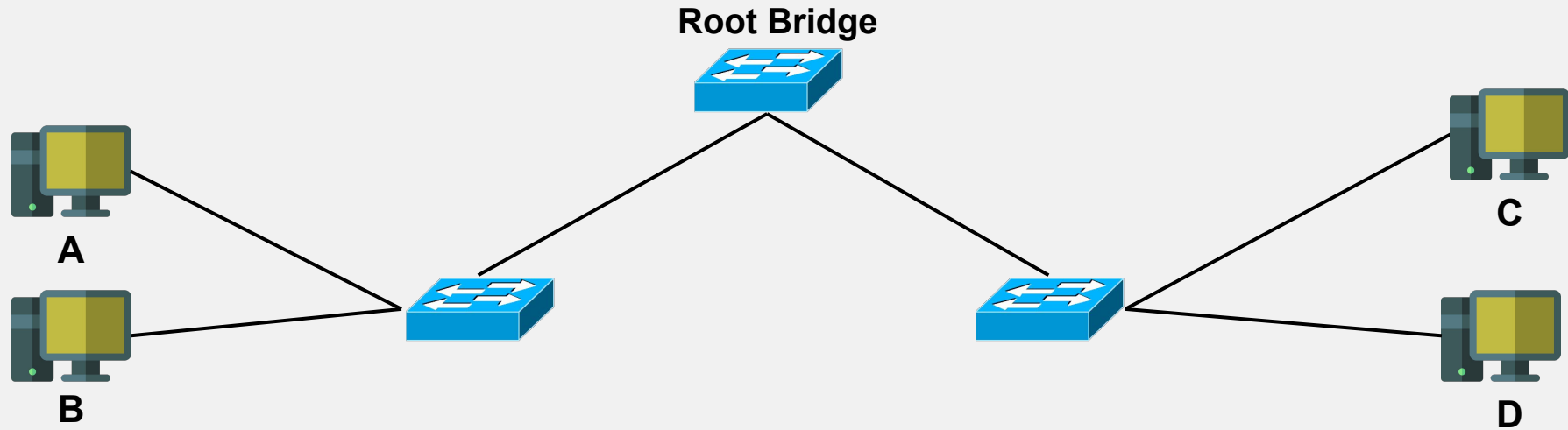
Root Bridge



**What about the last two ports?**

We keep open the one from the lowest BID.

## STP 6/6

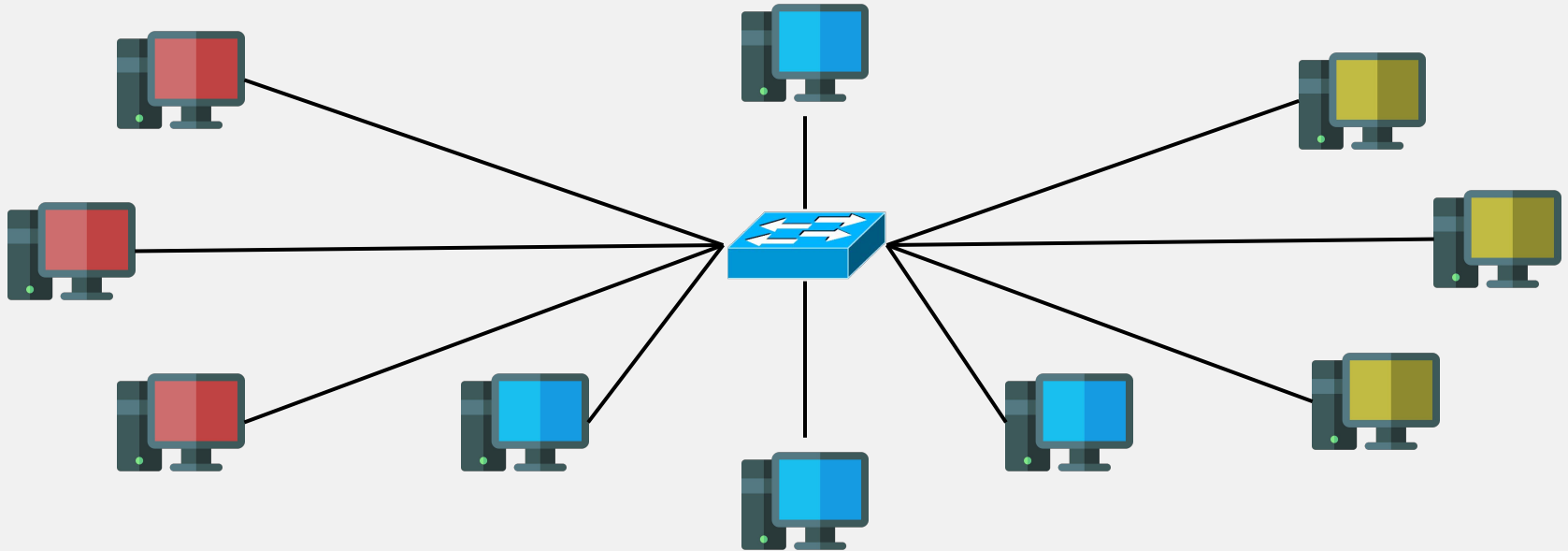


**Logical route at the end.**

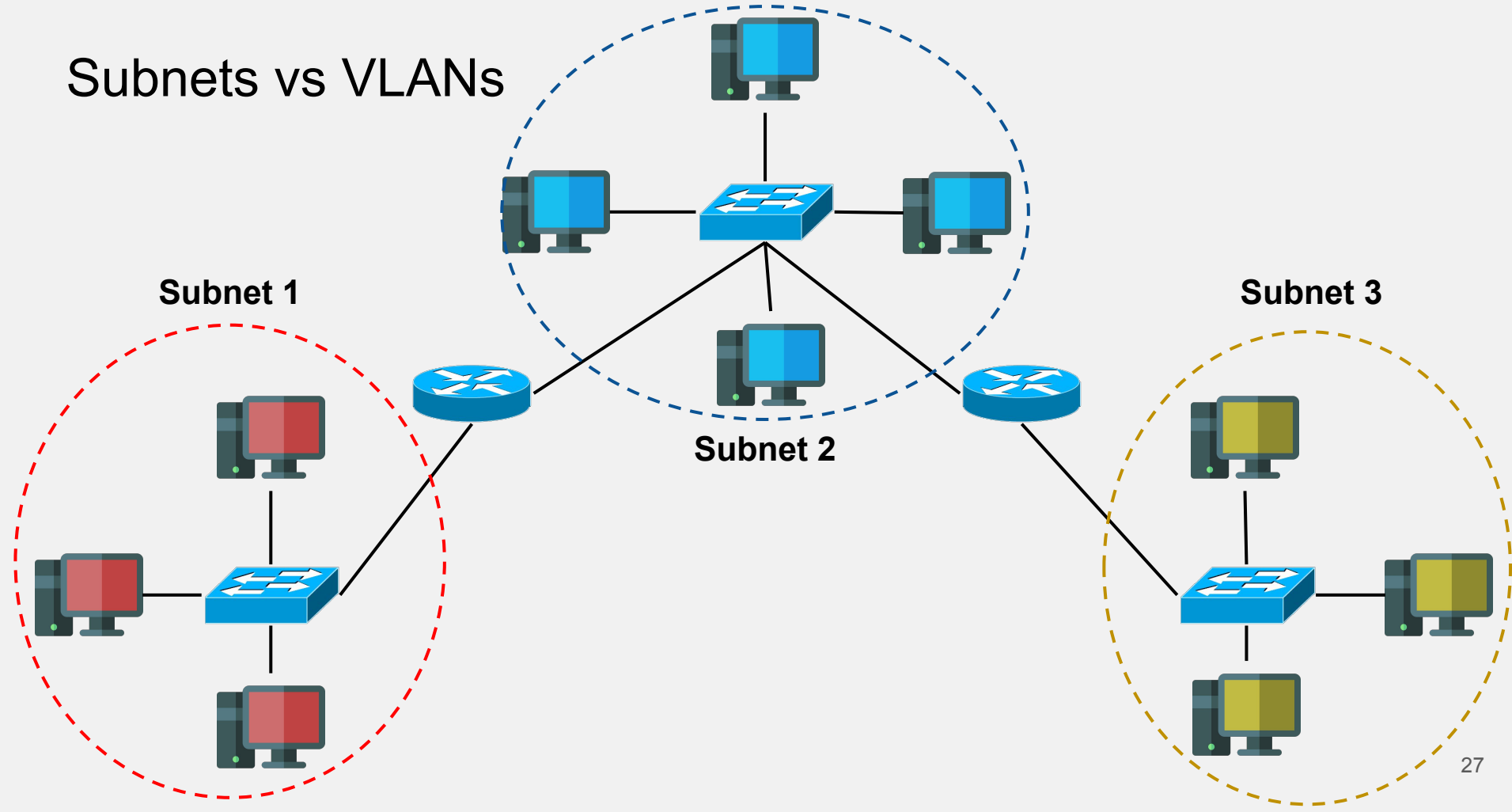


# VLANs

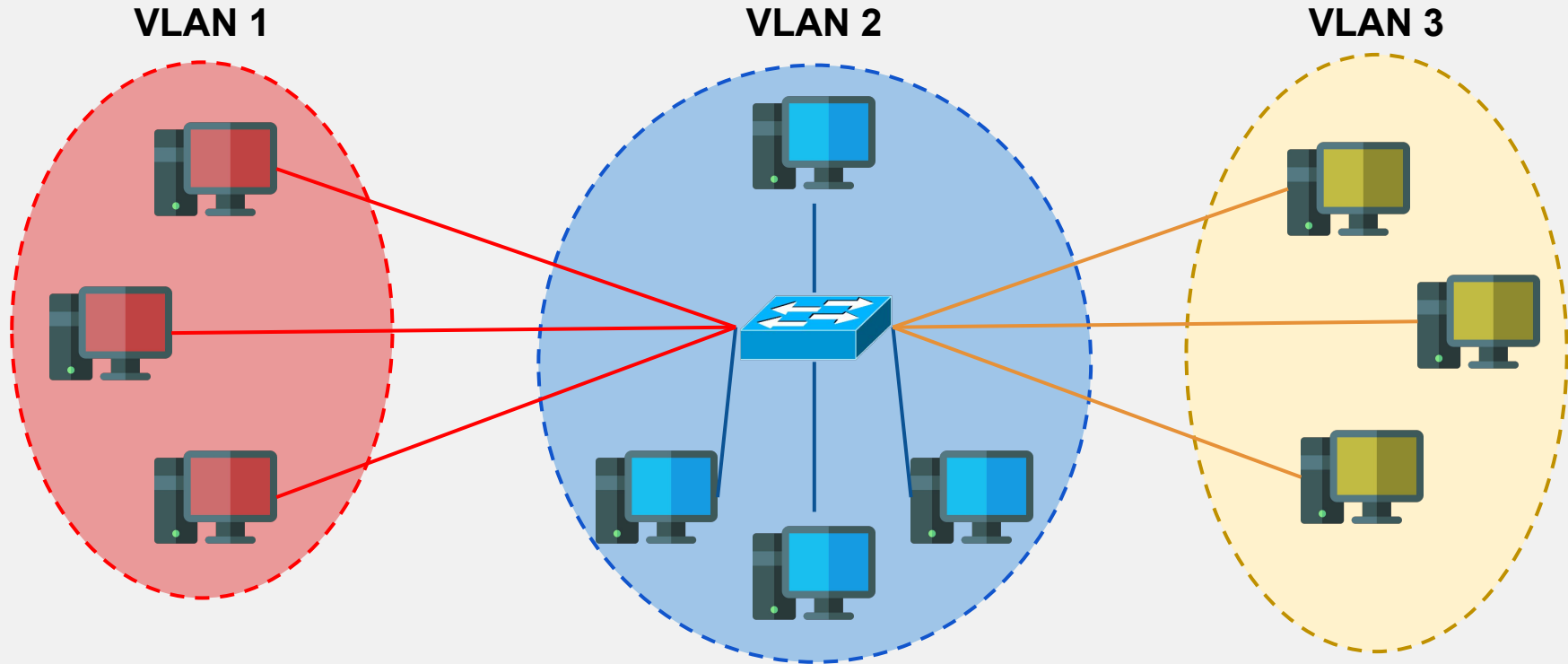
# Subnets vs VLANs



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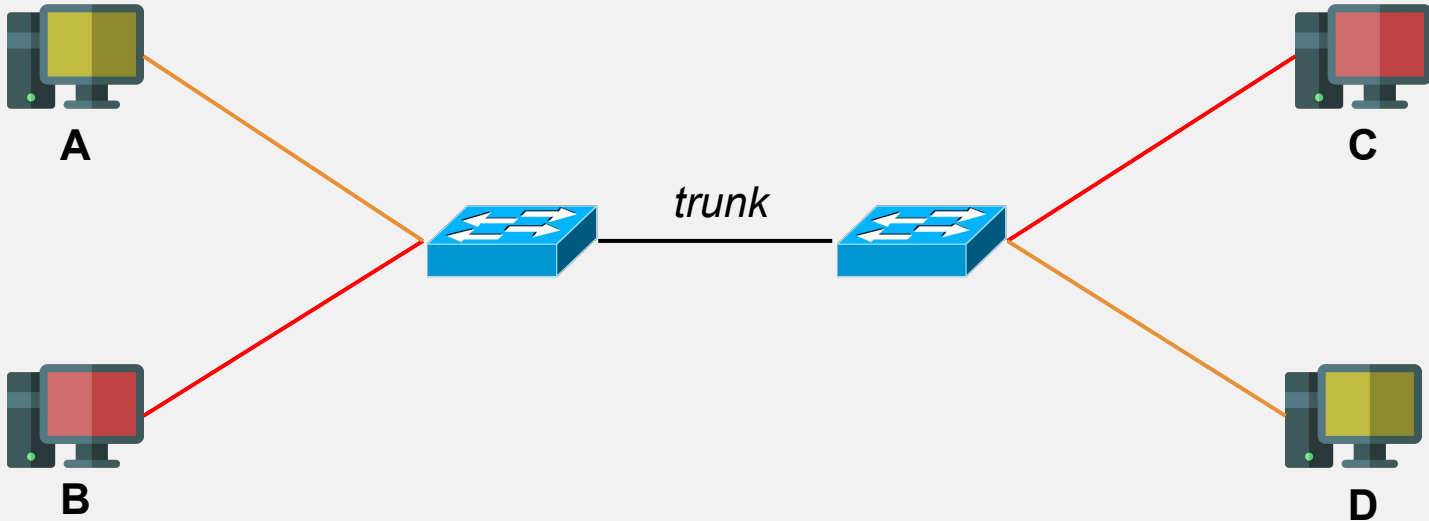


# Virtual LAN (VLAN)

## **VLAN:**

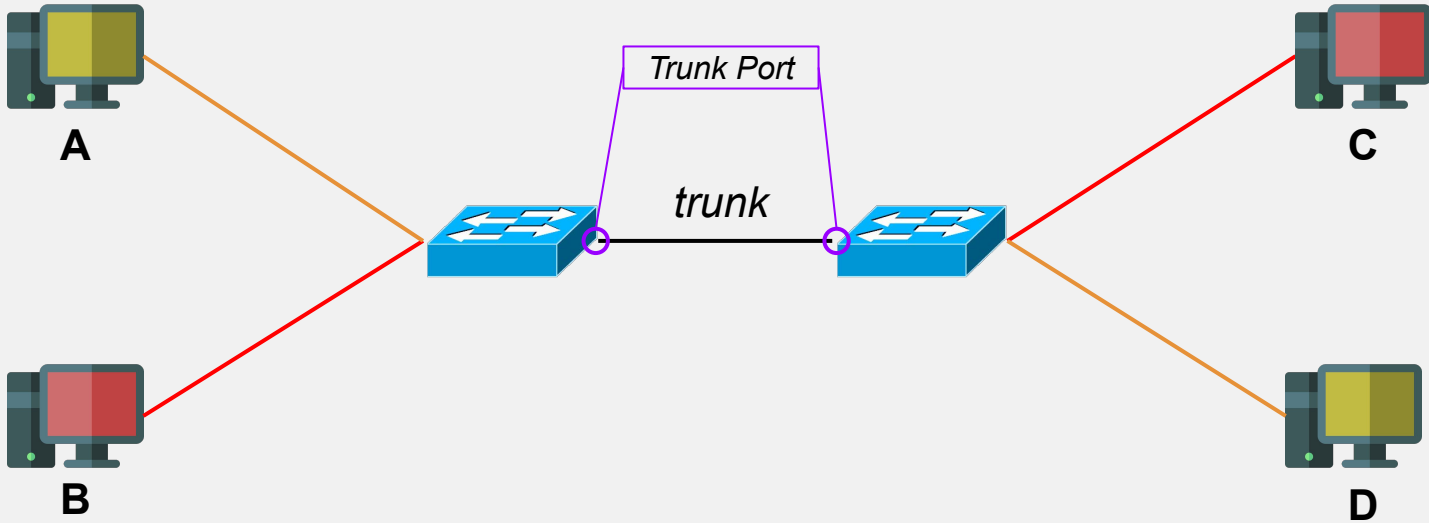
- ☐ Defined in IEEE 802.1Q, also known as Dot1Q.
- ☐ Logical separation of broadcast domain.
- ☐ Can also be used between switches.

# VLAN: Trunking 1/6



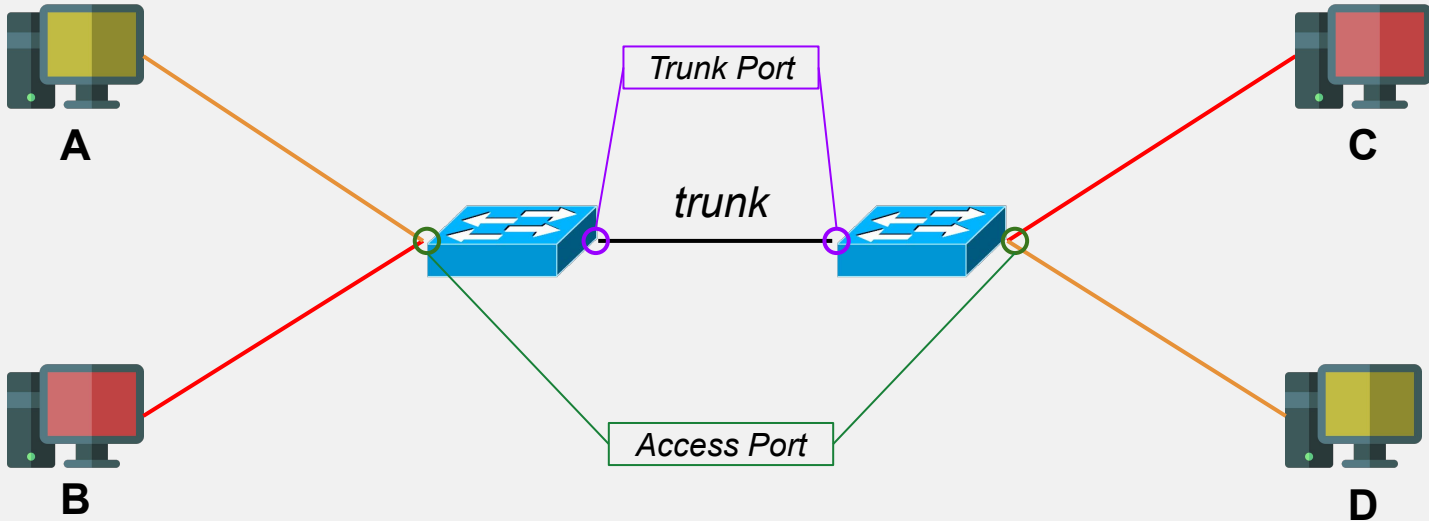
— VLAN 10  
— VLAN 20

## VLAN: Trunking 2/6



— VLAN 10  
— VLAN 20

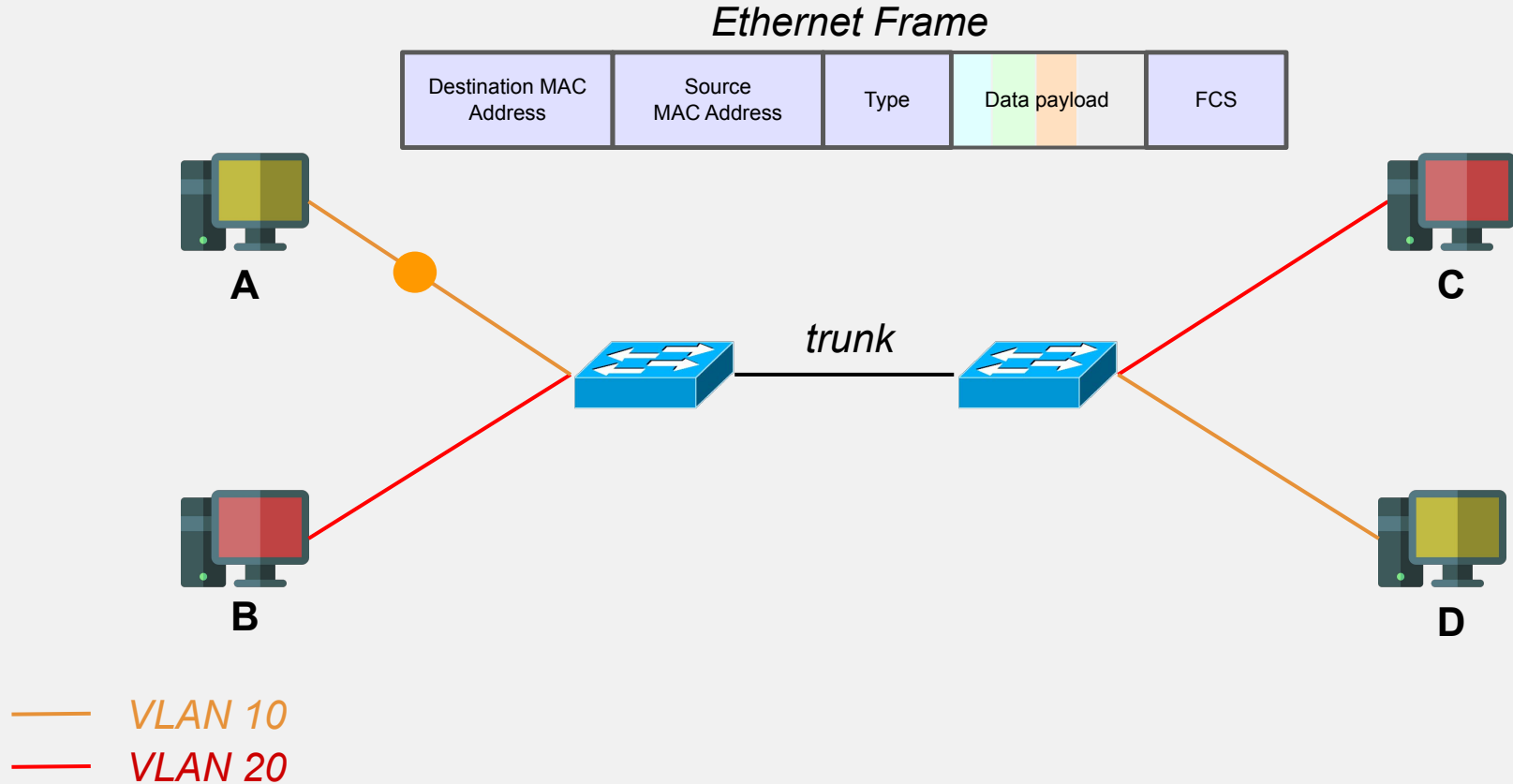
# VLAN: Trunking 3/6



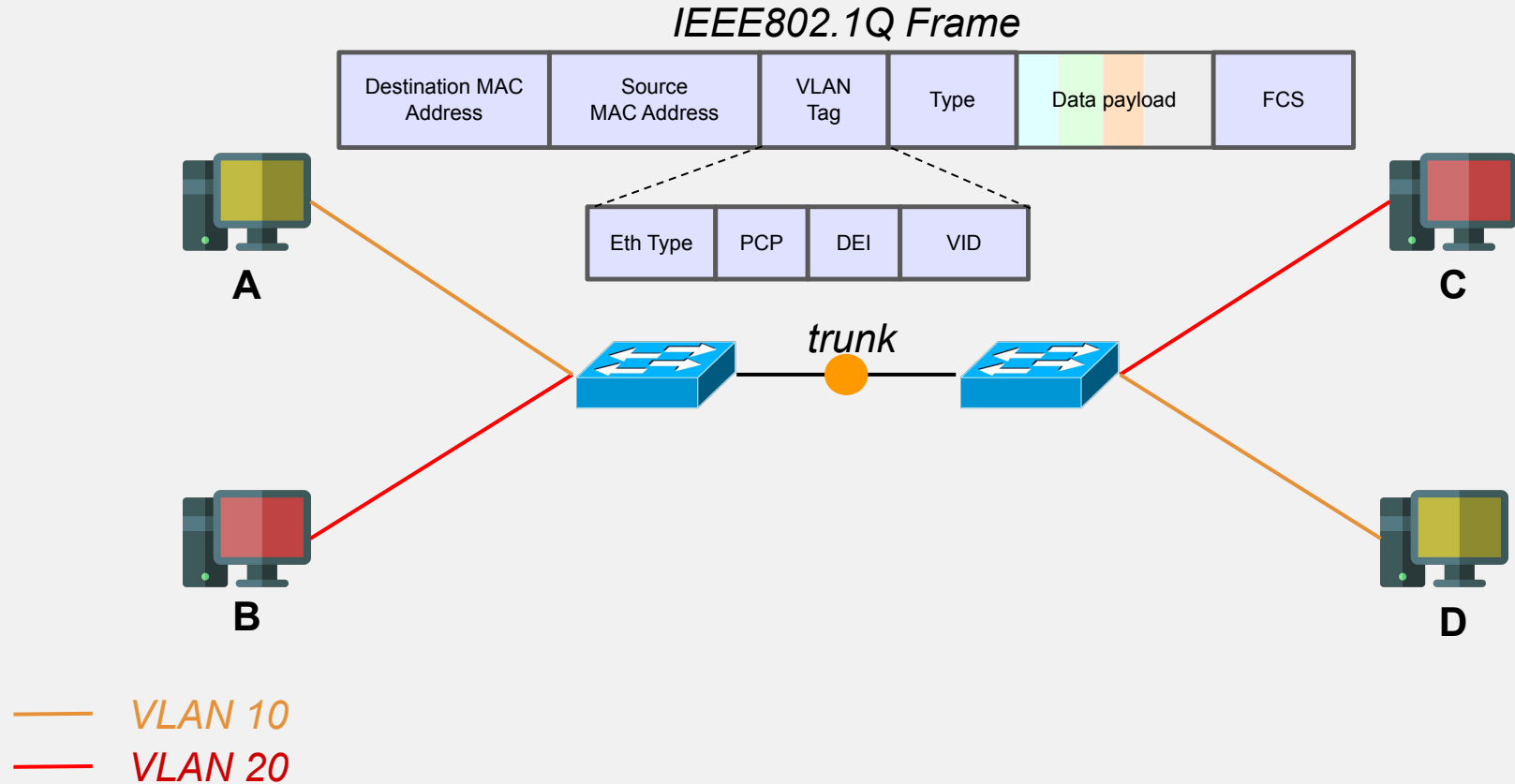
— VLAN 10  
— VLAN 20



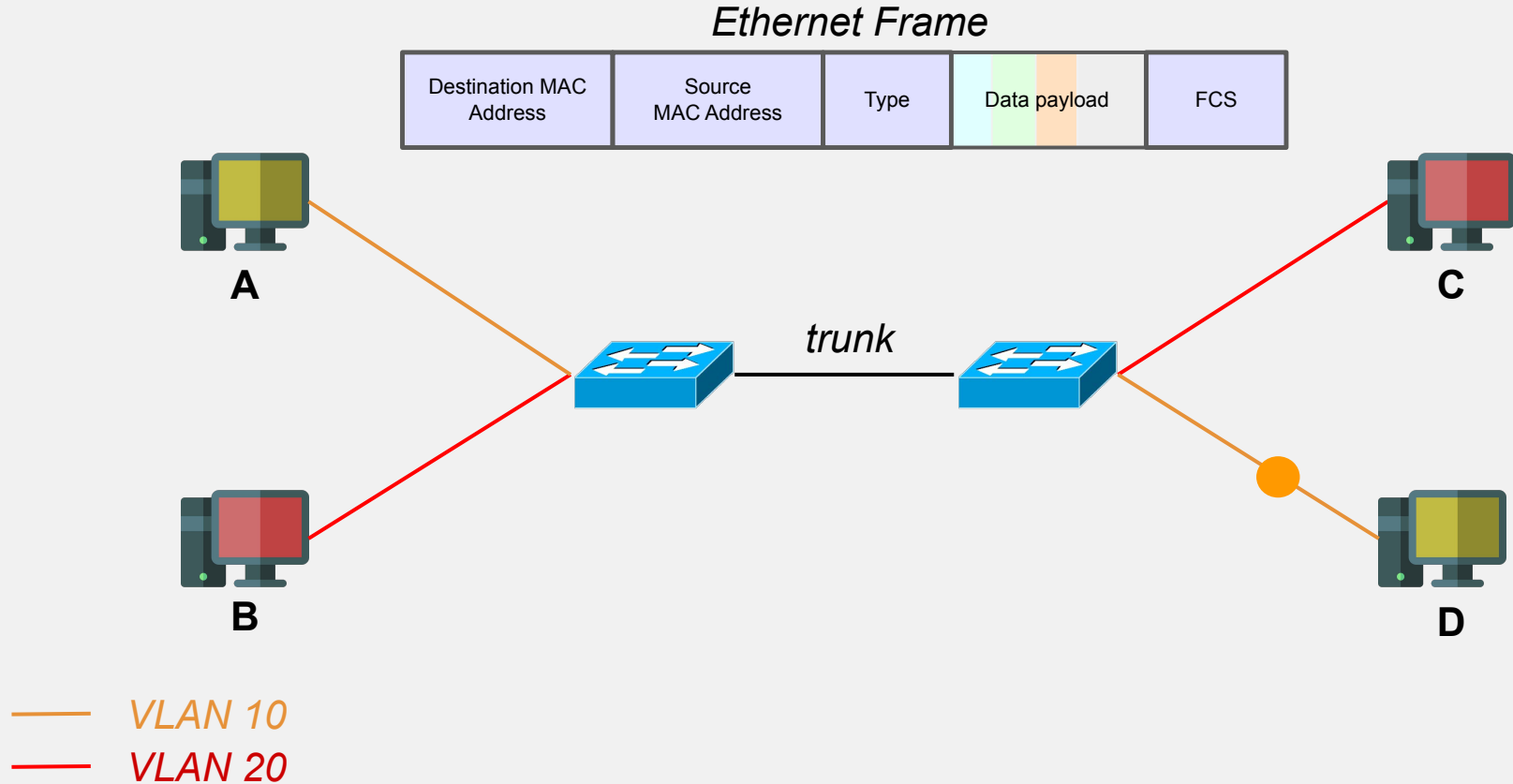
# VLAN: Trunking 4/6



# VLAN: Trunking 5/6



# VLAN: Trunking 6/6



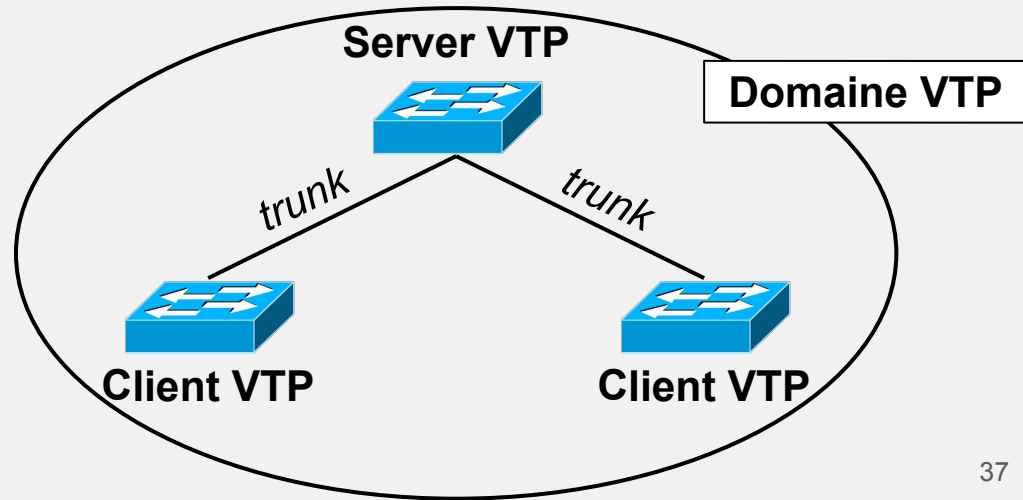
# Default VLAN vs Native VLAN

- **Default VLAN:**
  - All non configured port will be assigned to the default VLAN (**VLAN1**).
- **Native VLAN:**
  - By default set to the default VLAN.
  - **Untagged traffic** between switches through a trunk link.
  - Backward compatibility for non-VLAN switches.
  - Control and management protocol traffic (e.g. STP, VTP, DTP).

# VLAN Trunking Protocol (VTP)

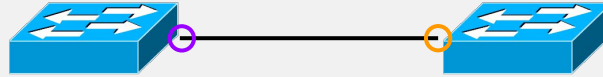
- ❑ **VTP**
  - ❑ Proprietary protocol of Cisco.
  - ❑ Allow VLAN configurations to be propagated to nearby switches.

- ❑ **Server:**
  - ❑ Create, modify, delete VLANs.
  - ❑ Sync configurations.
- ❑ **Client:**
  - ❑ Cannot change VLANs.
  - ❑ Sync configurations.



# Dynamic Trunking Protocol (DTP) 1/2

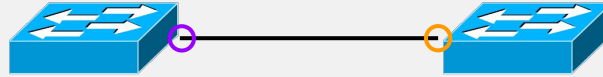
- ☐ **DTP**
  - ☐ Proprietary protocol of Cisco.
  - ☐ Allow auto port configuration between switches for trunking.



- ☐ **Per port configuration:**
  - ☐ **Access:** force port to be an access port.
  - ☐ **Trunk:** force port to be a trunk port.
  - ☐ **Dynamic desirable:** Tell the connected port that it would like to be a trunk port.
  - ☐ **Dynamic:** Adapt to the connected port.

# Dynamic Trunking Protocol (DTP) 2/2

- **DTP**
  - Proprietary protocol of Cisco.
  - Allow auto port configuration between switches for trunking.



	Access	Trunk	Dynamic Desirable	Dynamic auto
Access	Access	<i>Limited</i>	Access	Access
Trunk	<i>Limited</i>	Trunk	Trunk	Trunk
Dynamic Desirable	Access	Trunk	Trunk	Trunk
Dynamic auto	Access	Trunk	Trunk	Access

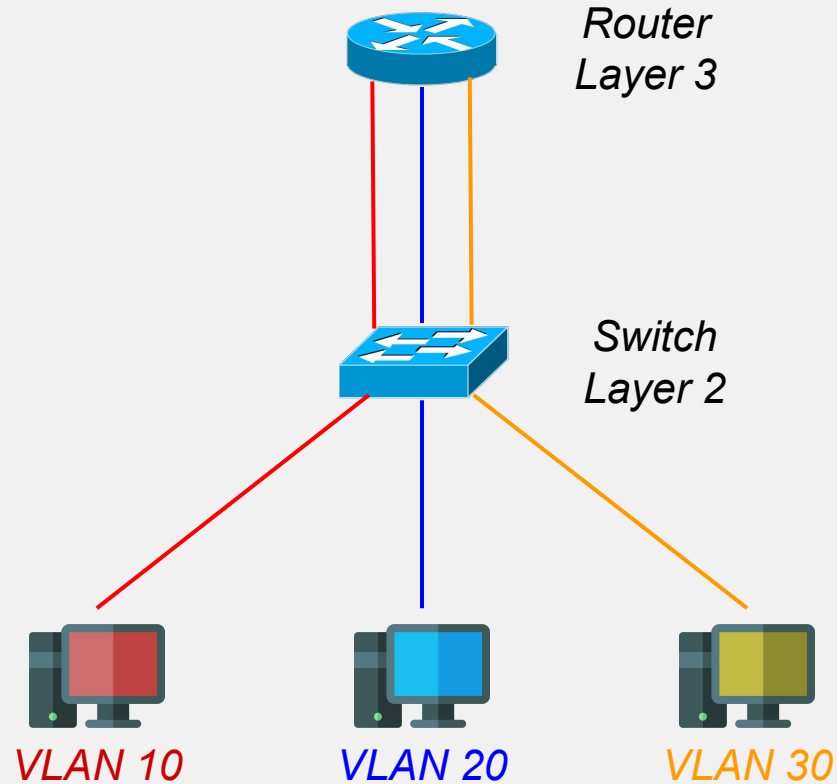
# InterVLAN Routing



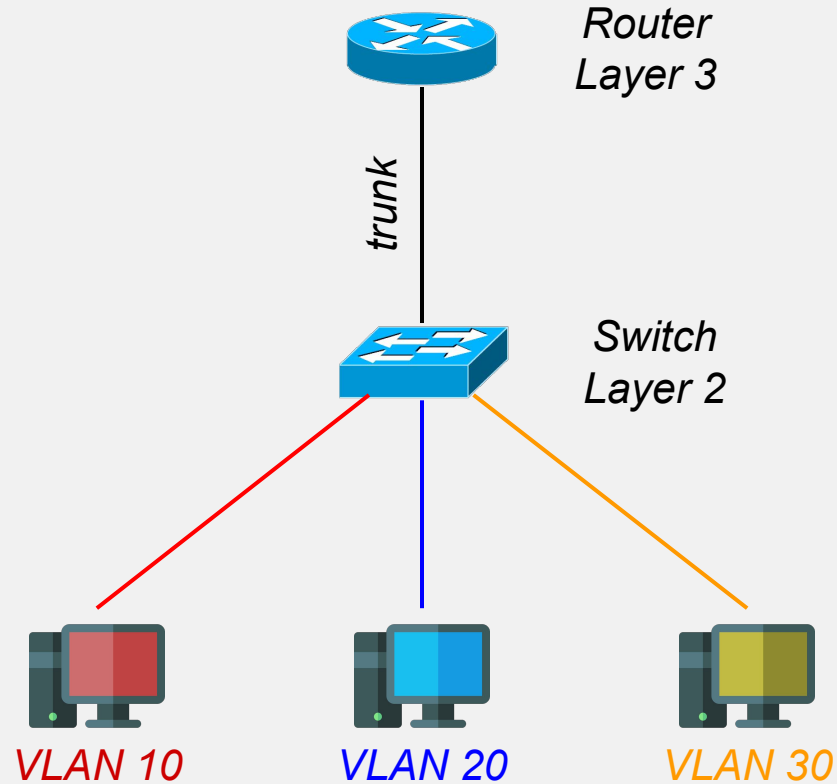
# InterVLAN communication

- ☐ VLANs are logically isolated from each other in the LAN.
- ☐ To communicate they need to a gateway:
  - ☐ Using a router.
  - ☐ Using a router with trunk.
  - ☐ Using a multilayer switch.

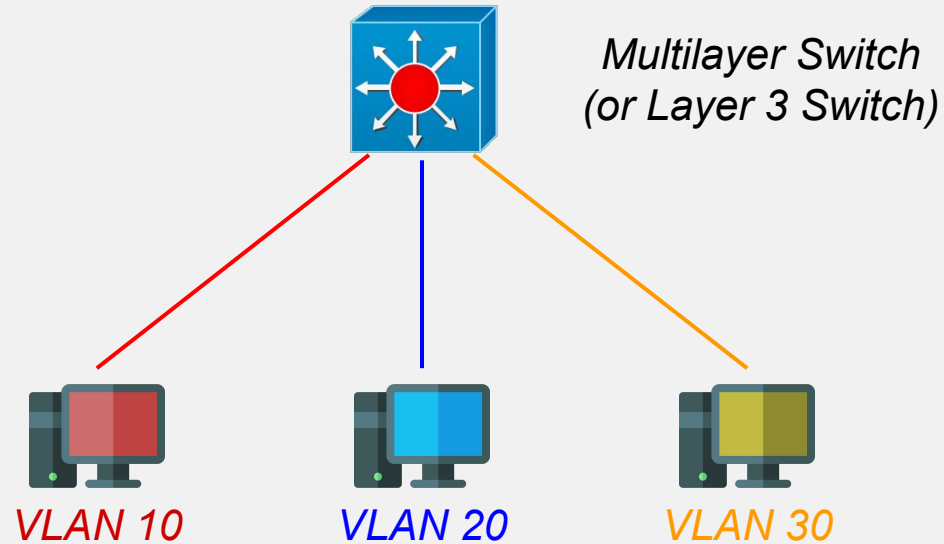
# InterVLAN: Router



# InterVLAN: Router on stick



# InterVLAN: Multilayer Switch

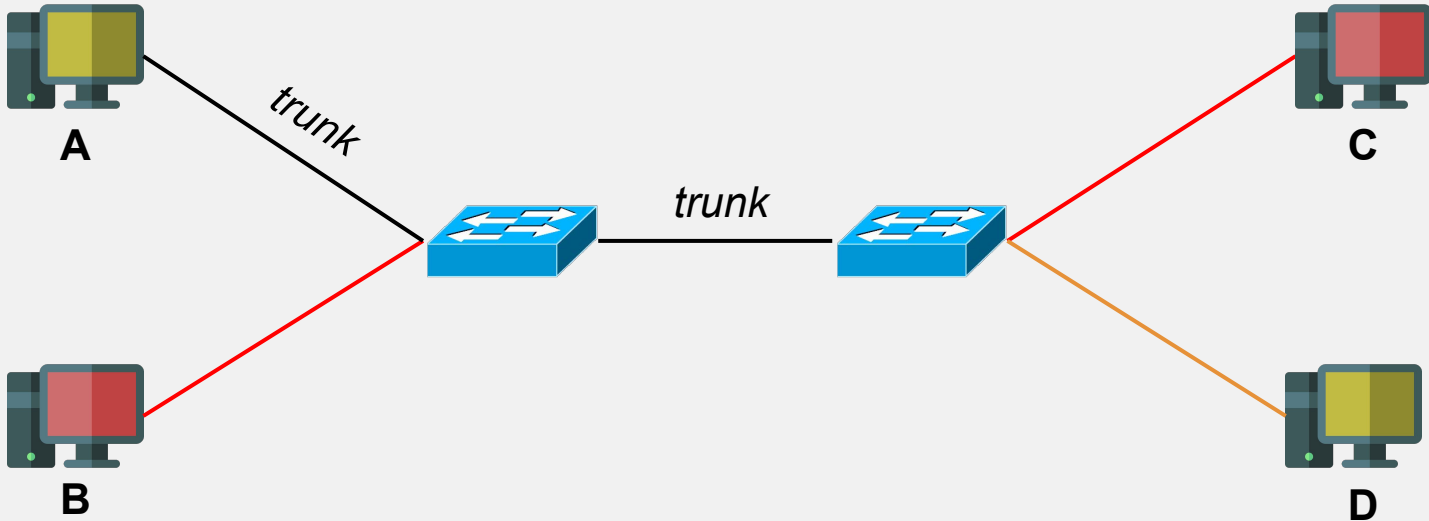


# VLAN Hopping Attacks

# VLAN Hopping: Switch Spoofing 1/3

- ☐ DTP used to create a trunk line between the attacker and a switch.
- ☐ The attacker is now part of all VLANs.

## VLAN Hopping: Switch Spoofing 2/3



— VLAN 10  
— VLAN 20

# VLAN Hopping: Switch Spoofing 3/3

- ☐ Mitigation:
  - ☐ Disable trunking on all access ports.
  - ☐ Disable auto trunking on all trunk lines.

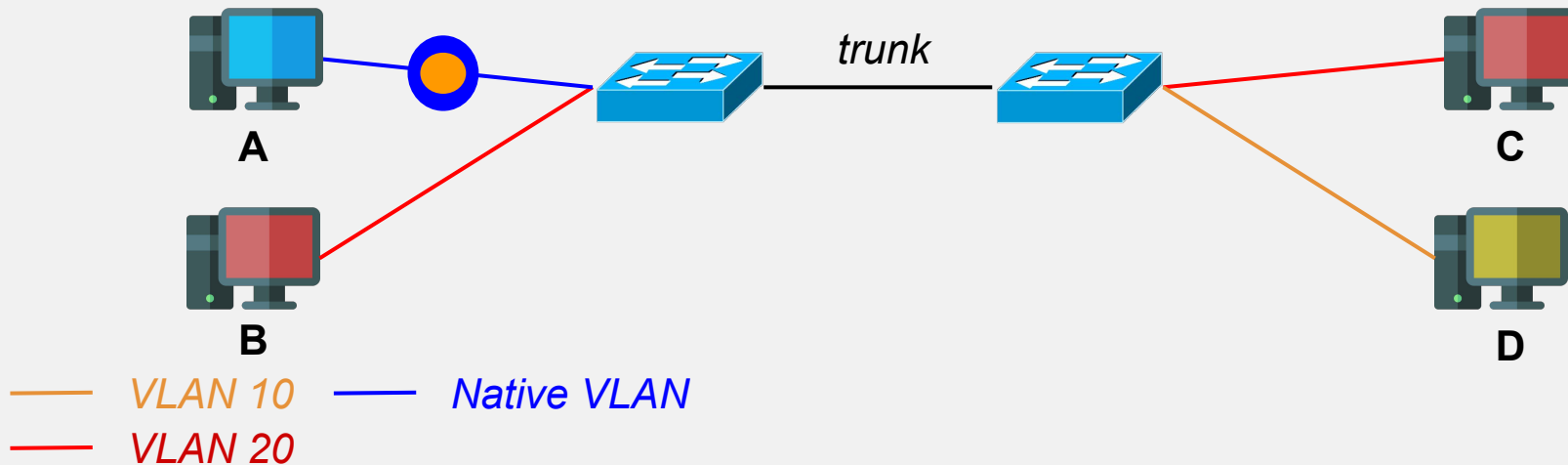
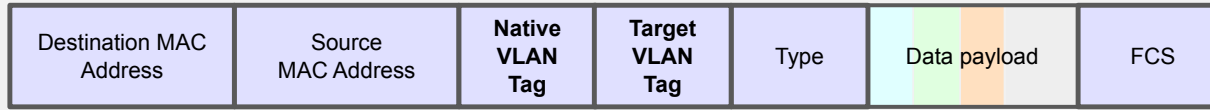


# VLAN Hopping: Double Tagging 1/5

- ❑ Attacker port is connected to the native VLAN on Switch 1.
- ❑ Attacker sends a frame with two VLAN tags:
  - ❑ Outer tag = Native VLAN ID.
  - ❑ Inner tag = Victim VLAN ID.
- ❑ Switch 1 receives the frame:
  - ❑ Removes the outer native VLAN tag (frames in the native VLAN are sent untagged).
  - ❑ Forwards the now single-tagged frame over the trunk link.
- ❑ Switch 2 receives the frame on the trunk:
  - ❑ Sees the VLAN tag for the victim VLAN and forwards it into that VLAN.
  - ❑ Attacker's traffic now reaches the victim VLAN without direct membership.

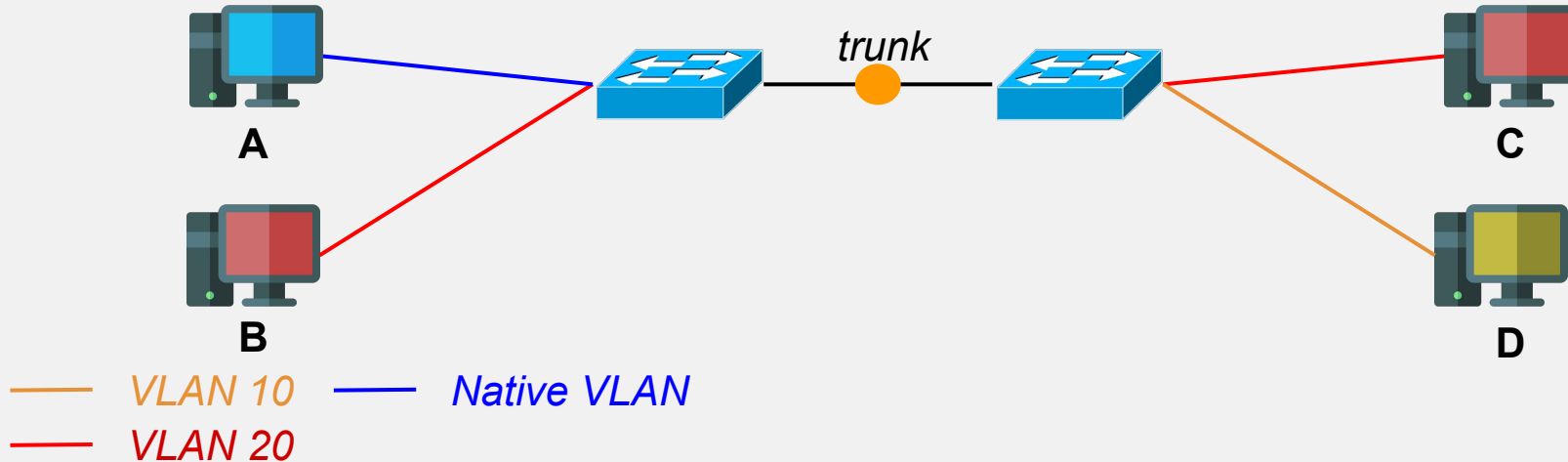
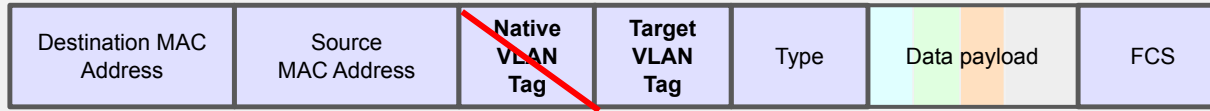
# VLAN Hopping: Double Tagging 2/5

*IEEE802.1Q Frame*



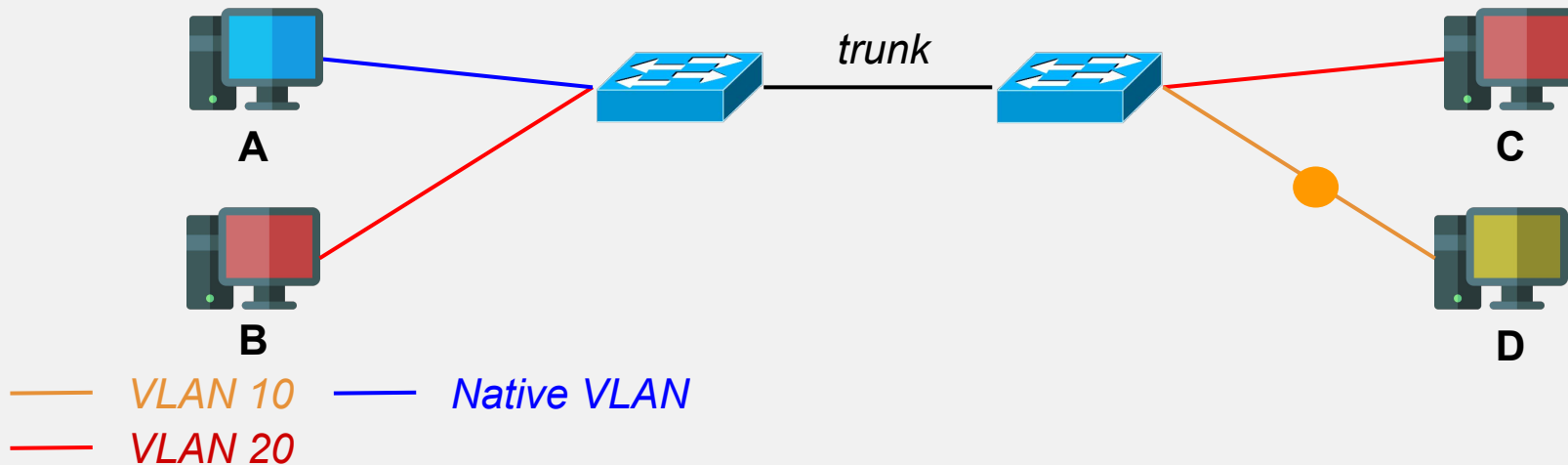
# VLAN Hopping: Double Tagging 3/5

*IEEE802.1Q Frame*



# VLAN Hopping: Double Tagging 4/5

*Ethernet Frame*



# VLAN Hopping: Double Tagging 5/5

- ❑ Limitation:
  - ❑ One way communication: the victim will not answer with a double tag.
- ❑ Mitigation:
  - ❑ Change the native VLAN to be different than the default one (VLAN1).
  - ❑ Disable unused ports and put them in an unused VLAN (e.g., 1234, 666).
  - ❑ Disable trunking on all access ports.

# Resources and Acknowledgements

- Cisco Documentation
- Computer Networking: A Top-down Approach by James F. Kurose, Keith W. Ross