1   Local Link Control (LLC)

Logical Link Control, or LLC, is a layer that sits between a general purpose protocol (like IP, or IPX (Novel's Netware)), and a more specific MAC layer.

LLC can provide services like multiplexing (so that IP, and IPX can share the same medium), as well as different mode of operation, like connectionless connections, and connection oriented connections.

2   Modes

The LLC can provide different service types to the upper layers. These are either connectionless or connection oriented. In the connectionless mode, it can either be unacknowledged or acknowledged.

The PDU[1] for the LLC layer supports different message types to support each different transmission mode. For example, the unacknowledged connectionless mode only has the 'send' (or *request*) and 'recieve' (or *indication*) message types. Other modes have many other different message types.

The PDUs also identify the type they are (Information, Supervisory, Unnumbered). Information PDUs carry data, Supervisory PDUs carry flow control information, and Unnumbered carry data in connectionless connections, or management information in connected transfers.

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[1]Protocol Data Unit