- In a shared medium topology is responsible for arbitrating the access to the network resources between many stations using for example the CSMA/CD (*Carrier Sense Multiple Access/Collision Detection*) protocol.

- **MAC addressing**: The MAC address constitutes the physical address of each station (PC, smartphones, etc.) connected to the network. It is used to identify the source and destination of the frames.

NIC Card

Most of the MAC addresses are assigned by the manufacturer of the Network Interface Cards (NIC), where they are stored in hardware. It is constituted by a sequence of 48 bits (MAC-48)

- **Frame processing** : Permits to identify the start and the end of each frame.

- **Error detection:** Uses cyclic redundancy check (CRC) codes for error detection. Note that all the frames with errors are discarded.