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HyperCast

- Enables information exchange groups (application layer overlays) at the application layer over substrate networks software with:
 - Dynamically changing group membership
 - Arbitrarily many groups of arbitrary size
 - Support of security needs
 - Monitor and Control functions



Overlays



- Overlay is viewed as a network of application programs
- Data is exchanged data over a substrate network (Internet, ad-hoc, sensor network)

Topics

- Joining and creating an overlay
- Data exchange
- Security features
- Monitoring and control of overlays

A simple HyperCast program



Overlay Socket and Overlay Network





Joining and Creating overlay networks

Joining an overlay: Configuration File



- Configuration file specifies which overlay to join and how to join it
- Configuration file is distributed in advance

Joining an overlay: Configuration File



• ... or configuration is downloaded from a server

Joining an overlay: Contacting group members



- There are three methods by which a new member can contact overlay members:
 - 1. Announcement via broadcast
 - 2. Dedicated Rendezvous Point
 - 3. Contact well-known members ("buddies")

Joining an overlay: Announcement via broadcast



- If an application can send broadcast messages, it can announce its presence
- Existing members that receive the broadcast contact the new member
- Broadcast address is stored in configuration file

Joining an overlay: Rendezvous Point



- There is a dedicated application that acts as rendezvous point
- Rendezvous point maintains a list of some current members
- New application gets a current member from the rendezvous point
- Address of rendezvous point is in configuration file

Joining an overlay: Contact well-known members



- Address of some current members is in configuration file ("buddy list")
- New application contacts the members in the list

Creating a new overlay

- Create a new or modify an existing configuration file
 - Select an overlay identifier
 - Change properties of the overlay socket



- MyOverlayID
- group properties
- substrate network
- security properties

• Have the application program read the new file

OverlaySocketConfig ConfObj =
OverlaySocketConfig.createConfig("MyConfiguration.xml");

- Distribute the configuration file:
 - Out-of-band, or
 - Overlay server

Overlay Network Topologies



How fast can we built an overlay?

- Measurements of a cluster of 100 Linux PCs
- Experiment: Add M members to an overlay network of N members:



Data exchange

Data exchange



- Several data exchanges are supported:
 - 1. One-to-One (Unicast)
 - 2. One-to-All (Multicast)
 - 3. All-to-One (Incast)

- Delivery Semantics:
 - 1. Best-effort
 - 2. In-order
 - 3. Reliable

How much data can we send?

Bulk data transfer from 1 sender to 2-1000 receivers: 100 MB bulk transfer for N=2-100 members (1 node per PC)

10 MB bulk transfer for N=20-1000 members (10 nodes per PC)



Performance: HyperCast on PDAs

Multihop performance

- -Setting: six iPAQ PDA in a line
- -Substrate network: TCP adapter
- -Send unicast message in greedy fashion
- -Topology is fixed
- -Distance between node is varied



Security features

Security Goals

- Backward secrecy
 - A new member should not be able to access data transmitted before the member joined
- Forward secrecy
 - A member cannot access data that is transmitted after the member left
- Approach: Neighborhood Key
 - Each member maintains a secret key ("neighborhood key") that it shares with its neighbors

Key Management



- A new members must present a signed certificate to each member that is contacted for the first time
- Once authenticated, it obtains a **neighborhood key** from each neighbor
- A member generates a new key each time its neighborhood changes

Encrypting a Message

Each member has a neighborhood key.



When member sends a message, it creates a message key for this message.



Message

Then, it encrypts the message with message key.

Finally, ite encrypts the message key with its neighborhood key and adds it to the message.





Forwarding an Encrypted Message

N re-encrypts the message key with its personal key





Processing of Encrypted Message



- Keys for header and payload are kept in a security header
- Permits separation of security for payload and header

Processing of Encrypted Message

 Neighborhood key scheme amounts to exchanging security header at intermediate nodes



 Note: Node sends same message to all neighbors !



Experiment



- Overlay consists of sender, receiver and 4 intermediate peers
- Each peer is running on a separate PC
- Overlay uses TCP between peers
- Sender transmits 10,000 messages of a given size to receiver and receiver sends small acknowledgements
- Message size is 2048 bytes
- Sender records time when message returns

Delay Performance



Througput Performance



Monitoring and control of groups

Monitor and Control System

- Loosely modeled after SNMP:
 - Each application component collects statistics
 - Statistics can be accessed by a remote monitor

• XML oriented:

- Statistics are internally stored as XML documents
- Transmitted messages have XML format

• Dynamically created content:

- Structure of XML documents with statistics is created dynamically upon receiving a query
- Application can add statistics to an application program

Monitors and Portals



Monitor Overlay Network



Hierarchy of statistics



Accessing Statistics

- Statistics are accessed using XPath expressions
- Adressing the number of bytes sent: /Socket/Node/NodeAdapter/UBytesSent
- Addressing all statistics of the overlay node: /Socket/Node



Query for statistics





Response to query



GUI for monitoring an Overlay Network



More Information

HyperCast web site: http://hypercast.org Design documents, download software, user manual

- Send questions to hypercast@cs.virginia.edu
- Downloadable software is from 2002 (Version 2.0)
- Version 3.0 with security, message semantics, ad-hoc support, management and control is in development