Transport Layer Overview

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Transport-layer Overview

- Network layer: host-to-host logical communication between hosts.
- Transport layer: logical communication between applications.
  - multiple comm. applications can reside in one host.
  - comm. applications can be a Web browser/server, an FTP client/server, etc.

Multiplexing/demultiplexing

- P1 on host A is communicating with P3 on host B; while at the same time, P2 on host A is communicating with P4 on host B.

Transport-layer Service Model

- Transport layer: logical communication between applications.
  - multiplexing/demultiplexing
- Possible additional services:
  - reliable data transfer (guaranteed arrival, no error, in-order)
  - flow control (keep sender from overrunning receiver): good for myself
  - congestion control (keep sender from overrunning network): good for the community
  - delay/bandwidth guarantee
  - ...
Transport-layer in the Internet Architecture

- End-host only transport implementation
- Simple network layer, complex transport

Benefits:
- Flexible transport layer
- Fast, stable network core

Challenge:
- Transport functions without router assistance

Internet Transport-layer Protocols

- UDP: minimum service transport
  - multiplexing/demultiplexing
  - error detection
- TCP: full service transport
  - multiplexing/demultiplexing
  - error detection
  - reliable data transfer
  - flow control
  - congestion control

Services not available:
- delay guarantees
- bandwidth guarantees
- why?

Connection-oriented /Connectionless Transport

What is a connection?
- logical grouping/sequencing of data segments for a comm. session between the same pair of end-points
- state maintained for such session

Why is a connection useful?
- conn. state-based reliable communication
- resource differentiation
- track network performance using a history of performance measurement
- ... ...

- UDP is connectionless
- TCP is connection-oriented

Outline

- Overview of transport-layer services/protocols
- Multiplexing and demultiplexing
- Connectionless transport: UDP
- Principles of reliable data transfer
- Connection-oriented transport: TCP
  - reliable data transfer
  - flow control
  - connection management
- Principles of congestion control
- Congestion control in TCP
Multiplexing/demultiplexing

- Application
- Transport
- Network
- Link
- Physical

Host A: communicating with P3 on host B; at the same time, P2 on host A is communicating with P4 on host B.

How multiplexing/demultiplexing works?

- Using port numbers
  - Each IP packet has source IP address, destination IP address
  - Each IP packet carries a transport-layer segment
  - Each segment has source, destination port number
  - Dest. IP address for routing to the host; IP addresses and port numbers for going to appropriate socket in the dest. host.

UDP Demultiplexing: An Example

UDP socket identified by dest. IP address and port number

- P1 on host A
- P2 on host B
- P3 on host C
- P4 on host B

Machine A: SP: XXXX, DP: 1234
Machine C: SP: YYYY, DP: 5678
Machine B: SP: XXXX, DP: 1234

TCP Demultiplexing (Connection-oriented)

- Multiple TCP connections may simultaneously share a single port:
  - Example: web server (on default port 80) has multiple connections, one for each client
- TCP socket identified by 4-tuple:
  - (source IP address, source port number, dest IP address, dest port number)
  - recv host uses all four values to direct segment to appropriate socket
**TCP Demultiplexing: An Example**

- **Client IP:** A
- **Server IP:** C
- **Listening Socket:** B
- **Connection Request:** P1
- **SP:** 9157, **DP:** 80
- **Listening Socket:** P2
- **SP:** 80, **DP:** 5775
- **Application Data:** (message)

**UDP: User Datagram Protocol**

- **Length:** 32 bits
- **Source Port #**
- **Dest Port #**
- **Length:** in bytes of UDP segment, including header
- **Checksum:**
- **Application Data:** (message)

**UDP Checksum**

- **Goal:** detect "errors" (e.g., flipped bits) in transmitted segments

**Sender:**
- treat segment contents as sequence of 16-bit integers
- checksum: addition (1's complement sum) of segment contents
- **Sender:** puts checksum value into UDP checksum field

**Receiver:**
- compute checksum of received segment
- check if computed checksum equals checksum field value:
  - NO: error detected
  - YES: no error detected

**Why are there error detections in transport, network, and link layers?**
What is good about UDP?

- Less overhead:
  - no running cost for connection management
  - no space cost for connection state
  - small segment header
- Flexibility in doing things your own way
  - no congestion control: UDP can blast away as fast as desired (may not be good for others, but not bad for my own connection 😊)
- Simple ⇒ more robust, less security vulnerability
  - less susceptible to denial-of-service attacks

UDP In Practice

- When to use UDP?
  - TCP services are not useful, or even hurtful
  - TCP services are useful, but not worth the cost
  - TCP services are useful in concept, but need to be customized
- Used for:
  - routing exchanges between routers
  - network performance measurements
  - streaming multimedia apps
    - loss tolerant, rate sensitive
    - flow control and loss recovery sometimes implemented at the application level

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