Problem Statement for DCP

draft-floyd-dcp-problem-00.txt

Sally Floyd, Mark Handley, and Eddie Kohler

DCCP Working Group
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Requirements:

- Unreliable data delivery, but with congestion control.

- ECN-capable.

- A choice of TCP-friendly congestion control mechanisms.
Constraints:

- Low overhead, for applications that send small packets.
- Traversing firewalls?
- Ability to negotiate congestion control parameters:
  - ECN.
  - type of congestion control.
Three possibilities, for flows that now use UDP:

- Congestion control above UDP.
- Congestion control below UDP.
- Congestion control in another transport protocol.
Congestion control above UDP:

- Burden on the application designer, or on RTP.
- The problems of firewall traversal and parameter negotiation remain.
- Application-level control over ECN?
- Evasion of end-to-end congestion control?
Congestion control below UDP:

- If congestion control feedback is at the application layer:
  - CM does this.
  - Issues: parameter negotiation; ECN; firewalls; evasion of congestion control.

- If congestion control feedback is at the layer below UDP:
  - An additional packet header is needed.
  - To be most effective, the semantics of the UDP socket API would have to be changed, for late binding, and for communication of sequence numbers. Thus, we are already changing UDP.
If a new transport protocol (other than UDP):

- Modify TCP?
  - We want a choice of congestion control mechanisms.
  - We want sequence numbers in packets rather than bytes.
  - Would we need a new protocol number anyway?

* Unreliable variants of SCTP?
  - Support for multiple streams is not needed for unreliable transfer, so we don’t want to pay the price in extra packet overhead.
  - Separate control chunks for ECN feedback?
  - We want a choice of congestion control mechanisms.

* A new protocol?
  - Yep.
Other design considerations:

- Mobility?

- Defense against DoS attacks: server should not hold state for unacknowledged connection attempts.

- Interoperation with RTP.

- Interactions with NATs and firewalls:
  - Explicit connection setup and teardown helps.
Questions:

- Is this the right problem?
- Do we have the right set of constraints?
- Are there other requirements that we haven’t considered?
- Feedback?