

What is it?

- Process of finding a path from a source to every destination in the network
- Suppose you want to connect to Antarctica from your desktop
 - What route should you take?
 - Does a shorter route exist?
 - What if a link along the route goes down?
 - What if you're on a mobile wireless link?
- Routing deals with these types of issues

Moving from DigiComms I

- DigiComms I set up the key principles:
 - Routing is the binding of addresses to paths
 - Can be static or dynamic
 - Can be centralised or distributed
- Our focus in DigiComms II
 - What technologies do routing today?
 - (with simplifications!!)
 - How do these technologies work?
 - (or not)

Basics

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Key problem

- How to make correct local decisions?
 - Each router must know something about global state
- Global state
 - Inherently large
 - Dynamic
 - Hard to collect
- A routing protocol must intelligently summarize relevant information

Requirements

- Minimise routing table space
 - Want entries to be quick to look up
 - Want less to exchange with peers
- Minimise number and frequency of control messages
- Robustness: want to avoid
 - Black holes traffic vanishes never to be seen again
 - Loops traffic gets stuck within the network
 - Oscillations paths cycle between alternatives
- Use optimal path

Choices

- Centralised vs. distributed routing
 - Centralised is simpler, but prone to failure and congestion
- Source-based vs. hop-by-hop
 - How much is placed in the packet header?
 - Intermediate: loose-source routing
- Stochastic vs. deterministic
 - Stochastic spreads load, avoiding oscillations, but misorders
- Single vs. multiple path
 - Primary and alternative paths (compare with stochastic)
- State-dependent vs. state-independent
 - Do routes depend on current network state (e.g. delay)

Outline

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- Routing in telephone networks
- Distance-vector routing
- Link-state routing
- Choosing link costs
- Hierarchical routing
- Internet routing protocols
- Routing within a broadcast LAN
- Multicast routing
- Routing with policy constraints
- Routing for mobile hosts

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The cost of simplicity

- Simplicity of routing a historical necessity
- But requires
 - reliability in every component
 - logically fully-connected core
- Can we build an alternative that has same features as the telephone network, but is cheaper because it uses more sophisticated routing?
 - Yes: that is one of the motivations for ATM
 - But 80% of the cost is in the local loop
 not affected by changes in core routing
 - Moreover, many of the software systems assume topology
 - + too expensive to change them

Dynamic Non-Hierarchical Routing (DNHR)

- Simplest core routing protocol
 - accept call if one-hop path is available, else drop
- DNHR
 - divides day into around 10-periods
 - in each period, each toll switch is assigned a primary onehop path and a list of alternatives
 - can overflow to alternative if needed
 - drop only if all alternate paths are busy
 - + Crankback to previous node in hierarchy
- Problems
 - does not work well if actual traffic differs from prediction



Trunk status map routing (TSMR) Dynamic non-hierarchical routing measures traffic once a week TSMR updates measurements once an hour or so only if it changes "significantly" loaded paths List of alternative paths is more up to date Example 15

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Real-time network routing (RTNR)

- No centralised control
- Each toll switch maintains a list of lightly loaded links
- Intersection of source and destination lists gives set of lightly
 - At A, list is C, D, E → links AC, AD, AE lightly loaded
 - At B, list is D, F, G → links BD, BF, BG lightly loaded
 - A asks B for its list
 - Intersection = $D \rightarrow AD$ and BD lightly loaded $\rightarrow ADB$ lightly loaded \rightarrow it is a good alternative path
- Very effective in practice: only about a couple of calls blocked in core out of about 250 million calls attempted every day



Two key routing algorithms

- Environment
 - Links and routers unreliable
 - Alternative paths scarce
 - Traffic patterns can change rapidly
- Two key algorithms
 - Distance vector: tell your neighbours about reaching everyone
 - Link-state: tell everyone about reaching your neighbours
- Both assume router knows
 - Address of each neighbour
 - Cost of reaching each neighbour
- Both allow a router to determine global routing information by talking to its neighbours

Distance vector routing: Basic idea

- Node tells its neighbours its best idea of distance to every other node in the network
- Node receives these distance vectors from its neighbours
- Updates its notion of best path to each destination, and the next hop for this destination
- Features
 - Distributed
 - Adapts to traffic changes and link failures
 - Suitable for networks with multiple administrative entities

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- Iterate to reach global fixed point.
- But what if there isn't a global fixed point?
 - The Internet is a rather dynamic environment after all...



Dealing with the problem

Path vector

- DV carries path to reach each destination
- Split horizon
 - Never tell neighbour cost to X if neighbour is next hop to X
 - Doesn't work for 3-way count to infinity
- Triggered updates
 - Exchange routes on change, instead of on timer
 - Faster count up to infinity
- More complicated
 - Source tracing
 - ◆ DUAL

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Link state: topology dissemination

A router describes its neighbours with a link state packet (LSP)



- Store an LSP in an LSP database
- If new, forward to every interface other than incoming one
- A network with E edges will copy at most 2E times



Aging

- Creator of LSP puts timeout value in the header
- Router removes LSP when it times out
 - Also floods this information to the rest of the network (why?)
- So, on booting, router just has to wait for its old LSPs to be purged
- But what age to choose?
 - If too small
 - Purged before fully flooded (why?)
 - Needs frequent updates
 - If too large
 - + Router waits idle for a long time on rebooting

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Example





Choosing link costs

- Shortest path uses link costs
- Can use either static of dynamic costs
- In both cases: cost determines amount of traffic on the link
 - · Lower the cost, more the expected traffic
 - If dynamic cost depends on load, can have oscillations (why?)

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Problem	Potential solution
Queue length averaged over a small time	Queue length averaged over a longer time
Wide dynamic range queue	Dynamic range restricted
Queue length assumed to predict future loads	Cost also depends on intrinsic link capacity
No restriction on successively reported costs	Restriction on successively reported costs
All tables computed simultaneously	Attempt to stagger table computation



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Routing for mobile hosts









External and summary records If a domain has multiple gateways *External* records tell hosts in a domain which one to pick to reach a host in an external domain e.g allows 6.4.0.0 to discover shortest path to 5.* is through 6.0.0.0 Summary records tell backbone which gateway to use to reach an internal node e.g. allows 5.0.0.0 to discover shortest path to 6.4.0.0 is through 6.0.0.0 External and summary records contain distance from gateway to external or internal node Unifies distance vector and link state algorithms

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Interior and exterior protocols

- Internet has three levels of routing
 - Highest is at backbone level, connecting autonomous systems (AS)
 - Next level is within AS
 - Lowest is within a LAN
- Protocol between AS gateways: exterior gateway protocol
- Protocol within AS: interior gateway protocol











Open Shortest Path First (OSPF)

Link-state

- Uses areas to route packets hierarchically within AS
- Complex
 - LSP databases to be protected
- Uses *designated routers* to reduce number of endpoints

Exterior Gateway Protocol (EGP)

- Original exterior gateway protocol
- Notionally distance-vector
- Costs are either 128 (reachable) or 255 (unreachable)
 DV simplifies reachability protocol
 - Backbone topology must be loop free already
- Allows administrators to pick neighbours to peer with
- Allows backdoors (by setting backdoor cost < 128)

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Path-vector

- Distance vector annotated with entire path
- Also with policy attributes
- Guaranteed loop-free
- Can use non-tree backbone topologies
- Uses TCP to disseminate DVs
 - Reliable
 - ... but subject to TCP flow control
- Policies are complex to set up

Private Network-Network Interface (PNNI)

Link-state

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- Many levels of hierarchy
- Switch controllers at each level form a peer group
- Group has a group leader
- Leaders are members of the next higher level group
- Leaders summarise information about group to tell higher level peers
- All records received by leader are flooded to lower level
- LSPs can be annotated with per-link QoS metrics
- Switch controller uses this to compute source routes for callsetup packets

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Routing within a broadcast LAN

- What happens at an endpoint?
- On a point-to-point link, no problem
- On a broadcast LAN
 - Is packet meant for destination within the LAN?
 - If so, what is the datalink address ?
 - If not, which router on the LAN to pick?
 - What is the router's datalink address?



Internet solution

- All hosts on the LAN have the same subnet address
- So, easy to determine if destination is on the same LAN
- Destination's datalink address determined using ARP
 - Broadcast a request
 - Owner of IP address replies
- To discover routers (if not pre-specified statically or via DHCP)
 - Routers periodically sends router advertisements
 - + With preference level and time to live
 - Pick most preferred router
 - Delete overage records
 - Can also force routers to reply with solicitation message

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Redirection (ICMP)

- How to pick the best router?
- Send message to arbitrary router
- If that router's next hop is another router on the same LAN, host gets a *redirect* message
- It uses this for subsequent messages

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Multicast routing

- Unicast: single source sends to a single destination
- Multicast: hosts are part of a multicast group
 - Packet sent by any member of a group are received by all
- Useful for
 - Multiparty videoconference
 - Distance learning
 - Resource location
 - Imaging machines on a LAN
 - Internet TV







































DVMRP

- Distance-vector Multicast routing protocol
- Very similar to RIP
 - Distance vector
 - Hop count metric
- Used in conjunction with
 - Flood-and-prune (to determine memberships)
 Prunes store per-source and per-group information
 - Reverse-path forwarding (to decide where to forward a packet)
 - Explicit join messages to reduce join latency (but no source info, so still need flooding)

MOSPF

- Multicast extension to OSPF
- Routers flood group membership information with LSPs
- Each router independently computes shortest-path tree that only includes multicast-capable routers
 - No need to flood and prune
- Complex

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- Interactions with external and summary records
- Need storage per group per link
- · Need to compute shortest path tree per source and group

Core-based trees

- Problems with DVMRP-oriented approach
 - Need to periodically flood and prune to determine group members
 - Need to source per-source and per-group prune records at each router
- Key idea with core-based tree
 - Coordinate multicast with a core router
 - Host sends a join request to core router
 - Routers along path mark incoming interface for forwarding







More on core

- Renamed a rendezvous point
- because it no longer carries all the traffic like a CBT core
- Rendezvous points periodically send "I am alive" messages downstream
- Leaf routers set timer on receipt
- If timer goes off, send a join request to alternative rendezvous point
- Problems
 - How to decide whether to use dense or sparse mode?
 - How to determine "best" rendezvous point?

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Problems with multiple metrics

- All routers must use the same rule in computing paths
 - Otherwise we risk forming routing loops
- Remote routers may misinterpret policy
 - Source routing may solve this
 - But introduces other problems
 - + Increased routing data sent (OK if connection oriented)
 - + Source needs up-to-date routing data to form paths...

Provider selection

- Another simple approach
- Assume that a single service provider provides almost all the path from source to destination
 - e.g. AT&T or MCI
- Then, choose policy simply by choosing provider
 - This could be dynamic (agents!)
- In Internet, can use a loose source route through service provider's access point
- Or, multiple addresses/names per host

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