

Selected Topics on Software Defined Networking

EECE.7290

Instructor: Prof. Yan Luo

Lab 1: Experimenting OpenFlow with Mininet

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Table of contents:

- a. Purpose
- b. Lab Procedure
- c. Software
- d. Trouble Shooting
- e. Results
- f. Appendix

a. Purpose

The main purpose this lab is to experiment Open-flow with mini-net software to understand the working of l2 learning switch. We need to make use of POX controller to design l2 learning switch in Python programming language. Open-flow packets are captured using Wireshark.

b. Lab Procedure

Act Like a Hub:

Before we start to program POX controller to act like a learning switch, we need to run it like a hub to troubleshoot the setup. By default, `of_tutorial.py` in `misc` folder of `pox` library is configured to flood the output ports of the switch for every packet it received. You can start the POX controller from the `pox` library by using the command `./pox.py log.level - -DEBUG misc.of_tutorial`. It shown in the fig. below

```
ganeshkurapati@ganeshkurapati-VirtualBox:~/pox$ ./pox.py log.level --DEBUG misc.of_tutorial
POX 0.2.0 (carp) / Copyright 2011-2013 James McCauley, et al.
DEBUG:core:POX 0.2.0 (carp) going up...
DEBUG:core:Running on CPython (2.7.12/Nov 19 2016 06:48:10)
DEBUG:core:Platform is Linux-4.4.0-62-generic-x86_64-with-Ubuntu-16.04-xenial
INFO:core:POX 0.2.0 (carp) is up.
DEBUG:openflow.of_01:Listening on 0.0.0.0:6633
INFO:openflow.of_01:[None 1] closed
INFO:openflow.of_01:[00-00-00-00-00-01 2] connected
DEBUG:misc.of_tutorial:Controlling [00-00-00-00-00-01 2]
```

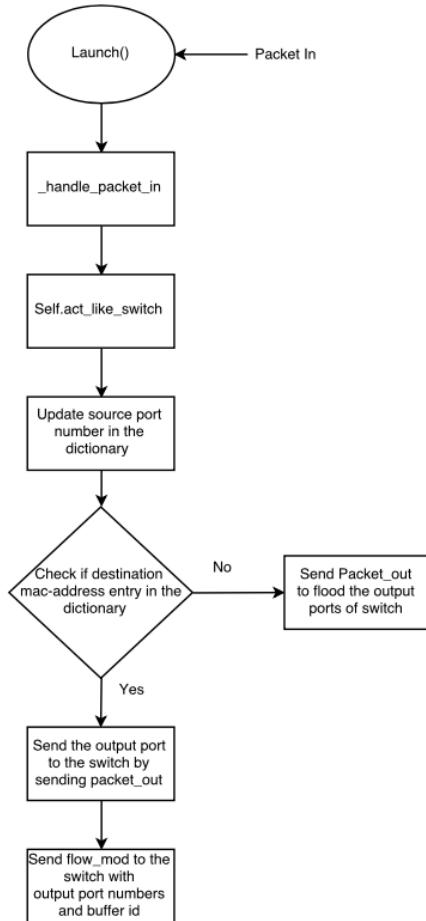
Default topology from the mini-net can started using the command below. It contains two hosts, one switch and it is direct to connect to POX controller listening on port 6633 in the localhost. You can try to ping h2 from h1 using the command `h1 ping h2`.

```
ganeshkurapati@ganeshkurapati-VirtualBox:~$ sudo mn --controller=remote,ip=127.0.0.1,port=6633
[sudo] password for ganeshkurapati:
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
*** Adding hosts:
h1 h2
*** Adding switches:
s1
*** Adding links:
(h1, s1) (h2, s1)
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2
*** Starting controller
c0
*** Starting 1 switches
s1 ...
*** Starting CLI:
mininet> h1 ping -c 1 h2
PING 10.0.0.2 (10.0.0.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=34.5 ms

--- 10.0.0.2 ping statistics ---
1 packets transmitted, 1 received, 0% packet loss, time 0ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 34.574/34.574/34.574/0.000 ms
mininet> h1 ping -c 1 h2
PING 10.0.0.2 (10.0.0.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=23.7 ms

--- 10.0.0.2 ping statistics ---
1 packets transmitted, 1 received, 0% packet loss, time 0ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 23.797/23.797/23.797/0.000 ms
mininet> h1 ping -c 1 h2
PING 10.0.0.2 (10.0.0.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=24.6 ms
```


c. Software



If we observe the `of_tutorial.py`, `launch()` function calls the `handle_packet_in()`, which is configured to call another function `act_like_switch()`. In this lab, we need to write the code in this `act_like_switch()` in python program.

Now let us see the code line by line, which like the flow chart given above.

```
self.mac_to_port[packet.src]=packet_in.in_port
```

It checks for the source MAC address entry in the dictionary(`mac_to_port`). Then it updates the port number of the switch it received the packet.

```
if packet.dst in self.mac_to_port:
    self.resend_packet(packet_in, self.mac_to_port[packet.dst])
```

Check for the destination MAC address entry, if it has the entry then it sends the `packet_out` with the port number to send the packet. After it needs to send the `flow_mod` message to update the flow entry of the switch.

```
log.debug("Installing flow for %s.%i -> %s.%i"
          "% (packet.src, packet.in_port, packet.dst, self.mac_to_port[packet.dst]))
```

In above line we will log the flow entry

Below we generate flow modification message

```
msg = of.ofp_flow_mod()
msg.match = of.ofp_match.from_packet(packet)
```

To set the time out entries of flow modification message

```
msg.idle_timeout = 10
msg.hard_timeout = 30
```

To set the buffer id entry of flow modification message

```
msg.buffer_id = None
```

We bind the action to the message to establish the connection and send the message. Similar to resend_packet() function.

```
action = of.ofp_action_output(port = self.mac_to_port[packet.dst])
msg.actions.append(action)
self.connection.send(msg)
```

If cannot find the destination mac-address entry, then packet_out to the switch saying it to flood the output ports. As shown below.

```
else:
    self.resend_packet(packet_in, of.OFPP_ALL)
```

You can find the source code in the appendix.

d. Trouble shooting:

First to check the mini-net, Pox controller setup, we need to check the default hub like behavior of the controller. We can capture the packets using Wireshark and visualize (see results section) the flow table entry using the command `sudo ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1`. We can cross check the data when we run learning switch.

Secondly, we can try to print the flow modification entry in the controller to see the source and destinations as shown below. And, we can see FLOW_MOD message in the Wireshark. This behavior different from the hub because it doesn't have flow mod messages in the packet captured.

```
DEBUG:misc.of_tutorial:Installing flow for 9e:a5:3a:2a:0a:90.2 -> be:a5:50:c4:b8
:32.1
DEBUG:misc.of_tutorial:Installing flow for be:a5:50:c4:b8:32.1 -> 9e:a5:3a:2a:0a
:90.2
DEBUG:misc.of_tutorial:Installing flow for 9e:a5:3a:2a:0a:90.2 -> be:a5:50:c4:b8
:32.1
DEBUG:misc.of_tutorial:Installing flow for 9e:a5:3a:2a:0a:90.2 -> be:a5:50:c4:b8
:32.1
DEBUG:misc.of_tutorial:Installing flow for be:a5:50:c4:b8:32.1 -> 9e:a5:3a:2a:0a
:90.2
DEBUG:misc.of_tutorial:Installing flow for be:a5:50:c4:b8:32.1 -> 9e:a5:3a:2a:0a
:90.2
```

Thirdly, if you see the code, we send packet_out as well as flow_mod if the dictionary has destination MAC address entry. Problem arises when we need to select buffer_id to send flow_mod. Buffer_id in this case should be None not the buffer_id in the packet_in because that Id does not exit since we send already packet_out. It throws error if we use buffer_id in the packet_in.

e. Results:

In the lab procedure section, we have seen that from the Wireshark packet capture that flow_mod messages are missing in hub like behavior, while it appeared in learning switch behavior. This message is responsible to install flows in the switch. And, we can see that after sending flow_mod, PACKET_IN & PACKET_OUT doesn't appear in learning switch whereas in hub PACKET_IN & PACKET_OUT appear for every packet send. We can also visualize the flow entries in the switch using ovs-ofctl command as shown below.

```
ganeshkurapati@ganeshkurapati-VirtualBox:~$ sudo ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
  cookie=0x0, duration=3.651s, table=0, n_packets=4, n_bytes=392, idle_timeout=10
  , hard_timeout=30, idle_age=0, icmp,vlan_tci=0x0000,dl_src=be:a5:50:c4:b8:32,dl_
dst=9e:a5:3a:2a:0a:90,nw_src=10.0.0.1,nw_dst=10.0.0.2,nw_tos=0,icmp_type=8,icmp_
code=0 actions=output:2
  cookie=0x0, duration=3.611s, table=0, n_packets=3, n_bytes=294, idle_timeout=10
  , hard_timeout=30, idle_age=0, icmp,vlan_tci=0x0000,dl_src=9e:a5:3a:2a:0a:90,dl_
dst=be:a5:50:c4:b8:32,nw_src=10.0.0.2,nw_dst=10.0.0.1,nw_tos=0,icmp_type=0,icmp_
code=0 actions=output:1
```

Show in above fig., When the controller is acting like a learning switch, there are flow entries when start to ping (h1 ping h2). Whereas below fig., they are missing in hub like behavior since we are not sending flow_mod messages.

```
ganeshkurapati@ganeshkurapati-VirtualBox:~$ sudo ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
[sudo] password for ganeshkurapati:
NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
ganeshkurapati@ganeshkurapati-VirtualBox:~$ sudo ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
ganeshkurapati@ganeshkurapati-VirtualBox:~$ █
```

You can find the source code for the l2 learning switch in the git repository given below.

<https://github.com/ganeshkurapati/Software-Defined-Networks---Spring-2017.git>

f. Appendix:

Below is the code for the learning switch using POX controller.

of tutorial.py

```
def act_like_switch (self, packet, packet_in):  
    """  
    Implement switch-like behavior.  
    """  
  
    # Learn the port for the source MAC  
    self.mac_to_port[packet.src]=packet_in.in_port  
  
    if packet.dst in self.mac_to_port:  
        # Send packet out the associated port  
        self.resend_packet(packet_in, self.mac_to_port[packet.dst])  
  
        # Once you have the above working, try pushing a flow entry  
        # instead of resending the packet (comment out the above and  
        # uncomment and complete the below.)  
  
        log.debug("Installing flow for %s.%i -> %s.%i"  
                 % (packet.src, packet_in.in_port, packet.dst,  
                     self.mac_to_port[packet.dst]))  
        # Maybe the log statement should have source/destination/port?  
  
        msg = of.ofp_flow_mod()  
        #  
        ## Set fields to match received packet  
        msg.match = of.ofp_match.from_packet(packet)  
        #  
        #< Set other fields of flow_mod (timeouts? buffer_id?) >  
        msg.idle_timeout = 10  
        msg.hard_timeout = 30  
        msg.buffer_id = None  
        #Add an action to send to the specified port  
        action = of.ofp_action_output(port =  
                                      self.mac_to_port[packet.dst])  
        msg.actions.append(action)  
  
        # Send message to switch  
        self.connection.send(msg)  
  
    else:  
        # Flood the packet out everything but the input port  
        # This part looks familiar, right?  
        self.resend_packet(packet_in, of.OFPP_ALL)
```