

Comparison of different routing algorithms for Public Switched Telephone Networks (PSTN)

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Abstract—Public Switched Telephone Networks (or PSTN for short) heavily rely on a complex routing algorithm used to route calls between users. A good routing algorithm can support higher network loads, an limit the damage caused to users in case of a network breakdown. This study will show the different benefits and drawbacks of several routing algorithms, namely MTP-3 routing, load balancing routing, and adaptative routing.

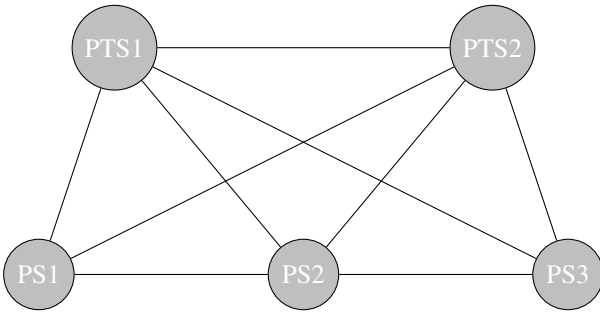
Index Terms—Network, PSTN, Telephone, Routing algorithms, IEEE

I. INTRODUCTION

THE goal of this project was to compare the efficiency of different routing methods, under different load conditions, and in case of a switch failure.

II. ANSWER TO QUESTIONS & STATE OF THE ART

A. semaphore network of considered topology



B. Information needed to route with load balancing

A load balancing routing protocol is defined by the fact that the routing decision is only affected by the capacity of the different wires connected to the current node. Hence, in order to implement such algorithm, one needs to know beforehand the total capacity of the different wires of his architecture. In real life, such algorithm is very easy to set up, as a PSTN operator has the full knowledge of the network.

In the network proposed as an example in the subject, and for a communication between CA1 and CA3, a load-balancing protocol would make the following decisions:

- On the CA1 node, three links are available to be used by the routing algorithm. Supposedly, let's pretend that CA-CTS links have twice the capacity of CA-CA links. In that context, 40% of the traffic would be directed to each CTS and the remaining 20% would be routed to CA2.

- In a load balancing algorithm, and without any other customization, there could be some kind of loop. For example, in the CTS1 node, the load balancing algorithm could be forwarding messages coming from CA1 towards CTS1! To prevent that problem, a geographical addressing can be put in place for the different nodes / clients. With that parameter taken into consideration during the load balancing algorithm, CTS1 would only have three possible links that get the current packet closer to the destination (CA1 - CTS1 being omitted). With the same capacity assumption as before, the load balancing algorithm would then route 50% of the communications from CA1 to CA3 through CTS2, and 25% to CA2 and CA3.

The main risk with such routing is that if the main link breaks, we will route most of the traffic there while our data will be lost. The same happens if a widely used node goes down. An attempt to fix this issue may be to add communication between switches in order for them to spot issues and update his informations. This lead us to talk about adaptative routing which takes in account the state of the network.

C. Information needed to an adaptative route

Deciding an adaptative route can be done in two different ways. A router can either have full knowledge of the load on the network, or only knowledge of the load on the links between itself and its neighbors.

In the case where a router only has knowledge of its neighbor links, the same algorithm as the load-balancing one can be used, but considering the remaining capacity of the links, instead of the total capacity.

In the case where a router has full knowledge of the network, a more complex algorithm, such as Dijkstra's algorithm can be used to find the path that has the least least chance of overloading a link in the network.

An adaptative routing strategy eliminates most of the risks mentioned in the previous section, because full knowledge of the network implies that the system will be able to react to a network breakdown.

D. Routing of MTP-3 messages

For the communication between CA1 and CA2, as they are linked, the routing of MTP-3 messages is trivial and as such CA1 transfert the signal data to CA2. The same thing repeats with CA1 and CTS1. In the case where we want to route messages from CA1 to CA3, the MTP-3 messages must first

go through CTSs and as such, we can route them from CA1 to CTS1 for all messages. CTS1, which has a higher view of the network (geographical addressing), and CTS1 directly route those messages to CA3. The scheme used here is a PS-PTS-PS scheme.

E. Call transfer

Consider the aforementioned network, with 3 users U1, U2, and U3, connected resp. to CA1, CA2, and CA3. Let there already be a call between U1 and U2, and let's say that U2 wants to transfer the call to U3. A call transfer protocol can go as follows :

- U2 starts a call with U3, meaning a path is created between CA2 and CA3
- U3 accepts the incoming call from U2, validating the path between CA2 and CA3
- U2 sends a message to its connecting switch CA2 that the call with U1 will be transferred to U3, and quits the call
- CA2 attaches the paths from CA1 to CA2 and CA2 to CA3 to form a single path from CA1 to CA3

III. TOOLS AND MODELS

In order to summarize the previously mentioned routing challenges in the PSTN, we decided to represent a PSTN in Python. As we did not have a need for performance but we wanted to analyze graphs and when we read the project, we thought of modeling this using an object oriented capable programming language. As such, Python seemed to be a good compromise. With our own model, we would then be able to illustrate the routing algorithms, and their reaction to potential failures in the network.

As mentioned in the previous paragraphs, we decided that :

- CTS-CTS links would have an arbitrary capacity of 50
- CTS-CA links would have a capacity of 25
- CA-CA links would have a capacity of 10.

We also decided to generate a geographical addressing that follows this pattern:

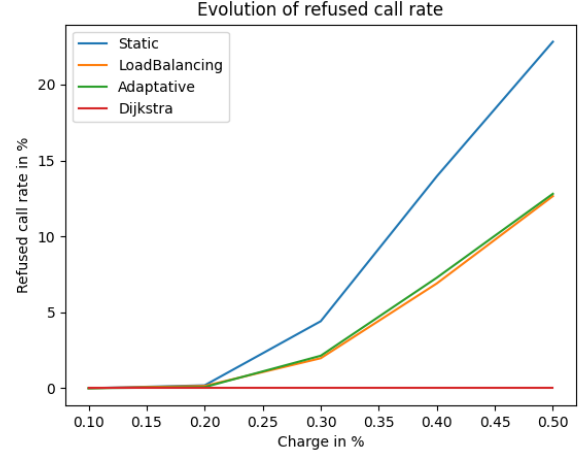
$$X.Y.Z$$

where X is the adress of the CTS, Y is the adress of the CA and Z the adress of the client. For example, a client connected to the CA3 would have 3.3.45 as their adress.

The program of our simulation is organized in 4 files :

- `Commutateur.py` which defines the behavior for the different routing methods on switches
- `User.py` which provides methods to start/end a call given a destination address
- `main.py` is the file in which the network is generated using the previous classes. It then performs different tests on the network.
- `Dijkstra.py` performs the Dijkstra algorithm, with the difference being that the first predecessor of the current node is itself wich allows us to know quickly whether or not we are linked to the destination or the two nodes (the first one and the destination) are non-connex.

IV. RESULTS



V. REFERENCES SECTION