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Emerging Trends in Computer Networks

A COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH REPORT

Nirosh Ravindran | SIT202 –Secure Networking | 02/06/2024

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Introduction

Computer networks are going through a major change in their environment. Three primary topics are driving the move away from static, traditional network architectures and toward a more dynamic, interconnected future: network security, the Internet of Things (IoT), and software-defined networking (SDN). This report explores the core of these developments and how they affect network design, management, and security.

Think about a society in which smart cities are analogous to computer networks! Rather than being inflexible and static, they are as flexible in their programming as traffic lights are in reacting to rush hour. Three fascinating trends will shape networking in the future:

- **Software-Defined Networking (SDN):** consider this as the central command post for the city, handling traffic and ensuring smooth operations.
- **IoT, or the Internet of Things:** This is similar to the city's stores, vehicles, and residences all being networked and communicating with one another! It's a huge network of gadgets that includes smart appliances and fitness trackers.
- **Network security:** Networks require defense against online dangers, just like cities do. This is why they require security cameras and guards. This guarantees the security of our devices and data.

This report dives deeper into these trends, explaining how they're changing the way we build and manage networks, making them more flexible and secure for the future!

Software Defined Networking (SDN)

What is SDN?

A networking design known as Software Defined Networking (SDN) separates the data plane, or the forwarding hardware, from the control plane, or the decision-making logic, in network devices. More effective and adaptable network operations are made possible by this division, which permits centralized control and management of network resources [2].

How SDN differs from traditional networking?

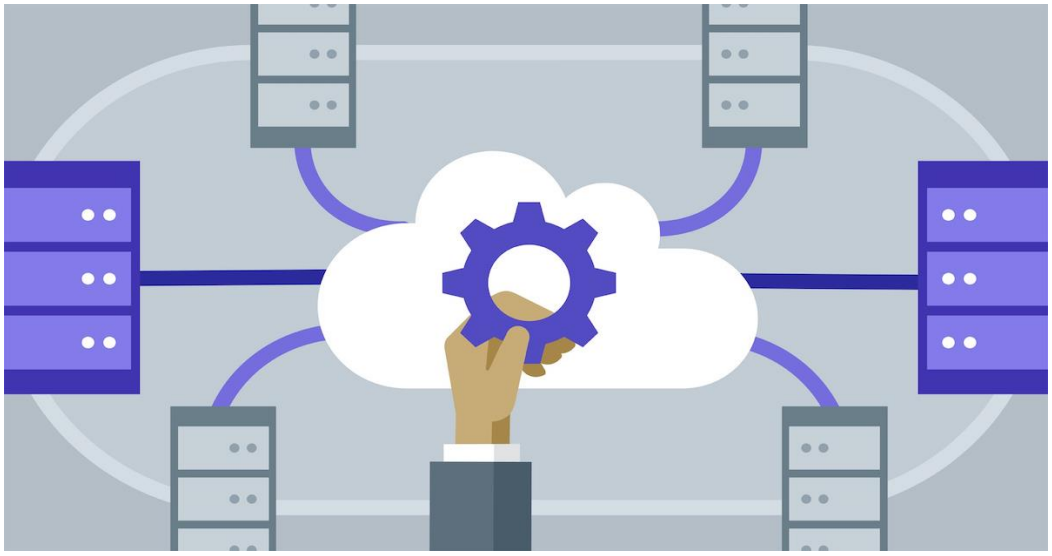
In typical networking, the configuration and routing protocols of specific network devices, such as switches and routers, determine the forwarding decisions that are made. SDN, on the other hand, divides the network's control plane and data plane, enabling a single software controller to oversee the whole structure [3].

Motivation behind SDN

SDN was developed primarily to overcome the drawbacks of conventional networking topologies, including vendor lock-in, complicated management, and stiffness. SDN seeks to facilitate quick innovation and the introduction of new services while streamlining network management and cutting operating costs [4].

Key technologies and concepts

- **SDN Controller:** The main body in charge of setting up networks and enforcing rules [5].
- **Northbound Interface:** The communication protocol that apps use to communicate with the controller [6].
- **Network virtualization:** Several virtual networks can be created using a single physical infrastructure thanks to SDN [7].
- **OpenFlow Protocol:** Enables communication between the SDN controller and network devices [8].
- **Southbound Interface:** Protocol used by the controller to communicate with switches.



Applications of SDN

Network function virtualization (NFV), campus and enterprise networks, data center networking, and service provider networks are just a few of the many uses for SDN [9].

Impact on computer networking landscape

SDN offers the ability to completely transform computer networking by facilitating faster service delivery, easier and more dynamic resource allocation, and network management [10].

Changes required for current networking paradigm

Switching to open standards and software-based control planes from conventional networking hardware and protocols is necessary to implement SDN. Network operators must retrain staff and make investments in equipment and software that supports SDN [11].

Benefits of SDN

- **Flexibility and innovation:** SDN enables the quick implementation of new network services and applications.
- **Centralized management and control:** SDN makes network administration easier and permits quicker configuration changes.
- **Expenses and performance:** The expenses will be reduced with improved performance
- **Vendor-agnostic:** SDN lessens vendor lock-in by separating control from hardware. [2]

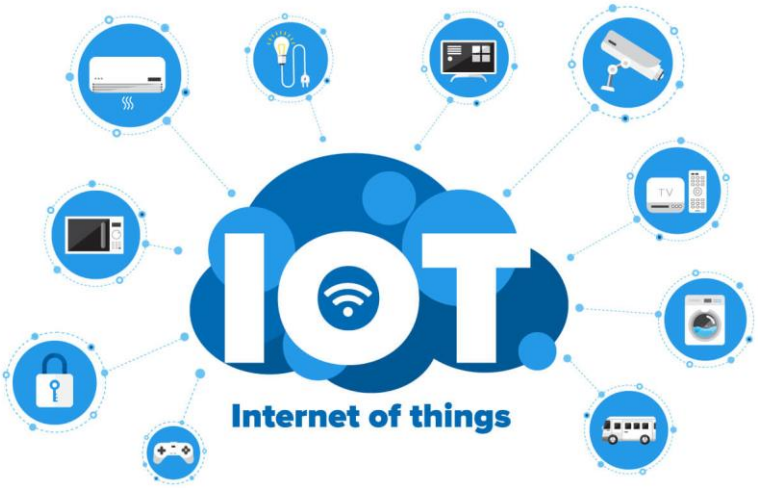
Drawbacks of SDN

- **Security risks:** The centralized control plane may turn into an attack target or a single point of failure.
- **Implementation complexity:** Making the switch to SDN can be challenging, particularly in big, established networks. [13]
- **Immaturity of standards and protocols:** There are still compatibility problems because SDN standards and protocols are still developing. [13]

Internet of Things (IoT)

What is IoT?

The network of physical items, or "things," equipped with sensors, software, and connections that allow them to gather and share data via the internet is known as the Internet of Things (IoT) [14].



How IoT differs from traditional networking?

While Internet of Things (IoT) expands connectivity to everyday things, facilitating data exchange and remote monitoring and control, traditional networking concentrated on linking computers and servers [15].

Motivation behind IoT

IoT is primarily driven by the need to provide smooth integration and communication across different platforms and devices, which will boost productivity, automate processes, and enhance decision-making via data analysis [16].

Key technologies and concepts

- **Sensors and actuators**: Actuators are used by Internet of Things devices to carry out actions, and sensors are used to gather data.
- **Wireless communication methods:** Cellular networks, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, ZigBee, and other wireless protocols are used by Internet of Things devices to connect with one another.
- **cloud computing and data analytics:** IoT data is frequently processed and analyzed in the cloud for insights and decision-making. [17]

Applications of IoT

Smart homes, healthcare, agriculture, transportation, manufacturing, and smart cities are just a few of the many industries and disciplines in which the Internet of Things finds use [18].

Impact on computer networking landscape

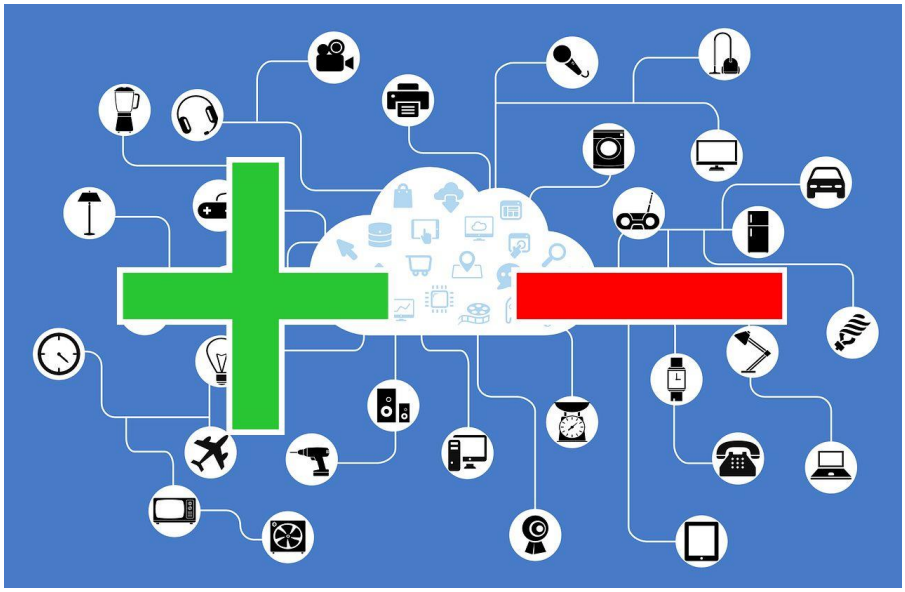
In order to handle the enormous number of connected devices and the enormous volume of data created, the Internet of Things is pushing the demand for more reliable, scalable, and secure computer networks [19].

Changes required for current networking paradigm

Computer networks must change to accommodate the additional traffic, offer better scalability and security, and put in place improved security measures to fend off any threats in order to enable IoT [20].

Benefits of IoT

- **Enhanced productivity and automation:** Internet of Things (IoT) facilitates resource optimization and automated operations.
- **Improved decision-making:** Predictive maintenance and improved decision-making are made possible by IoT data.
- **New business opportunities:** IoT gives many industries access to new sources of income and business models. [21]



Drawbacks of IoT

- **Security and privacy:** These issues are brought on by the large number of linked devices and the transmission of private information.
- **Interoperability issues:** Incompatibilities between various IoT platforms and devices can prevent a smooth integration.
- **Cost and complexity:** Especially for large-scale deployments, setting up and maintaining IoT systems may be expensive and complex. [21]

Network Security

What is network security?

The term "network security" describes the procedures and policies put in place to guard computer networks and their constituent parts against abuse, unapproved access, and online threats [22].

How network security differs from traditional networking?

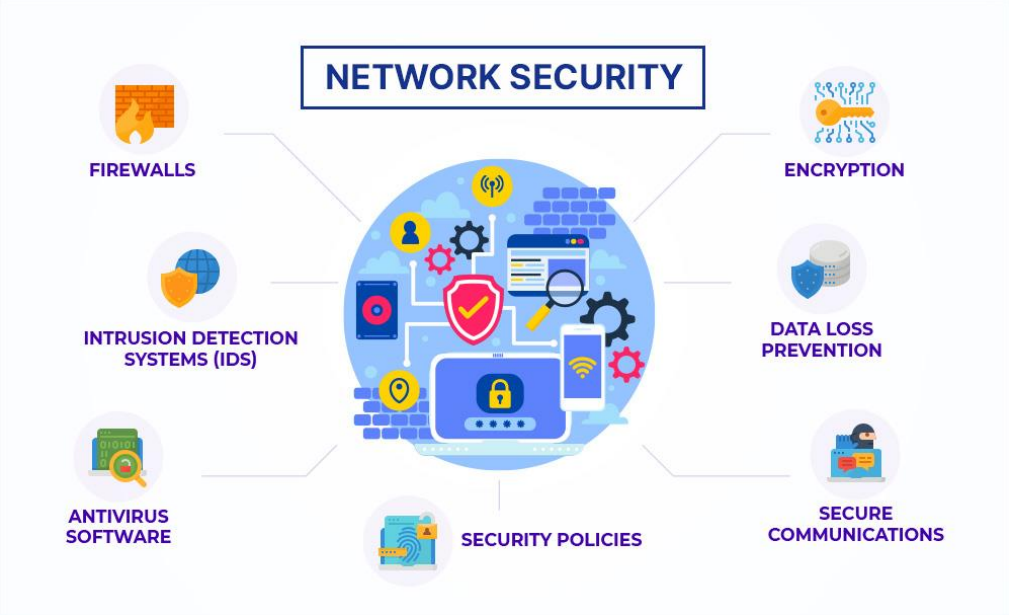
While network security has become increasingly important due to the growing number of cyber threats and the necessity to protect sensitive data and systems, traditional networking mostly focused on connectivity and performance [26].

Motivation behind network security

Protecting computer networks and the data they carry against dangers like cyberattacks, illegal access, and data breaches is the main driving force behind network security [26].

Key technologies and concepts

- **firewalls:** Using established security rules, firewalls are network devices that keep an eye on and regulate both incoming and outgoing network traffic.
- **Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDS/IPS):** These are programs that keep an eye on network traffic, look for malicious activity, and react accordingly.
- **Virtual Private Networks (VPNs):** Encrypted data transmission channels that offer safe remote access to private networks.
- **Encryption and cryptography:** Techniques to secure data transmission and safeguard sensitive information. [25]



Applications of network security

Protecting different kinds of networks, such as critical infrastructure networks, government, financial, and enterprise networks, requires network security [26].

Impact on computer networking landscape

In order to guarantee the privacy, availability, and integrity of data and systems, network security has grown to be a crucial component of computer networking, impacting network architecture, protocols, and operations [27].

Changes required for current networking paradigm

It is frequently necessary to invest in more hardware, software, and human resources when implementing strong network security measures. It could be necessary to modify network protocols and architectures in order to include security measures and counter new threats [28].

Benefits of network security

- **Protection from cyberthreats:** Unauthorized access, data breaches, and cyberattacks are all prevented and lessened by network security measures.
- **Regulation adherence:** Network security assists enterprises in adhering to different data security and protection laws.
- **Reputation and business continuity:** Reputation management and business continuity are both protected by effective network security. [22]

Drawbacks of network security

- **Cost and complexity:** It can be expensive and hard to implement and maintain strong network security measures.
- **Impact on performance:** Network performance may be impacted by certain security measures, including traffic inspection and encryption.
- **Insider threats:** Authorized users with malicious intent or insider threats may be beyond the reach of network security mechanisms. [22]

Conclusion

Three key themes that will influence how computer networking develops in the future are SDN, IoT, and network security. While IoT widens the network landscape with an abundance of linked devices, SDN delivers programmability and agility. For the purpose of safeguarding data and maintaining network integrity, network security is still crucial. These two trends are related: SDN can help with the difficulties of overseeing a large network of IoT devices, and strong security protocols are necessary to safeguard the data that these devices produce. Ongoing study and development in these fields will be essential for creating networks that are safe, effective, and flexible as technology develops.

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