SCTP Sendbuffer Advertising

CS4089 Project End Semester Evaluation

Arpan Kapoor, Deepak Sirone J, K Prasad Krishnan Guided By: Dr. Vinod Pathari Mr. V Anil Kumar, Principal Scientist, CSIR, Bengaluru

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Introduction

- ► Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP):
 - Supports multiple logical channels called streams
 - Multi-homing
- Sendbuffer Advertising:
 - each segment will carry the amount of backlogged data present in the sender's buffer.

Problem Statement

- ► To propose a scheme to
 - advertise sendbuffer occupancy information in SCTP
 - implement it in the Linux kernel and
 - study the performance and security implications of the same.

Prerequisite Terms I

▶ SCTP Packet consists of a common header followed by one or more chunks.

O 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Common Header

Chunk #1

...

Chunk #n

Figure: SCTP Packet Format [6]

Prerequisite Terms II

▶ **SCTP Chunk** is a unit of information within an SCTP packet, consisting of a chunk header and chunk-specific content.

Chunk Type	Chunk Flags	Chunk Length
Chunk Value		

Figure: SCTP Chunk Format [6]

► **Heartbeat Chunk** is used to probe the reachability of a particular destination transport address.

Work Done

- Modified kernel module sctp_probe to measure sendbuffer.
- Explored Linux kernel SCTP implementation.
- Identified parameter to be advertised.

Attempted Solution

- ► Encode the sendbuffer information as a variable length parameter in the Heartbeat chunk.
- ► Problems:
 - ► Can be disabled by upper layer.
 - Is only sent to idle destination addresses.

Design

- ▶ New chunk type with Chunk Type value between 128 to 190.
- Highest order 2 bits determine action to be taken if Chunk Type is unknown.
- This ensures that unmodified hosts won't send a Unrecognized Chunk Type Error chunk upon reception.

Chunk Type | Chunk Flags | Chunk Length | Sendbuffer size

Figure: Proposed Chunk for sendbuffer advertisement

Future Work

- Working prototype in Linux kernel.
- ▶ To build a small testbed with few nodes and SDN routers.
- ▶ Analyze the network performance using the testbed.

References I

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