eBPF extended Barkeley packet filter

Brief Introduction

Bertrone Matteo - Polytechnic of Turin December 2015

BPF vs eBPF - Classic BPF

- BPF Berkeley Packet Filter
- Initially used as socket filter by packet capture tool tcpdump (via libpcap)
- Introduced in Linux in 1997 in kernel version 2.1.75

- Use cases:
- Mainly socket filters (drop or trim packet and pass to user space)
- used by tcpdump/libpcap, wireshark, nmap, dhcp ...

BPF vs eBPF - Extended BPF

- Idea: improve and extend existing BPF infrastructure.
- Programs can be written in C and translated into eBPF.
- New set of patches introduced in the Linux kernel since 3.15 (June 8th, 2014).
- Current Linux kernel version 4.3.99 (November 2015).

- Use Cases:
- Networking (packet filtrering, network traffic control, etc ...)
- Tracing (analytics, monitoring, debugging)

eBPF kernel internals

- Internally: instruction set format with similar underlying principles from BPF.
- This new ISA is called 'eBPF'.
- It is designed to be JITed with one to one mapping.
- It opens up the possibility for GCC/LLVM compilers to generate optimized eBPF code through an eBPF backend that performs almost as fast as natively compiled code.
- Purpose: Write programs in "restricted C" and compile into eBPF, so that it can just-in-time map to modern 64-bit CPUs with minimal performance overhead over two steps:
- C -> eBPF -> native code.

eBPF LLVM back-end

- It's a very small and simple backend.
- There is no support for global variables, arbitrary function calls, floating point, varargs, exceptions, indirect jumps, arbitrary pointer arithmetic, alloca, etc.
- From <u>C front-end point of view it's very restricted</u>.
- It's done on purpose, since kernel rejects all programs that it cannot prove safe.
- It rejects programs with loops and with memory accesses via arbitrary pointers.
- When kernel accepts the program it is guaranteed that program will terminate and will not crash the kernel.

eBPF Maps

- Generic memory allocated.
- Transfer data from userspace to kernel and vice versa.
- key/value storage of different types.
- A map is identified by a file descriptor returned by a bpf() system call that creates the map
- Types of maps: BPF_MAP_TYPE_ARRAY, BPF_MAP_TYPE_HASH
- Share data among many eBPF programs (see next)

eBPF Maps - Example

Mantain a statistic on different traffic type (TCP,UDP,ICMP...)

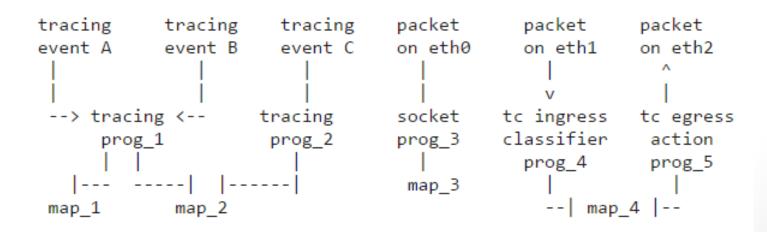
(In efficient way, with a map)

```
1. int bpf_prog1(struct __sk_buff *skb)
2. {
      int index = load byte(skb, ETH HLEN +
3.
            offsetof(struct iphdr, protocol));
                                                       //load in index protocol of current pkt
      long *value;
     value = bpf_map_lookup_elem(&my_map, &index);
                                                        //lookup in bpf map (my map)
8.
     if (value)
           __sync_fetch_and_add(value, 1);
                                                         //increment counter for current protocol
9.
10.
       return 0;
11.}
```

eBPF Maps sharing

eBPF programs can be attached to different events.

These events can be the arrival of network packets, tracing events, classification events by network queueing disciplines (for eBPF programs attached to a tc(8) classifier), and other types that may be added in the future. A new event triggers execution of the eBPF program, which may store information about the event in eBPF maps. Beyond storing data, eBPF programs may call a fixed set of in-kernel helper functions. The same eBPF program can be attached to multiple events and different eBPF programs can access the same map:



eBPF Function Calls

- It's possible to use map index as function pointer and use it to jump to other ebpf functions.
- https://github.com/iovisor/bcc/tree/master/examples/networking/tunnel monitor

```
1. /*from tunnel_monitor/monitor.c*/
2. BPF_TABLE("prog", int, int, parser, 10);  //initialize map of type prog
3. ...
4. int handle_ingress(struct __sk_buff *skb) {
5. ...
6. parser.call(skb, 1);  // jump to function 1, using pointer present in map
7. ...
8. }
9. int handle_egress(struct __sk_buff *skb) {
10. ...
11. parser.call(skb, 2);  //jump to function 2, using pointer present in map
12. ...
13. }
```

```
1. # from tunnel_monitor/monitor.py
2. outer_fn = b.load_func("handle_outer", BPF.SCHED_CLS) #load bpf function
3. inner_fn = b.load_func("handle_inner", BPF.SCHED_CLS) #load bpf function
4.
5. # using jump table for inner and outer packet split
6. parser = b.get_table("parser") #retrieve map handle
7. parser[c_int(1)] = c_int(outer_fn.fd) #populate map with function pointers
8. parser[c_int(2)] = c_int(inner_fn.fd) #populate map with function pointers
```

BCC - BPF Compiler Collection

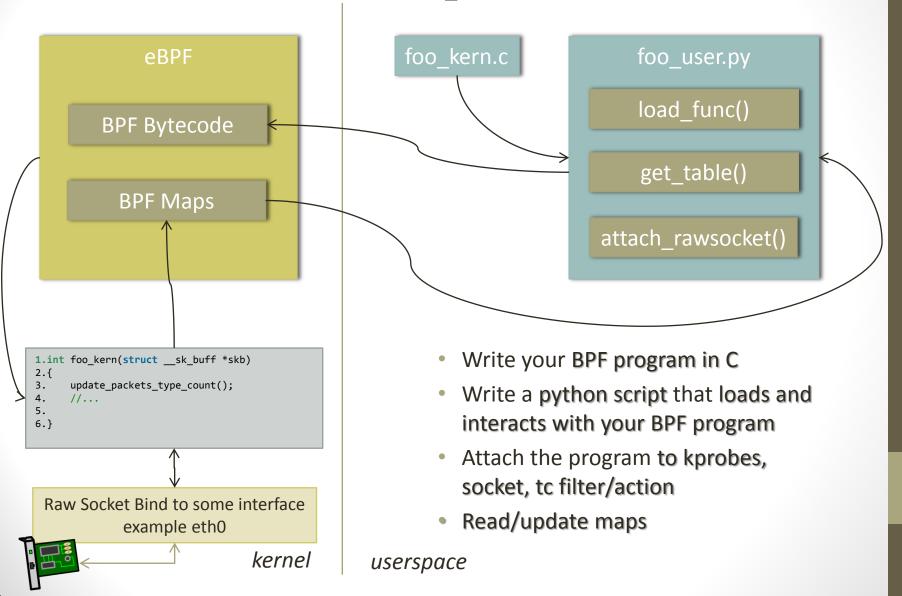


https://github.com/iovisor/bcc

BCC - BPF Compiler Collection

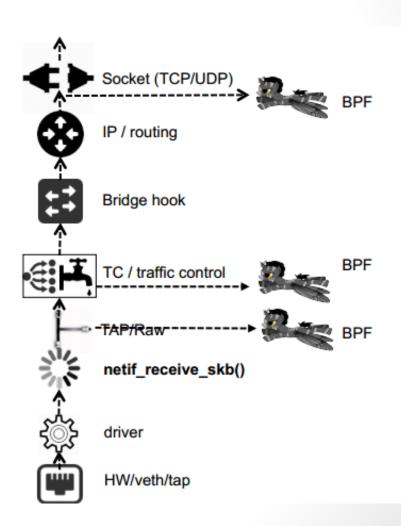
- BCC is a toolkit for creating efficient kernel tracing and manipulation programs.
- BCC makes eBPF programs easier to write, with kernel instrumentation in C and a front-end in Python. It is suited for many tasks, including performance analysis, network traffic control and packet filtering.

BCC - BPF Compiler Collection



eBPF & Networking Hooking into Linux networking stack

- BPF programs can attach to sockets or the traffic control (TC) subsystem, kprobes, syscalls, tracepoints ...
- sockets: STREAM (L4/TCP),
 DATAGRAM (L4/UDP) or RAW (TC)
- This allows to hook at different levels of the Linux networking stack, providing the ability to act on traffic that has or hasn't been processed already by other pieces of the stack
- Opens up the possibility to implement network functions at different layers of the stack



eBPF Retrieving Data

How userspace program can retrieve data from eBPF program running in in-kernel vm?

- Can read the <debugfs>/trace_pipe file from userspace (BCC wrap it to bpf_trace_printk()).Debug solution, not stable.
- Can retrieve registers values (they are the ctx)
- Can read/write from maps
- Filtered packets, read from socket

eBPF Limitation and Safety

- Max 4096 instructions per program
- Stage 1 reject program if:
 - Loops and cyclic flow structure
 - Unreachable instructions
 - Bad jumps
- Stage 2 Static code analyzer:
 - Evaluate each path/instruction while keeping track of regs and stack states
 - Arguments validity in calls

eBPF – Some basic functions

```
1. BPF FUNC map lookup elem, /* void *map lookup elem(&map, &kev) */
2. BPF FUNC map update elem, /* int map update elem(&map, &key, &value, flags) */
3. BPF FUNC map delete elem, /* int map delete elem(&map, &key) */
4. BPF FUNC probe read, /* int bpf probe read(void *dst, int size, void *src) */
5. BPF FUNC ktime get ns, /* u64 bpf ktime get ns(void) */
6. BPF FUNC trace printk, /* int bpf trace printk(const char *fmt, int fmt size, ...
7. BPF FUNC get prandom u32, /* u32 prandom u32(void) */
8. BPF FUNC get smp processor id, /* u32 raw smp processor id(void) */
9. BPF FUNC skb store bytes, /*store bytes into packet*/
10.BPF FUNC 13 csum replace, /* recompute IP checksum*/
11.BPF FUNC 14 csum replace, /*recompute TCP/UDP checksum*/
12.BPF FUNC tail call, /*jump into another BPF program*/
13.BPF FUNC clone redirect, /*redirect to another netdev*/
14.BPF FUNC get current pid tgid, /*get current pid*/
15.BPF_FUNC_get_current_uid_gid, /*get current uid*/
16.BPF_FUNC_skb_vlan_push, /* bpf_skb_vlan_push(skb, vlan_proto, vlan_tci) */
17.BPF_FUNC_skb_vlan_pop, /* bpf_skb_vlan_pop(skb) */
18.BPF FUNC perf event read, /* u64 bpf perf event read(&map, index) */
19.BPF FUNC redirect, /*redirect to another netdev*/
```

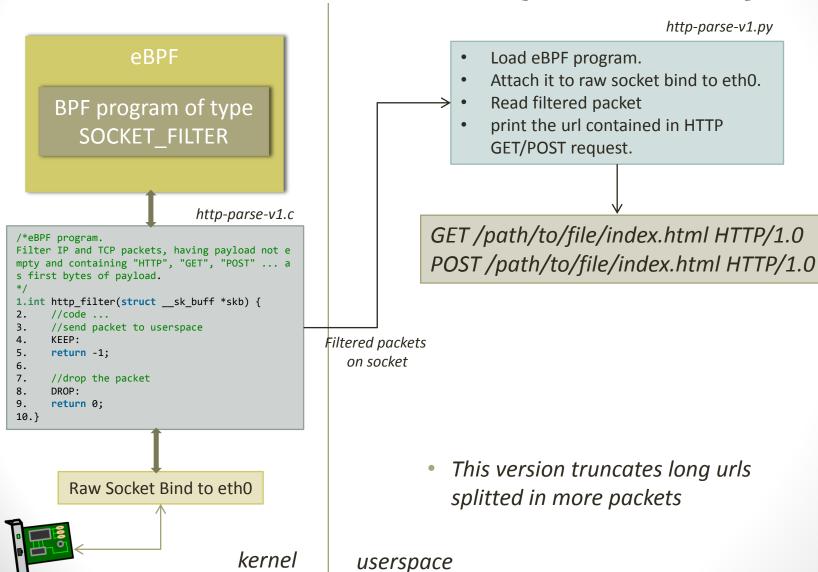
Application-layer traffic processing with eBPF

Bertrone Matteo - Polytechnic of Turin December 2015

Project purpose

The eBPF has been recently proposed as an extension of the BPF virtual machine, defined many years ago and still used for packet filtering. The eBPF comes with additional features (e.g., more powerful virtual machines) as well as an accompanying compiler (LLVM) that can generate directly eBPF code. Furthermore, eBPF is now part of the standard Linux kernel, named as "BPF".

- This project aims at:
 - studying the architecture of the eBPF
 - evaluating the possible applications of the eBPF (e.g., through the available samples) and its degree of interaction with the LLVM compiler
 - making a proof of concept of an eBPF application that parses HTTP packets and extracts (and prints on screen) the URL contained in the GET/POST request.



eBPF BPF program of type SOCKET FILTER **BPF** session Map http-parse-v2.c /*eBPF program. Filter IP and TCP packets, having payload not empty and containing "HTTP", "GET", "POST" as first bytes of payload AND ALL the other packets having same (src_ip,dst_ip,src_port,dst_port) this means belonging to the same "session". this additional check avoids url truncation, if url is too long userspace script, if necessary, reassembles urls splitted in more packets. 1.int http_filter(struct __sk_buff *skb) { //code ... //send packet to userspace KEEP: return -1; //drop the packet 7. DROP: return 0; 9.} Raw Socket Bind to eth0 kernel

Load eBPF program.
 Attach it to raw socket bind to eth0.
 Initialize sessions Map.

 Key:(ip_src,ip_dst,port_src,port_dst)
 Value: timestamp

 Read filtered packet (all packets of HTTP session)
 Perform some check to eventually reassemble splitted packets.
 print the url contained in HTTP GET/POST request.

Filtered packets
on socket

GET /path/to/file/index.html HTTP/1.0 POST /path/to/file/index.html HTTP/1.0

 This version solve the problem of long urls splitted in more packets

userspace

```
1.struct Key {
    u32 src ip;
                             //source ip
3. u32 dst ip;
                          //destination ip
4. unsigned short src port; //source port
     unsigned short dst port; //destination port
6.};
7.
8.struct Leaf {
      int timestamp;
                      //timestamp in ns
10.};
11.
12.//BPF TABLE(map type, key type, leaf type, table name, num entry)
13.//map <Key, Leaf>
14.//tracing sessions having same Key(dst ip, src ip, dst port,src port)
15.BPF TABLE("hash", struct Key, struct Leaf, sessions, 1024);
16.
17.int http filter(struct sk buff *skb) {
18.
19.
       struct ethernet t *ethernet = cursor advance(cursor, sizeof(*ethernet));
      //filter IP packets (ethernet type = 0x0800)
20.
21.
       if (!(ethernet->type == 0x0800)){
22.
           goto DROP;
23.
24.
25.
       struct ip t *ip = cursor advance(cursor, sizeof(*ip));
26.
      //filter TCP packets (ip next protocol = 0x06)
27.
       if (ip->nextp != IP TCP) {
28.
           goto DROP;
29.
30.
31.
      //retrieve ip src/dest and port src/dest of current packet
32.
      //and save it into struct Key
33.
       key.dst ip = ip->dst;
34.
       key.src ip = ip->src;
35.
       key.dst port = tcp->dst port;
       key.src_port = tcp->src_port;
```

```
1. //find a match with an HTTP message
2.
      //HTTP
3.
      if ( (payload array[0] == 'H') \& (payload array[1] == 'T') \& (payload array[2] == 'T') \& (payload array[3] == 'P'))
4.
          goto HTTP MATCH;
5.
      }
6.
      //GET
      if ( (payload array[0] == 'G') \&\& (payload array[1] == 'E') \&\& (payload array[2] == 'T') ){
7.
8.
          goto HTTP MATCH;
9.
      }
       //POST
10.
       if ( (payload array[0] == 'P') \&\& (payload array[1] == '0') \&\& (payload array[2] == 'S') \&\& (payload array[3] == 'T')){}
11.
12.
           goto HTTP MATCH;
13.
       }
14.
15.
       //no HTTP match
16.
       //check if packet belong to an HTTP session
17.
       struct Leaf * lookup leaf = sessions.lookup(&key);
18.
       if(lookup leaf){
19.
           //send packet to userspace
20.
           goto KEEP;
21.
       }
22.
       goto DROP;
23.
24.
       //keep the packet and send it to userspace retruning -1
25.
       HTTP MATCH:
26.
       //if not already present, insert into map <Key, Leaf>
27.
       leaf.timestamp = 0;
       sessions.lookup or init(&key, &leaf);
28.
       sessions.update(&key,&leaf);
29.
30.
31.
       //send packet to userspace returning -1
32.
       KEEP:
33.
       return -1;
34.
35.
       //drop the packet returning 0
36.
       DROP:
37.
       return 0;
38.
39.}
```

```
1.# initialize BPF - load source code from http-parse.c
2.bpf = BPF(src file = "http-parse-v2.c",debug = 0)
4.#load eBPF program http filter of type SOCKET FILTER into the kernel eBPF vm
5.#more info about eBPF program types
6.#http://man7.org/linux/man-pages/man2/bpf.2.html
7.function http filter = bpf.load func("http filter", BPF.SOCKET FILTER)
8.
9.#create raw socket, bind it to eth0
10.#attach bpf program to socket created
11.BPF.attach raw socket(function http filter, "eth0")
12.
13.#get file descriptor of the socket previously created inside BPF.attach raw socket
14. socket fd = function http filter.sock
15.
16.#create python socket object, from the file descriptor
17.sock = socket.fromfd(socket fd,socket.PF PACKET,socket.SOCK RAW,socket.IPPROTO IP)
18.#set it as blocking socket
19.sock.setblocking(True)
20.
21.#get pointer to bpf map of type hash
22.bpf sessions = bpf.get table("sessions")
23.
24.#packets counter
25.packet count = 0
26.
27.#dictionary containing association <key(ipsrc,ipdst,portsrc,portdst),payload string>
28.#if url is not entirely contained in only one packet, save the firt part of it in this local dict
29. #when I find \r\n in a next pkt, append and print all the url
30.local dictionary = {}
```

```
1. #retrieve raw packet from socket
   packet str = os.read(socket fd,4096) #set packet lenght to max packet lenght on the interface
   packet count += 1
   #convert packet into bytearray
   packet bytearray = bytearray(packet str)
7.
8. #ethernet header length
9. ETH HLEN = 14
10.
11. #IP HEADER
12. #https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc791
13. # 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
15. # | Version | IHL | Type of Service | Total Length
17. #
18. #IHL: Internet Header Length is the length of the internet header
19. #value to multiply * 4 byte
20. #e.g. IHL = 5 ; IP Header Length = 5 * 4 byte = 20 byte
21. #
22. #Total Lenght: This 16-bit field defines the entire packet size,
#including header and data, in bytes.
24.
25. #calculate packet total lenght
26. total_lenght = packet_bytearray[ETH_HLEN + 2]
                                                          #load MSB
27. total lenght = total lenght << 8
                                                          #shift MSB
28. total lenght = total lenght + packet bytearray[ETH HLEN+3] #add LSB
29.
30. #calculate ip header lenght
31. ip_header_length = packet_bytearray[ETH HLEN]
                                                          #load Byte
32. ip header length = ip header length & 0x0F
                                                          #mask bits 0..3
33. ip header length = ip header length << 2
                                                          #shift to obtain lenght
34.
35. #retrieve ip source/dest
36. ip_src_str = packet_str[ETH_HLEN+12:ETH_HLEN+16]
                                                             #ip source offset 12..15
37. ip dst str = packet str[ETH HLEN+16:ETH HLEN+20]
                                                             #ip dest offset 16..19
38.
39. ip src = int(toHex(ip src str),16)
40. ip dst = int(toHex(ip dst str),16)
```

```
2. #https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc793.txt
                     13
                                                    15
   # 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
   |U|A|P|R|S|F|
       Offset| Reserved |R|C|S|S|Y|I|
                                                Window
                         |G|K|H|T|N|N|
10. #
11. #Data Offset: This indicates where the data begins.
12. #The TCP header is an integral number of 32 bits long.
13. #value to multiply * 4 byte
14. #e.g. DataOffset = 5 ; TCP Header Length = 5 * 4 byte = 20 byte
15.
16. #calculate tcp header lenght
17. tcp header lenght = packet bytearray[ETH HLEN + ip header length + 12] #load Byte
18. tcp header lenght = tcp header lenght & 0xF0
                                                                         #mask bit 4..7
19. tcp header lenght = tcp header lenght >> 2
                                                                         #SHR 4 ; SHL 2 -> SHR 2
20.
21. #retrieve port source/dest
22. port src str = packet str[ETH HLEN+ip header length:ETH HLEN+ip header length+2]
23. port dst str = packet str[ETH HLEN+ip header length+2:ETH HLEN+ip header length+4]
24.
25. port src = int(toHex(port src str),16)
    port dst = int(toHex(port_dst_str),16)
27.
28. #calculate payload offset
    payload offset = ETH HLEN + ip header length + tcp header lenght
30.
    #payload string contains only packet payload
    payload string = packet str[(payload offset):(len(packet bytearray))]
33.
34. #CR + LF (substring to find)
35. crlf = "\r\n"
36.
37. #current Key contains ip source/dest and port source/map
38. #useful for direct bpf sessions map access

 current Key = bpf sessions.Key(ip src,ip dst,port src,port dst)
```

```
2. if ((payload string[:3] == "GET") or (payload string[:4] == "POST") or (payload string[:4] == "HTTP") \
3. or (payload_string[:3] == "PUT") or (payload_string[:6] == "DELETE") or (payload_string[:4] == "HEAD") ):
     #match: HTTP GET/POST packet found
    if (crlf in payload string):
6.
       #url entirely contained in first packet -> print it all
       printUntilCRLF(payload string)
7.
8.
       #delete current Key from bpf sessions, url already printed. current session not useful anymore
9.
10.
       try:
11.
          del bpf sessions[current Key]
12.
13.
          print ("error during delete from bpf map ")
14.
        #url NOT entirely contained in first packet
15.
16.
        #not found \r\n in payload.
17.
        #save current part of the payload_string in dictionary <key(ips,ipd,ports,portd),payload_string>
18.
        local dictionary[binascii.hexlify(current Key)] = payload string
19. else:
20.
      #NO match: HTTP GET/POST NOT found
21.
      #check if the packet belong to a session saved in bpf sessions
23.
      if (current_Key in bpf_sessions):
        #check id the packet belong to a session saved in local dictionary
24.
        #(local dictionary mantains HTTP GET/POST url not printed yet because splitted in N packets)
25.
26.
        if (binascii.hexlify(current Key) in local dictionary):
27.
          #first part of the HTTP GET/POST url is already present in local dictionary (prev_payload_string)
          prev payload string = local dictionary[binascii.hexlify(current Key)]
28.
          #looking for CR+LF in current packet.
29.
30.
          if (crlf in payload string):
31.
            #last packet. containing last part of HTTP GET/POST url splitted in N packets.
32.
            #append current payload
33.
            prev_payload_string += payload_string
            #print HTTP GET/POST url
34.
35.
            printUntilCRLF(prev_payload_string)
36.
            #clean bpf sessions & local dictionary
37.
            try:
              del bpf sessions[current Key]
38.
39.
              del local_dictionary[binascii.hexlify(current_Key)]
40.
            except:
              print ("error deleting from map or dictionary")
41.
42.
          else:
43.
            #NOT last packet. containing part of HTTP GET/POST url splitted in N packets.
44.
            #append current payload
45.
            prev payload string += payload string
46.
            #check if not size exceeding (usually HTTP GET/POST url < 8K )</pre>
47.
            if (len(prev payload string) > MAX URL STRING LEN):
              print("url too long")
48.
49.
              try:
50.
                del bpf_sessions[current_Key]
                del local dictionary[binascii.hexlify(current Key)]
51.
52.
                print ("error deleting from map or dict")
53.
54.
            #update dictionary
            local dictionary[binascii.hexlify(current Key)] = prev payload string
55.
56.
          #first part of the HTTP GET/POST url is NOT present in local dictionary
57.
          #bpf sessions contains invalid entry -> delete it
58.
59.
          try:
60.
            del bpf_sessions[current_Key]
61.
          except:
            nrint ("error del hnf session")
```

1.#looking for HTTP GET/POST request

```
1.CLEANUP N PACKETS = 50
                                #run cleanup every CLEANUP N PACKETS packets received
2.MAX URL STRING LEN = 8192
                                #max url string len (usually 8K)
3.MAX AGE SECONDS
                     = 30
                                #max age entry in bpf sessions map
5.#cleanup function
6.def cleanup():
      #get current time in seconds
      current time = int(time.time())
9.
      #looking for leaf having:
     #timestap == 0
                              --> update with current timestamp
10.
11.
      #AGE > MAX AGE SECONDS --> delete item
       for key,leaf in bpf sessions.items():
12.
13.
        try:
14.
           current leaf = bpf sessions[key]
           #set timestamp if timestamp == 0
15.
16.
           if (current leaf.timestamp == 0):
             bpf sessions[key] = bpf sessions.Leaf(current time)
17.
18.
           else:
19.
             #delete older entries
             if (current time - current leaf.timestamp > MAX AGE SECONDS):
20.
21.
               del bpf sessions[key]
22.
         except:
23.
           print("cleanup exception.")
24.
       return
25.
26.#check if dirty entry are present in bpf sessions
27. if (((packet count) % CLEANUP N PACKETS) == 0):
28.
       cleanup()
```

Project Code Links

https://github.com/netgroup-polito/ebpf-test

Conclusions

- EBPF is very powerful for some specific kind of analysis and processing. For Example statistics on traffic type, traffic control, kernel events and performance analysis etc...
- In my case (Application-layer traffic) some constraints on eBPF language forced me to split this type of analysis in part in eBPF and in part in userspace.
- This hybrid approach is the only way because I can't perform complex HTTP payload analysis inside ebpf program, mainly because of limitations on string operation.

eBPF Usecases & Examples

Some eBPF example using BCC (from https://github.com/iovisor/bcc)

- tools/tcpaccept: Trace TCP passive connections (accept()).
- tools/tcpconnect:Trace TCP active connections (connect()).
- <u>examples/distributed bridge/</u>: Distributed bridge example.
- <u>examples/simple_tc.py:</u> Simple traffic control example.
- <u>examples/tc neighbor sharing.py</u>: Per-IP classification and rate limiting.
- <u>examples/tunnel monitor/</u>: Efficiently monitor traffic flows.
- examples/vlan learning.py: Demux Ethernet traffic into worker veth+namespaces.

Links

- https://github.com/iovisor/bcc
- https://github.com/iovisor/bpf-docs
- http://lwn.net/Articles/603984/
- http://lwn.net/Articles/603983/
- https://lwn.net/Articles/625224/
- https://www.kernel.org/doc/Documentation/networking/filter.txt
- http://man7.org/linux/man-pages/man2/bpf.2.html
- https://linuxplumbersconf.org/2015/ocw//system/presentations/3249/original/bpf_llvm_2015aug19.pdf
- https://videos.cdn.redhat.com/summit2015/presentations/13737 an-overview-of-linux-networking-subsystem-extended-bpf.pdf
- https://github.com/torvalds/linux/tree/master/samples/bpf
- https://suchakra.wordpress.com/2015/05/18/bpf-internals-i/
- https://suchakra.wordpress.com/2015/08/12/bpf-internals-ii/
- http://events.linuxfoundation.org/sites/events/files/slides/tracing-linux-ezannoni-linuxcon-ja-2015 0.pdf