COMP3310/COMP6331 – Computer Networks

Assignment 3 – Testing MQTT

1. Subscribe to some broker, you can use any mqtt client you like for this, to retrieve some \$SYS/# value. Wireshark the handshake for one example of each of the differing QoS-levels (0,1,2), include screenshots in your report that show the wireshark capture (filter for mqtt), and briefly explain how each QoS transfer works, and what it implies for message duplication and message order. Discuss briefly in your report in which circumstances would you choose each QoS level, and offer an example of a sensor that would use each of them. [around 1 page]

During the communication between mqtt client and mqtt broker, mqtt protocol has a Quality of Service (QoS) specification function while communicating. The Quality of Service (QoS) is an agreement between the mqtt client which in this case can be Publisher (Client who send some messages in some topics) and Subscribe (Client who subscribe to some topics) which defines the level that those messages will be delivered. There are 3 levels of QoS in mqtt.

First, QoS level 0 – at most once (The HiveMQ Team, 2015)

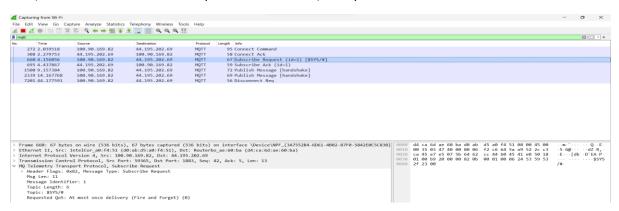


Figure 1: QoS 0 subscribe.

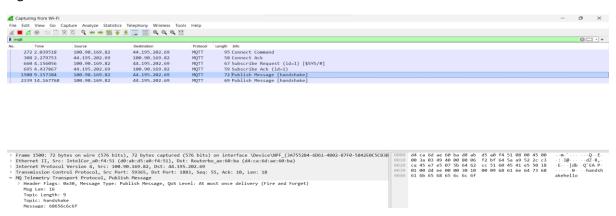


Figure 2: QoS 0 publish.

QoS level 0 is the lowest level services which not guaranteed that the receiver will get the publishing messages. The broker will not store the publishing messages on this QoS levels that labelling flag as Fire and Forget which acknowledges and immediately flush out this message to the subscribers. Subscriber might not retrieve the message but in trade off with the speed.

QoS 0 circumstances criteria (Steve, 2022):

- The communication between publisher, subscriber and broker are held on the private network area such as LAN or personal home server which have a stable connection.
- The sending messages are not at high priority, messages losses are acceptable.
- Messages are not required to send or receive in order or perfect queuing.

Secondly, QoS level 1 – at least once (The HiveMQ Team, 2015)

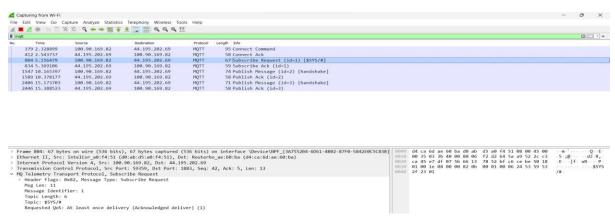


Figure 3: QoS 1 subscribe.

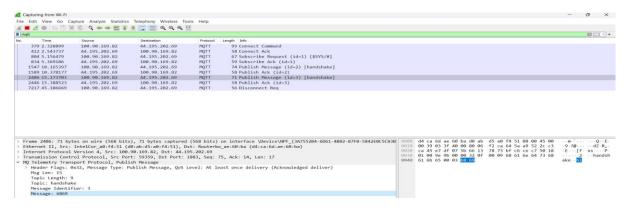


Figure 4: QoS 1 publish.

QoS level 1 guarantees that the messages will receive by subscribers "at least once" which in some circumstances it might causes the duplication of the delivered messages due to the method behind this QoS level which is broker will provide the PUBACK packages which in the figure 4 is id 2 or id 3 when the messages is published to remind the publisher that the receiver got the messages. In addition, the duplication messages event might occur because the delay of PUBACK packages to acknowledges the publisher.

QoS 1 circumstances criteria (The HiveMQ Team, 2015):

- The duplication of messages is acceptable which trade off in speed compared to QoS 2
- The guaranteed messages acknowledgement on subscriber, and it can handle the duplicate data

Consequently, QoS level 2 – exactly once (The HiveMQ Team, 2015)

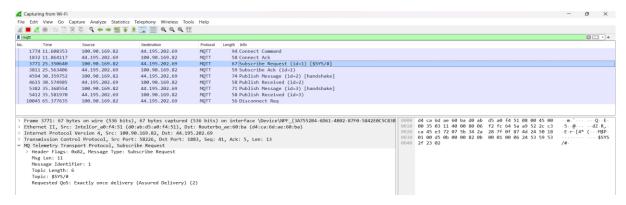


Figure 5: QoS 2 subscribe.

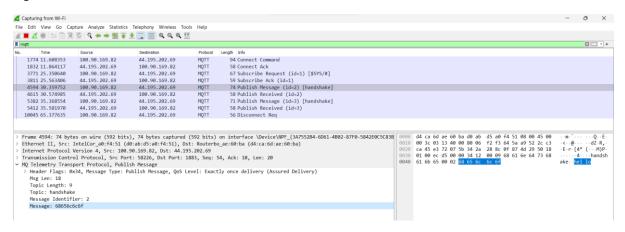
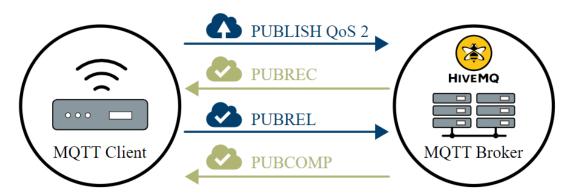


Figure 6: QoS 2 publish.

QoS level 2 is the most robustness communication level in Mqtt which the messages are guaranteed that the subscriber will receive exactly once messages due to four handshake behind the mqtt level 2 protocol which receiver will reply on the messages as PUBREC packages which in QoS 1 if it caught delay publisher will re send the message again which cause some duplication, but in case if the receiver collect the right data publisher will acknowledge PUBREL package to drop off all duplicated messages and acknowledge back to publisher with PUBCOMP packages for finish discarding unnecessary message and perfectly receive the right information as the picture below.



MQTT Quality of Service level 2: delivery exactly once

Figure 7: QoS 2 4 handshake

QoS 2 circumstances criteria (The HiveMQ Team, 2015):

- Required a precise delivering messages because message duplication might cause negative consequences.
- Perfect queuing messages due to slow and precise communication

Real world use cases for each QoS level (Susie Cheong, 2022)

QoS level 0 is suitable for some sensors in smart home due to the requirement on the stable connection and the chances on messages loss such as humidity, pressure, temperature sensors which normally used in smart home or sensor that use for counting people in the grocery store.

QoS level 1 is a high speed which guaranteed the message will be received with some issues on messages duplication mostly used in driving such as fasten seat belt sign alert sensor due to repeatedly warn driver to response.

QoS level 2 is the most robust and precise communication level which usually appear on the industry that need to automate with the perfect queue and correct data. For instance, robotic industry for precise move action.

- 2. Run your Analyser against your partner's broker, have it tell the broker (and so their Controller) what you want their Publisher to send, and record information for 1 minute for each set of the qos/delay/instance-count parameters.
 (Tips: (i) only print to screen for debugging, otherwise it will slow your code down a lot. (ii) Check with the broker owner what delay there might be between your request and their publisher responding. (iii) Use the counter values to tell you what messages are arriving, or are not arriving as expected, and what values they start/stop at when you subscribe to calculate the rates below. (iv) try publishing at a very low rate (i.e. high-delay) to start with, to check your code)
- Collect statistics, for each instance-count, delay and QoS level, and measure over the 1minute period:

In the question 2, this analyzer was operating with another colleague mqtt broker local host (mosquitto) on personal hotspot. In addition, this analyzer also implements and test with the public broker (emqx) but will discuss on question 3. The analyzer was run with 60 second.

Friend 1 instance count

Instance 1 / QoS 0

QoS 0	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	2367.483333	0	0	4.19E-04	0
0.01 s	63.76666667	0.03	0	0.015543268	0.016
0.02 s	32.01666667	0.05	0	0.031038542	0.031
0.04 s	21.3	0.08	0	0.046642913	0.047
0.08 s	10.65	0.16	0	0.093163009	0.094
0.16 s	5.816666667	0.29	0	0.171247126	0.172
0.32 s	3.05	0.55	0	0.326582418	0.328

Instance 1 / QoS 1

QoS 1	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	2778.816667	0	0	3.57E-04	0
0.01 s	63.86666667	0.03	0	0.015543461	0.016
0.02 s	31.86666667	0.05	0	0.031094715	0.031
0.04 s	21.23333333	0.08	0	0.046666143	0.047
0.08 s	10.63333333	0.16	0	0.093210361	0.094
0.16 s	5.816666667	0.29	0	0.170752874	0.172
0.32 s	3.05	0.55	0	0.326489011	0.328

Instance 1 / QoS 2

QoS 2	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	1736.183333	0	0	5.70E-04	0
0.01 s	63.73333333	0.03	0	0.015539105	0.016
0.02 s	31.85	0.05	0	0.03107801	0.031
0.04 s	21.25	0.08	0	0.046616954	0.047
0.08 s	10.6	0.16	0	0.093233071	0.094
0.16 s	5.8	0.29	0	0.170974063	0.172
0.32 s	3.033333333	0.55	0	0.326657459	0.328

Friend 2 instance count

Instance 1 / QoS 0

QoS 0/1	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	1899.883333	0	0	5.21E-04	0
0.01 s	63.98333333	0.03	0	0.015555758	0.016
0.02 s	31.91666667	0.05	0	0.031078892	0.031
0.04 s	21.3	0.08	0	0.046617854	0.047
0.08 s	10.63333333	0.16	0	0.093185243	0.094
0.16 s	5.8	0.29	0	0.171020173	0.172
0.32 s	3.05	0.55	0	0.326582418	0.328

Instance 2 / QoS 0

QoS 0/2	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	1928.866667	0	0	5.13E-04	0
0.01 s	63.98333333	0.03	0	0.015555758	0.016
0.02 s	31.91666667	0.05	0	0.031078892	0.031
0.04 s	21.3	0.08	0	0.046617854	0.047
0.08 s	10.63333333	0.16	0	0.093185243	0.094
0.16 s	5.816666667	0.29	0	0.170977011	0.172
0.32 s	3.05	0.55	0	0.326576923	0.328

Instance 1 / QoS 1

QoS 1/1	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	1347.633333	0	0	7.36E-04	0
0.01 s	63.11666667	0.03	0	0.015558901	0.016
0.02 s	31.65	0.05	0	0.031101686	0.031
0.04 s	21.15	0.08	0	0.046628549	0.04
0.08 s	10.63333333	0.16	0	0.093210361	0.094
0.16 s	5.816666667	0.29	0	0.170931034	0.172
0.32 s	3.033333333	0.55	0	0.32639779	0.328

Instance 2 / QoS 1

QoS 1/2	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	1361.383333	0	0	7.29E-04	0
0.01 s	63.13333333	0.03	0	0.015558754	0.016
0.02 s	31.65	0.05	0	0.031101686	0.031
0.04 s	21.16666667	0.08	0	0.046628842	0.04
0.08 s	10.63333333	0.16	0	0.093210361	0.094
0.16 s	5.816666667	0.29	0	0.170931034	0.172
0.32 s	3.033333333	0.55	0	0.32639779	0.328

Instance 1 / QoS 2

QoS 2/1	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	765.2333333	0	0	1.28E-03	0
0.01 s	63.65	0.03	0	0.015563646	0.016
0.02 s	31.51666667	0.05	0	0.031133862	0.031
0.04 s	20.85	0.08	0	0.046912	0.047
0.08 s	10.51666667	0.16	0	0.093253968	0.094
0.16 s	5.766666667	0.29	0	0.17106087	0.172
0.32 s	3	0.56	0	0.326731844	0.328

Instance 2/ QoS 2

QoS 2/2	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	746.3833333	0	0	1.31E-03	0
0.01 s	63.66666667	0.03	0	0.01556376	0.016
0.02 s	31.51666667	0.05	0	0.031133862	0.031
0.04 s	20.83333333	0.08	0	0.04696237	0.047
0.08 s	10.51666667	0.16	0	0.093253968	0.094
0.16 s	5.766666667	0.29	0	0.17106087	0.172
0.32 s	3	0.56	0	0.326642458	0.328

Friend 3 instance count

Instance 1 / QoS 0

QoS 0/1	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	1353.183333	0	0	7.30E-04	0
0.01 s	63.31666667	0.03	0	0.015604265	0.016
0.02 s	31.9	0.05	0	0.031143753	0.031
0.04 s	21.21666667	0.08	0	0.046764151	0.047
0.08 s	10.63333333	0.16	0	0.093653061	0.094
0.16 s	5.75	0.29	0	0.17105814	0.172
0.32 s	3.033333333	0.55	0	0.326657459	0.328

Instance 2 / QoS 0

QoS 0/2	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	1350.916667	0	0	7.31E-04	0
0.01 s	63.33333333	0.03	0	0.015600158	0.016
0.02 s	31.88333333	0.05	0	0.031151674	0.031
0.04 s	21.21666667	0.08	0	0.04677673	0.047
0.08 s	10.63333333	0.16	0	0.093653061	0.094
0.16 s	5.75	0.29	0	0.17105814	0.172
0.32 s	3.033333333	0.55	0	0.326569061	0.328

Instance 3 / QoS 0

QoS 0/3	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	1344.5	0	0	7.35E-04	0
0.01 s	63.35	0.03	0	0.015604474	0.016
0.02 s	31.9	0.05	0	0.031143753	0.031
0.04 s	21.21666667	0.08	0	0.046752358	0.047
0.08 s	10.63333333	0.16	0	0.093653061	0.094
0.16 s	5.75	0.29	0	0.17105814	0.172
0.32 s	3.033333333	0.55	0	0.326657459	0.328

Instance 1 / QoS 1

QoS 1/1	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	655.2833333	1.58	0.01309866	1.51E-03	0
0.01 s	63.75	0.03	0	0.015612709	0.016
0.02 s	31.75	0.05	0	0.031127101	0.031
0.04 s	20.93333333	0.08	0	0.046725896	0.047
0.08 s	10.66666667	0.16	0	0.093333333	0.094
0.16 s	5.816666667	0.29	0	0.171155172	0.172
0.32 s	3.033333333	0.55	0	0.326828729	0.328

Instance 2 / QoS 1

QoS 1/2	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	638.1666667	1.67	0.013476103	1.54E-03	0
0.01 s	63.76666667	0.03	0	0.015604444	0.016
0.02 s	31.75	0.05	0	0.031127101	0.031
0.04 s	20.95	0.08	0	0.046725318	0.047
0.08 s	10.66666667	0.16	0	0.093309859	0.094
0.16 s	5.816666667	0.29	0	0.171155172	0.172
0.32 s	3.05	0.55	0	0.326752747	0.328

Instance 3 / QoS 1

QoS 1/3	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	643.8333333	1.56	0.013176288	1.53E-03	0
0.01 s	63.65	0.03	0	0.015633054	0.016
0.02 s	31.75	0.05	0	0.031127101	0.031
0.04 s	20.93333333	0.08	0	0.046725896	0.047
0.08 s	10.68333333	0.16	0	0.093310938	0.094
0.16 s	5.816666667	0.29	0	0.171158046	0.172
0.32 s	3.05	0.55	0	0.326752747	0.328

Instance 1 / QoS 2

QoS 2/1	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	376.0833333	10.8	0.097318857	2.42E-03	0
0.01 s	61.95	0.03	0	0.015629171	0.016
0.02 s	31.43333333	0.05	0	0.031092308	0.031
0.04 s	20.88333333	0.08	0	0.04675	0.047
0.08 s	10.46666667	0.16	0	0.093475279	0.094
0.16 s	5.7	0.29	0	0.170956012	0.172
0.32 s	2.966666667	0.56	0	0.326627119	0.328

Instance 2 / QoS 2

QoS 2/2	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	369.7	10.69	0.096159048	2.44E-03	0
0.01 s	61.95	0.03	0	0.015629171	0.016
0.02 s	31.43333333	0.05	0	0.031092308	0.031
0.04 s	20.88333333	0.08	0	0.04675	0.047
0.08 s	10.46666667	0.16	0	0.093475279	0.094
0.16 s	5.7	0.29	0	0.170956012	0.172
0.32 s	2.966666667	0.56	0	0.32680226	0.328

Instance 3 / QoS 2

QoS 2/3	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	371.15	11.03	0.09802865	2.43E-03	0
0.01 s	61.96666667	0.03	0	0.015629271	0.016
0.02 s	31.43333333	0.05	0	0.031092308	0.031
0.04 s	20.9	0.08	0	0.04673743	0.047
0.08 s	10.46666667	0.16	0	0.093475279	0.094
0.16 s	5.7	0.29	0	0.170956012	0.172
0.32 s	2.966666667	0.56	0	0.326887006	0.328

b. While measuring the above also

i. Subscribe to and record the \$SYS topics, and identify what, if anything, on the broker do any loss/misordered-rates correlate with. (Look at measurements under e.g. 'load', as well as the 'heap' and 'active clients' and 'messages', anything that seems relevant. See https://mosquitto.org/man/mosquitto-8.html though it may not quite match your broker)

Based on the mosquito \$SYS topics (Eclipse Mosquitto, 2019)

On topic \$SYS/broker/load/messages/received, broker track the moving average of the number of bytes corresponding to the time different time interval based on broker setting which in this case is 1, 5, 15 minutes.

On topic \$SYS/broker/messages/received, broker track down the total number of messages since the broker established.

On topic \$SYS/heap/#, contains two subtopics which is current size & maximum size. In addition, it demonstrated the heap memory that used by mosquito. Unfortunately, heap topics is unavailable due to compile time options.

On topic \$SYS/broker/clients/total, is a useful when running on public broker to demonstrate all the client that connected to the broker which can use to interpret the huge different between public and private broker, In addition, client subtopics \$SYS/broker/clients/connected will show the number of currently active clients which will be a decent choice to demonstrated the publisher instance count while conduct the analysis.

Figure 8: \$SYS analyzer demonstrated bytes data from \$SYS topics.

ii. Record a traceroute between the Analyser and the broker, and between the Publisher and the broker (you'll need the broker owner to provide the second one)

The analyzed result was conduct on personal hotspot on peers mosquito broker, controller and publisher which the trace router hop will definitely not over 3 – 5 hops because testing were conduct in person. There are also some tracings while testing with public broker and cloud broker as well. The picture below shows the traceroute hop on author side and peers' side while running the test.

```
C:\Users\fame-main>tracert 172.20.10.2
Tracing route to LAPTOP-K0LD4I88 [172.20.10.2]
over a maximum of 30 hops:
    1 12 ms 7 ms 18 ms LAPTOP-K0LD4I88 [172.20.10.2]
Trace complete.
```

Figure 9: Analyzer side traceroute.

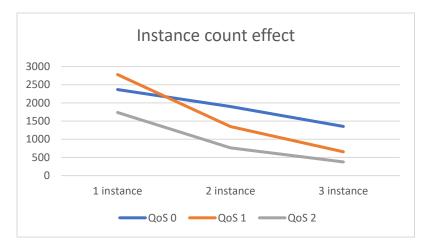
Figure 10: Publisher and Controller traceroute on colleague.

3. In your report: [around 2-3 pages of text, plus any charts]

a. Summarise your measurements. Explain what you expected to see, especially in relation to the different QoS levels, and whether your expectations were matched.

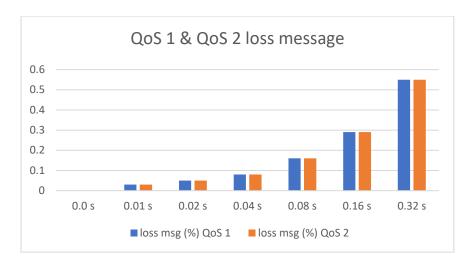
Firstly, there are a statement on the multiple publisher that will stress the broker and network which referred to mqtt client v3 which build on TCP on the network side, multiple connections of publisher will obviously lead to multiple handshake connections establishment which broker need to handle multiple connections which probably cause bottlenecks, performance drop, message lost, error, etc. On the broker side, as we subscribe and also analyze the data from the \$SYS topics, broker also need to spend more resources to handle multiple publishing messages and handle on the specific packet on QoS 1 and QoS 2 which needed to be received by the subscriber.

Delay 0.0	Avg msg (msg/s) 1 instance	Avg msg (msg/s) 2 instance	Avg msg (msg/s) 3 instance
QoS 0	2367.483333	1899.88333	1353.183333
QoS 1	2778.816667	1347.63333	655.2833333
QoS 2	1736.183333	765.233333	376.0833333



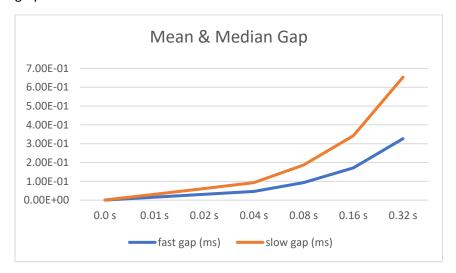
Based on the table above, it obvious that the average message continuously decreasing corresponds to the increased of the publisher. On QoS level 0 rate is stably decreasing due to the fire and forget delivery method which didn't required to set an establishment for handshake and guaranteed message delivered. The broker only handles the performance and memory resources to track down the client connection, and detail. Unlike, QoS 1 and 2 which provide message delivered guaranteed option the average message significantly drops down compared to the QoS level 0 because of the handshake establishment which caused amount of time for assured the packet delivered as level 2 is the most robustness but slowest.

Secondly, on QoS level 0 which theoretically might occur message loss issues due to the characteristic that broker will not memorize the message only acknowledged and flush out immediately. However, surprisingly, there are also have a message loss issues appeared on QoS level 1 and QoS level 2 which will guaranteed that the receiver will get the messages as the detailed below.



These issues might occur due to the sudden disconnect of the analyzer which might lost a message packet. It apparent that on the slow message which is high delay (0.32s) the loss rate is the highest because the duration of message delivery while analyzer disconnect from the broker due to time limit. Also, on the QoS level 1, there are the messages duplication issues which rarely appeared due to the private and local broker server which have the stable network. Unfortunately, there are also out of order issues appeared on the QoS level 2 which out of order message is only occurring during conduct a fast speed publishing which is 0.0 delay.

Finally, on the gap between message the result is reasonable due to the QoS level and delay speed which the fast publishing should contain the tightest gap compared to the slow publishing as the graph below.



b. Describe what correlations of measured rates with \$SYS topics you expect to see and why, and whether you do, or do not.

Based on the testing environment there are less spot on the \$SYS topic. For instance, the broker/load/message/received topic was complicated to analyzed due to the broker property that will retain some message in a meantime which is acknowledges us that broker still got the message. Unfortunately, it still complexes to distinct the retain message which QoS level 1 or 2 because both

retain the message for guaranteed delivery. On the broker/message/received is useful to track down all messages especially on a ton of flooding message on QoS 0 delay 0.0 which will appear a ton of message received detail. On the client topics, its also remind tester to know that there is a specific amount of client that connect to the broker. In addition, it also a good assumption to check the amount of user who are on the public broker which should be a million of client. Unfortunately, based on the corresponding test on public broker, we also know that the broker might not always have the same structure such as \$SYS not in the emgx broker.

Figure 12: \$SYS topic not available on public mqtt

c. Report the traceroutes captured above.

Mqtt client v3 is still build on TCP protocol which required to establish the connection to perform handshake which based on the peers running result there are a hop until it reach the peers broker which might be a supporting detailed to explain that the when the QoS is higher the delay is higher, it will potentially caused of dropping performance because of the time spending hopping to the peers broker. In addition, some test result on the public broker and traceroute result will be demonstrated below for more clearly visualization.

Figure 11: Traceroute on public cloud broker.

Instance count 1 public broker.

QoS 0	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	3161	0	0.004471159	3.19E-04	0
0.01 s	63.7	0.03	0	0.015561371	0
0.02 s	31.78333333	0.05	0	0.031206716	0
0.04 s	20.78333333	0.08	0	0.047158909	0
0.08 s	10.53333333	0.16	0	0.093581616	0
0.16 s	5.783333333	0.29	0	0.171242775	0.065
0.32 s	3.033333333	0.55	0	0.32640884	0.33

QoS 1	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	3.6	0.47	0	2.74E-01	0.22
0.01 s	3.433333333	0.49	0	0.286536585	0.24
0.02 s	2.916666667	0.57	0	0.31862069	0.25
0.04 s	3.366666667	0.5	0	0.294925373	0.27
0.08 s	2.933333333	0.57	0	0.336514286	0.31
0.16 s	2.216666667	0.76	0	0.445227273	0.39
0.32 s	1.4	1.2	0	0.712168675	0.58

QoS 2	Avg msg (msg/s)	loss msg (%)	out of order msg (%)	mean gap (ms)	median gap (ms)
0.0 s	1.833333	1.84999999	0	5.04E-01	0
0.01 s	1.2	4.35	0	0.692608696	0.63
0.02 s	1.833333333	1.85	0	0.51962963	0.48
0.04 s	0.2	20	0	1.632	0
0.08 s	1.266666667	2.7	0	0.723783784	0.61
0.16 s	1.033333333	3.33	0	0.917333333	0.745
0.32 s	1.2	2.86	0	0.806571429	0.78

- 4. Consider the broader end-to-end (internet-wide maybe) network environment, in a situation with millions of sensors publishing regularly/irregularly to thousands of subscribers. Explain in your report [around 1-2 pages]
- a. What (cpu/memory/network) performance challenges there might be when using MQTT in general, from the source publishing its messages, all the way through the network and broker to your subscribing client application. If you lose messages, where might they be lost?

Assumed that in the broader end-to-end situation, a million of sensors are interact with a few brokers or in worst cases one broker. Broker can also treat like normal server with specific protocol called mqtt which in this case can brefily point out the performance issues in this scenario (Gheorghe-Pop et al., 2020).

CPU challenges

A million use of sensor also directly mean that CPU required to spend a huge amount of load to deal with the Mqtt packets which either be QoS level 0, 1, or 2. Especially, high level of QoS, high amount of packet like on level 2 as PUBREC, PUBREL, and PUBCOMP packet which required CPU to process with theses kind of packet. In very high level of MQTT broker like Cloud broker also have an authentication method for security which can caused CPU to Encrypt or Decrypt packet which consumed amount of workload.

Memory challenges

Mqtt build on top of TCP/IP which have a connection establishment like publisher and subscriber, so broker need to maintain those session data. In case of a huge amount of end user, it potentially causes a huge amount of memory to maintain a million session. In addition, referred to the QoS level, especially on level 1 and 2 which required to perform handshake, broker also need to store those message packet for those QoS level specification which depends on messages payload size.

Network challenges

Usually, mqtt are used in smart home or private network area which have a stable and reliable network connection. Unfortunately, in the million users even mqtt is a lightweight protocol, it still required a significantly amount of bandwidth due to the size of the payloads corresponding with the QoS level such as re-sending message on the QoS level 1 which consume amount of bandwidth for those messages duplication. Imagine on QoS level 0 which transmitted a data packet with high frequency rate, can lead to packet loss, high latency network issues and bottle neck.

Message loss and where to find it

Message loss issues in mqtt can be derived into many perspectives. For instance, on QoS level 0 which not guaranteed messages delivered, poor internet connection, unpredictable event like client disconnects unintendedly while publishing or subscribing with broker, retained message capacity of broker reach a limit, etc. Unfortunately, the lost messages are not recoverable or discoverable on mqtt. However, we can also config mqtt broker th have a persistent session to retain all subscriber messages, or we still can still acknowledge the lost messages on very high-level approach with the specific configuration on the application that used mqtt broker, for instance as an application log file for track down the lost messages.

b. How the different QoS levels may help, or not, in dealing with the challenges.

As the information discussed in the question 4.a, we can interpret that QoS level also have a potential effect on those challenges either is help or not based on the specification, and purposed usage of those QoS level. We still need to concern and design the best QoS level depends on the various situations. We can derive both consequences from different QoS level below:

QoS 0 consumes least amount of CPU resources, memory usages, and network bandwidth due to broker didn't response to store the messages only fire and flush those data immediately. Unfortunately, the most remarkable issue on level 0 is the unrecoverable on the message lost.

QoS 1 guaranteed that there is no message loss which in exchange with the high amount of CPU consumption, network bandwidth, memory consumption. The duplication messages event potentially lead to network traffic issues and additional resources to handle it.

QoS 2 provide the most robustness message delivery by 4 handshake which can deal with the message duplication issues but it required most CPU, memory resources and network due to the 4-handshake process as well.

Apparently, it also depends on user purposes to choose the most suitable QoS level. In addition, there also a plenty option to optimize the mqtt corresponding with those challenges for instances mqtt application configurations.

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