



UNIVERSITY OF STAVANGER

BACHELOR THESIS

DATBAC

Make the Internet Faster!
Improving Alternative Backoff with ECN in Linux

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Abstract

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Introduction

This chapter aims at giving an introduction and overview of the thesis. It starts with a brief explanation of why Internet today still feels slow despite major advances in technology, followed up by establishing the goals and research questions for the entire thesis. To address the research questions, a small view into the research methodology is presented, with a brief overview of the thesis structure in the final section.

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1.1 Motivation

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1.2 Goals and Research Questions

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1.3 Research Methodology

1.4 Contributions

1.5 Thesis Structure

Literature Review

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This chapter presents the background theory for which this thesis is based upon. »»»> ff5534277fbaf72b5c8b1023c622

2.1 Network Delay and Bufferbloat

A common cause of latency in packet switched networks is bufferbloat. It occurs when a router, with a large buffer gets congested. the tcp congestion controll will fill up the entire buffer, before it starts backing off. Packets become queued for a long period of time, untill the buffer is drained, congestion controll resets and TCP connection ramps back up to speed to fill the buffer again. This causes high and variable latency, in addition to "blocking" the bottleneck for other flows when the buffer is full and packets are dropped. Several technical solutions exists, that try to solve the problem of bufferbloat and we will outline some of them in this section.

2.2 Transmission Control Protocol

Transmission Controll Protocol (TCP) is the one of the main protocols for transmitting data on the internet. It is a connection based, reliable protocoll and is used by for instance World Wide Web(WWW), email, File Transfer Protocoll (FTP) and streaming media. TCP requires that the sender and reciever establishes a connection through a three-way handshake before transmission starts. All segments sent have a sequence number, and the reciver sends an acknowledgment(ACK) for every segment it recieves. This, in addition to retransmission and error-checking ensures reliable transfer, but also lengthens latency.

2.2.1 Congestion Control

To help reduce congestion on the links TCP maintains a congestion window(CWIN), which limits the total number of unacknowledged packets that it can send at a time. This is done in multiple fases. In the slow start fase, right after a connection is established. the congestion window starts as a small multiple of MSS(Maximum Segment Size) and is effectivley doubled for every RTT. When it reaches the slow-start threshold(ssthresh), CWIN is reduced by half and a new fase starts, congestion avoidance. In this fase CWIN is increased linearly by one MSS every RTT. If loss occurs, it could mean there is congestion, and steps will be taken to reduce load on the network. The steps depend on what exact congestion avoidance algorithm is used.

2.3 Active Queue Management

2.3.1 Explicit Congestion Notification

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2.4 ECN

=====

2.5 Alternative Backoff with ECN

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Methodology

3.1 Network Topology

3.1.1 Raspberry Pi 4 Cluster

3.2 TCP Experimentation with TEACUP

3.2.1 Exposing TCP State with web10g

3.3 Achieving Low Latency with ABE

3.4 Improving ABE by Adapting Its Reduction Factor β

Chapter 4

Results

Conclusion

The PI4-Cluster Testbed

A.1 Setting Up Dual Boot

First install Ubuntu. When asked for partitioning the disk, choose manual, select the disk and confirm creating a new empty partition with yes. Select the newly created empty partition followed by create a new partition and set a size for it. The type should be of primary, location at beginning and mounting point root. Finish off with done setting up the partition followed by finish partitioning and write changes to disk.

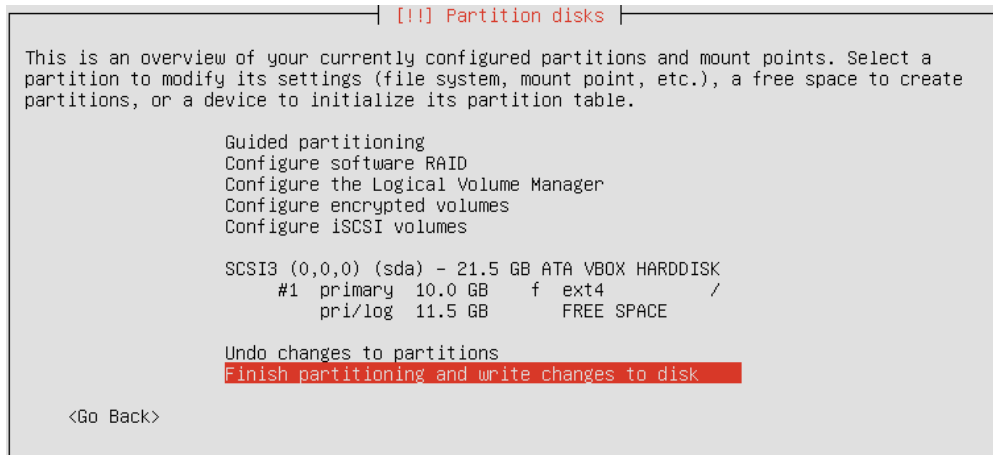


Figure A.1: The partition editor for Ubuntu.

Next, install FreeBSD. When asked for partitioning the disk, choose **auto** (UFS) followed by partition. Set a size, hit ok and finish.



Figure A.2: The partition editor for FreeBSD.

After installing both systems, only Ubuntu is presented in the **GRand Unified Bootloader (GRUB)**. To add FreeBSD as an option, run `sudo nano /etc/grub.d/40_custom` in Ubuntu, and add the following entry:

```

1 menuentry "FreeBSD" {
2     insmod ufs2
3     set root=(hd0,2)
4     kfreebsd /boot/loader
5 }

```

Then update **GRUB** with `sudo update-grub`. The FreeBSD option should now be available when rebooting. If the bootloader won't display, hold the RIGHT SHIFT key upon booting.

To enable a one-time reboot into FreeBSD from Ubuntu, run the command `grub-editenv /boot/grub/grubenv` set `next_entry="FreeBSD"` and reboot with `sudo reboot`.

A.2 Compiling Mainline Kernel 5.5 for Raspberry Pi 4

A.3 Patching web10g on Mainline Kernel 5.5

Terms

GRand Unified Bootloader (GRUB) A Multiboot boot loader. It was derived from GRUB, the GRand Unified Bootloader, which was originally designed and implemented by Erich Stefan Boleyn.

References

- [Kha+17] Naeem Khademi et al. “Alternative Backoff: Achieving Low Latency and High Throughput with ECN and AQM”. In: (2017), p. 9.