Evan Julius

The Vast BitTorrent Ecosystem

In short, BitTorrent is renowned as one of the most remarkably popular file distribution technology. It allows over 1 million user to share content across over hundreds of thousands of torrents on a daily basis. Even today the traffic on the BitTorrent Mainline continues to grow at an impressive rate.

The BitTorrent protocol has been published, and the source code of the baseline has been widely distributed and remains widely available. There are over 50 client-side implementations, and dozens of independent trackers. It has fostered a very productive discussion in both development and research sectors. It hosts technology such as open sourcing, large client-side support, peer-to-peer communications, and a cast amount of discovery sites across the Internet. The most impressive and successful feature has been coined as the Peer-to-Peer paradigm (P2P). It consists of peers, peer discovery mechanisms, and torrent-discovery sites, where each discovery-site host millions of *.torrent* files each with their own trackers. Surprisingly, a large fraction of torrents are smaller than first thought. About 82 percent of the torrents have no more than 10 peers. Only about 1 percent of them have more than 100 peers. There is a tremendous diversity in the sizes of the torrents, and notably divers user behavior, and content. Categories that can be found include: movies, music, TV/Radio, applications, games, and so on.

BitTorrent Ecosystem is considered the most successful open Internet applications of this decade. It has contributed to great improvements in Peer-to-Peer research and discovery that has led to great improvement across the Internet.