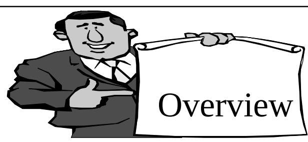
Network Layer: Routing

Shivkumar Kalyanaraman
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
shivkuma@ecse.rpi.edu
http://www.ecse.rpi.edu/Homepages/shivkuma

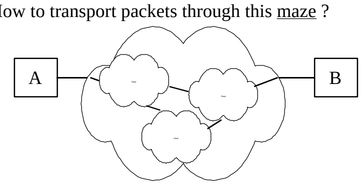
Based in part upon the slides of Prof. Raj Jain (OSU), S. Keshav (Cornell), L. Peterson (Arizona)



- ***The network layer problem***
- ***Routing:***
  - Forwarding vs switching vs routing
  - Telephony vs data networks
  - Distance vector vs Link State
  - Bellman-Ford vs Dijkstra's algorithm
  - Addressing issues and Virtual-circuits
- ***Module: http://links.math.rpi.edu/devmodules/graph_networking***

The Network Layer Problem

- Two nodes communicating across a "***network of networks***"… How to transport packets through this maze ?



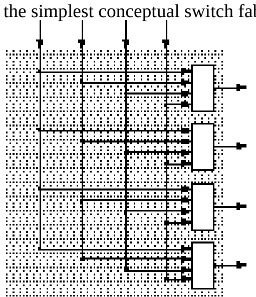
- Ans: **Routing**.
- We will study *heterogeneity and scaling issues later* under the heading "internetworking"

Forwarding

- Problem: Finding ***which output port*** packet needs to go to
  - ***Trivial*** in the case of a ***dual-port*** node.
    - Eg: Repeaters or ring topologies
  - ***Simple pt-to-pt transfer*** if destination ***directly-connected***
    - Eg: mesh
  - ***Flooding*** if destination ***logically connected*** on a bus.
    - Eg: ethernet
  - ***Multi-stage switching*** by matching address bit-by-bit
    - Eg: Star topology
  - ***Table-lookup*** otherwise. Why ?
    - Destination address does not have any other coded information.

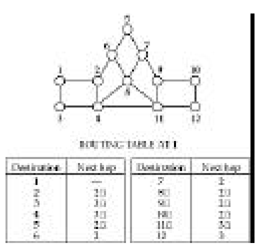
Switching: Crossbar Switches

- Once you know where to go, use a "***switch fabric***" to zip thru..
- Crossbar is the simplest conceptual switch fabric



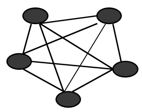
Routing

- Problem: sets up a *forwarding table* (also called "routing table") in *routers* and *switch controllers*



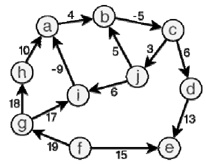
- A node makes a *local* *next-hop setup* choice depending on *global* topology: this is the fundamental problem

Is routing easy or hard ?



Case A

1) Assume each link has equal weight. Is routing easy ?
2) What if there were a non-negligible probability of links going down ?



Case B

If the numbers above refer to link weights, what is the path (sequence of links) from ***h*** to ***d*** ***which has the minimum total weight (shortest path) ?***

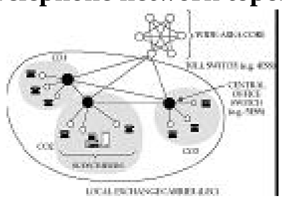
Key problem

- How to make correct local decisions?
  - each router must know *something* about global state
- Global state
  - inherently large
  - dynamic
  - hard to collect
- *A routing protocol must intelligently summarize relevant information*

Requirements

- ***Consistent*** routing tables
- ***Minimize routing table*** space
  - fast to look up
  - less to exchange
- ***Minimize number and frequency of control*** messages
- ***Robustness***: avoid
  - black holes, brown-outs
  - loops
  - oscillations
- Find ***optimal path***

Telephone network topology



- Routing is simple, because topology is simple
  - 3-level hierarchy, with a fully-connected core (clique)
- AT&T: 135 core switches with nearly 5 million circuits
- LECs may connect to multiple cores

Telephony routing algorithm

- If endpoints are within same CO, ***directly connect***
- If call is between COs in same LEC, ***use one-hop path*** between COs
- Otherwise send call to one of the ***cores***
- Only major decision is at toll switch
  - ***one-hop or two-hop path*** to the destination toll switch [called "***alternate path routing***"]
  - (why don't we need longer paths?)
- Essence of problem
  - *which two-hop path to use if one-hop path is full ?*

Features of telephone network routing

- ***Stable load***
  - can predict pairwise load throughout the day
  - can choose optimal routes in advance
- ***Extremely reliable switches***
  - downtime is less than a few minutes per year
  - can assume that a chosen route is available
  - can't do this in the Internet
- ***Single organization controls entire core***
  - can collect global statistics and implement global changes
- ***Very highly connected network***
- Connections ***require resources*** (but all need the same)

The cost of simplicity

- Simplicity of routing a historical necessity
  - No digital equipment/computers in 1890 - only “switches”
- But requires
  - reliability in every component
  - logically fully-connected core
- Can we build an alternative that has same features as the telephone network, but is cheaper because it uses more sophisticated routing?
  - Yes: that is one of the motivations for ATM networks
    - But economics says that 80% of cost is in the local loop!
  - Moreover, many of the software systems assume topology
    - too expensive to change them

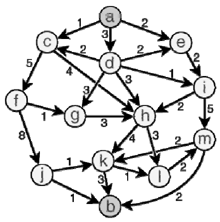
Dynamic nonhierarchical routing (DNHR)

- Naive protocol:
  - accept call if a one-hop path is available, else drop
- **DNHR**
  - divides day into around 10-periods
  - in each period, each toll switch is assigned a primary one-hop path and a list of alternatives (*alternate-path* idea…)
  - can overflow to alternative if needed
    - *crankback*
  - drop call only if all alternate paths are busy
- Problems
  - does not work well if actual traffic differs from prediction
  - there are some simple extensions to DHNR

Data Network Routing Issues

- ***Unreliable routers, links:*** Why ?
  - Cheap-n-dirty components, little hardware redundancy or backup, heterogeneity in equipment
- ***Complex load structure:***
  - Internet aggregate traffic is possibly self-similar or is not easy to deal with mathematically.
- ***Large number of organizations with autonomous domains:***
  - Can’t implement global changes quickly
- ***Sparsely interconnected network:***
  - Few alternative paths
  - Unlike a clique of toll-switches
- +ve: No resource reservation for best effort => flexible

Data network routing example



- Find the shortest path between node ***a*** and node ***b***.
- How did you find the path ? Can you outline a method in general one could use in networks like this ?

Routing alternatives

- ***Random routing:*** At every intersection, randomly choose a next-hop
  - ***Problems***: infinite looping, inefficient paths
- ***Flooding:*** send packet to all next-hops, except ones you have visited earlier
  - ***Problem***: per-packet broadcast is inefficient
- ***AAA-style:*** Get a map from the nearest AAA, plot a course from source-to-destination, and follow that.
  - You can use road-signs for emotional satisfaction
  - Knowledge of construction-work/detours also known
  - Latest: Magellan GPS receivers, Mapquest/Expedia etc
  - This is known as ***"source-based routing"***
  - ***Problem:*** every packet needs to carry path information

Routing alternatives

- Provide a ***map at every intersection***:
  - These maps should be consistent
  - Find the min-distance path to each destination from that intersection (just like AAA-style)
  - Then, point their next-hop in the right direction
  - Called ***"link-state routing"***: because map is maintained in terms of link-states
- Provide a ***marker to every destination*** along with the currently ***best-known distance*** to that destination
  - The next-hop points in the min-distance direction
  - Update markers by simply exchanging markers and seeing if there is a new min-distance path per-destination
  - This is known as "***distance-vector***" routing.

Distance Vector routing

- "Vector" of distances (signposts) to each possible destination at each router.
- How to find distances ?
  - Distance to local network is 0.
  - Look in neighbors' distance vectors, and add link cost to reach the neighbor
  - Find which direction yields minimum distance to to particular destination. Turn signpost that way.
  - Keep checking if neighbors change their signposts and modify local vector if necessary.
  - And that's it !
    - Called the "***Bellman-Ford*** algorithm"

Routing Information Protocol (RIP)

- Uses <u>hop count</u> as metric
- Tables (vectors) "advertised" to neighbors every 30 s.
- ***Counting-to-infinity*** problem:
  - Simple configuration A->B->C. If C fails, B needs to update and thinks there is a route through A. A needs to update and thinks there is a route thru B.
  - No clear solution, except to set "infinity" to be small (eg 16)
  - <u>*Split-horizon*</u>: If A's route to C is thru B, then A advertises C's route (only to B) as infinity.
- ***Slow convergence*** after topology change:
  - Due to count to infinity problem
  - Also information cannot propagate through a node until it recalculates routing info.

Link State protocols

- Create a network "map" at each node.
  - For a map, we need inks and attributes (link states), not of destinations and metrics (distance vector)
- 1. Node collects the state of its connected links and forms a "Link State Packet" (LSP)
- 2. Broadcast LSP => reaches every other node in the network.
- 3. Given map, run Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm => get paths to all destinations
- 4. Routing table = next hops of these paths.

Dijkstra's algorithm

- A.k.a "Shortest Path First" (SPF) algorithm.
- Idea: compute shortest path from a "root" node to every other node."Greedy method":
  - P is a set of nodes for which shortest path has already been found.
  - For every node "o" outside P, find shortest one-hop path from some node in P.
  - Add that node "o" which has the shortest of these paths to P. Record the path found.
  - Continue till we add all nodes (&paths) to P

Dijkstra's algorithm

- P: (ID, path-cost, next-hop) triples.
  - ID: node id.
  - Path-cost: cost of path from root to node
  - Next-hop: ID of next-hop on shortest path from the root to reach that node
  - P: Set of nodes for which the best path cost (and next-hop from root) have been found.
- T: (ID, path-cost, next-hop):
  - Set of candidate nodes at a one-hop distance from some node in P.
  - Note: there is only one entry per node. In the interim, some nodes may not lie in P or T.
- R=Routing table: (ID, next-hop) to be created

Dijkstra's algorithm

- 1. Put root I.e., (myID, 0, 0) in P & (myID,0) to R.
- 2. If node *N* is just put into P, look at N's links (I.e. its LSP).
  - 2a. For each link to neighbor *M*, add cost of the root-to-N-path to the cost of the N-to-M-link (from LSP) to determine a new cost: *C*.
  - 2b. The "next-hop" corresponds to the next-hop ID in N's tuple (or N if M is the root itself): *h*
  - 2c. If M not in T (or P) with better path cost, add (M, C, h) to T.
- 3. If T = empty, terminate. Else, move the min-cost triple from T to P, and add (M, h) to R. Go to step 2.

Topology dissemination

- aka LSP distribution
- 1. Flood LSPs on links except incoming link
  - Require at most 2E transfers for n/w with E edges
- 2. Sequence numbers to detect duplicates
  - Why? Routers/links may go down/up
  - Problem: wrap-around => have large seq # space
- 3. Age field (similar to TTL)
  - Periodically decremented after acceptance
  - Zero => discard LSP & request everyone to do so
  - Router awakens => knows that all its old LSPs would have been purged and can choose a new initial sequence number

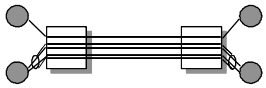
Link state vs Distance vector

- Advantages:
  - More stable (aka fewer routing loops)
  - Faster convergence than distance vector
  - Easier to discover network topology, troubleshoot network.
  - Can do better source-routing with link-state
  - Type & Quality-of-service routing (multiple route tables) possible
- Caveat: With path-vector-type distance vector routing, these arguments don't hold

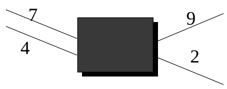
Role of Addresses

- Address structure required for <u>scalability</u>
  - Why ? Routing table sizes, control traffic etc depends upon the number of nodes in the network.
  - By capturing an entire sub-network as a "virtual node", you can reduce the number of "virtual nodes" core routers see.
  - Need hierarchical addressing, and address allocation according to topology for this.
- Telephony and ATM networks use variable sized, large (upto 20 bytes) addresses.
  - The large address is only carried during signaling

ATM Networks: VCs & Label Switching

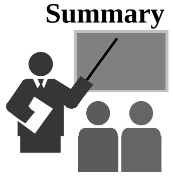


- *Virtual circuits (VCs):* like telephony "circuit", but multiple VCs may be mapped onto physical links



- *Label switching:* Use 20-byte address during VC-setup, and establish local 32-bit labels
  - Packets (cells) then carry only short labels in header...

Summary



- Routing, switching, forwarding
- Telephony routing
- Data networks routing
  - Distance-vector, link-state routing
  - Dijkstra's algorithm, Bellman-Ford algorithm
- Address and ATM labels