

MULTI-PROTOCOL ROUTING SYSTEM
AND METHOD DRIVEN BY INTEGRATION
OF APPLICATIONS AND NETWORKS

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of computer network technology, and in particular to a multi-protocol routing system and method driven by the integration of applications and networks.

Background of the Invention

The current Internet networks take an IP (Internet Protocol) technology as a core, lots of network services are realized by a transport layer and the layers above the transport layer. The network layer and the data-link layer are simple in protocols and concise in calculation, thus ensuring the expansibility of the network. However, with the rapid development of Internet services and the integration of three networks (computer network, conventional telecommunication network and broadcasting television network), new technologies and services, for example, video services, constantly emerge. Meanwhile, with the continuous development of the Internet of Things (IOT) technology, terminals with a certain computational processing capacity form a "sea" by virtue of the characteristics of large scale, wide distribution, high

real-time performance and the like, which brings new challenges to both the bearing capacity and processing capacity of the traditional networks. Meanwhile, with the aggregation of big data and the continuous increasing of transmission requirements, cloud computing has already become into one of the main service modes, which leads to a higher demand for hardware infrastructure of the Internet, as well as network protocols and control systems during operation.

There exist difficulties for current network systems to be adaptive to services and application requirements in the following aspects: the limited IP resources cannot meet the requirements of the continuous increase of service resources; it is difficult for the current network architectures and protocols to bear the transmission task focusing on large-scale data transmission; network safety problem arises due to the diversity of data; it is difficult for the existing network to meet the performance requirements in terms of service quality with the increase of needs on storage and computing resources during transmission process, and the like. Because presently a lot of optimization work is performed on application layer, network system structures taking IP as a core cannot meet the needs of the modern network services neither in traffic scale nor in function interfaces, even if the network performances is improved to some extent; meanwhile, under the situation that “sea cloud” computing is constantly developing, due to the routing mode of binding

identifications and positions, transmission and processing efficiencies are seriously restricted, so inherent problems cannot be solved. Regarding these problems, lots of explorations have been carried out, and application-oriented routable protocols have been put forward, most of these routable protocols being orientated to a certain specific application, so it is quite difficult to realize the coordination among these lots of routing protocols with various forms, i.e., the generalization of these protocols is too bad.

Summary of the Invention

The object of the present invention is to overcome the defect that the traditional IP routing technology cannot meet the requirements in terms of diffusion efficiency and speed of those real-time services, thus providing a routing method suitable for a multi-protocol environment.

In order to realize the purpose aforementioned, the present invention provides a multi-protocol routing system, which comprises a route determining module and a forwarding module which are located in the network layer, and wherein:

the route determining module is used for determining, based on the relevant information of applications and networks, the type of the routable protocol and the next-hop path which are to be selected in current routing phase; and

the forwarding module, including different routable protocols and corresponding routing information, is used for periodically calculating the newest remaining network resources and the state of link during a routing process and updating the forwarding table in current state.

In the technical solution aforementioned, the information related to the applications includes the information about the features and the state of the applications, and specifically includes one of the content information, the requirements information, the related QoS (Quality of Service) information of other applications, operation state and other related state information, or the combination of two or more of the aforementioned information; the information related to the networks includes the information about the features and state of the networks, and specifically includes one of position information, link state information, the information of related networks, or the combination of two or more of the aforementioned information.

In the above technical solution, the route determining module specifically includes the following functions:

requesting the routing-related information of all the routable protocols maintained currently from the forwarding module, so as to obtain all the currently possible candidate paths as well as the network states information and resource occupying information corresponding to the candidate paths;

extracting, according to data messages or interaction data, the characteristic information of the applications and the characteristic performance target information of the applications;

determining a route; and

estimating, according to the above determining result, the new resource occupying condition of the related candidate routing paths after message is forwarded under the current network environment.

In the above technical solution, the routing determining is realized by means of calculating a decision function.

The present invention further provides a multi-protocol routing method realized on the above multi-protocol routing system, which comprises the steps of:

Step 1) a first router obtains the routing information related to applications through interaction with a host computer or another router after receiving a network layer message from the host computer or the later router;

step 2) the route determining module in the first router selects the optimal routable protocol and path capable of meeting the characteristic performance targets of the current application according to the information obtained in step 1), the candidate paths obtained from the forwarding module, the network states and resource occupying condition information corresponding to the candidate paths; and the route

determining module further estimates the new resource occupying condition of the candidate paths selected under the current network environment according to the decision result;

step 3) the first router selects the corresponding routable protocol and next-hop path according to the determining result of the route determining module, and then forwards the message; at the same time, the first router submits the determining result obtained in step 2) and a related estimated value to the forwarding module, which updates the corresponding resource state in the current routing table and rules according to the resource occupying condition during the forwarding process; and

step 4) the second router, after receiving the network layer message sent by the first router, un-packages the message, extracts and processes the information from the interaction data through the route determining module in itself, including extracting characteristic performance targets and updating the performance requirements with the extracted characteristic performance targets after the last-hop forwarding procedure; if the characteristic performance targets are realized, then the routing process ends; or else, step 2) is re-executed.

In the above technical solution, step 2) comprises the following steps:

step 2-1) the route determining module requests the routing related

information about the M routable protocols maintained currently by the forwarding module, and then the forwarding module returns information including the resource condition of the possible next-hop path correspondingly maintained by each routable path, network state information and a routing table to the route determining module;

step 2-2) the route determining module, based on the data obtained in step 2-1) and step 1), selects the optimal routable protocol and path under the condition of meeting the characteristic performance targets of the applications; and

step 2-3) the route determining module, based on the determining result, estimates the new resource occupying condition of the selected candidate routing path under the current network environment.

The advantages of the present invention lie in that:

By integrating various characteristics and states of applications as well as different routable protocols, the present invention realizes real-time protocol selection and dynamic routing. Moreover, the present invention is easy to be expanded to other protocols, thus being adaptive to the continuous development and evolution of network services.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of the multi-protocol routing system of the present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram of the multi-protocol routing method of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Embodiments

The present invention is further described in conjunction with accompanying drawings.

Referring to Fig. 1, the multi-protocol routing system of the present invention comprises a route determining module and a forwarding module, both of which are located on the network layer in an OSI (open system interconnection) seven-layer network system, wherein the route determining module is used for determining the type of routable protocol and the next-hop path to be selected for the current routing phase based on the related information of applications and networks; and the forwarding module, including different routable protocols and corresponding routing information, is used for periodically calculating the newest remaining network resources and link state during a routing process, and updating the current route table with the resulted newest remaining network resources and link state. Both of the route determining module and the forwarding module are in the routers.

The modules in the system are further described below.

The route determining module makes decision based on the related information of applications and networks. The information related to the

applications includes the information about the features and the state of the applications, and specifically includes one of the content information, the requirements information, the related QoS (Quality of Service) information of other applications, operation state and other related state information, or the combination of two or more of the aforementioned information; the information related to the networks includes the information about the features and state of the networks, and specifically includes one of the position information, link state information, the information of related networks, or the combination of two or more of the aforementioned information. The related information of the applications and the networks can be obtained from: 1) the information included in data messages; 2) information learnt from historical information; and 3) the information provided by routing tables corresponding to different routable protocols or related routing rule calculation methods. The above related information of the applications and the networks is extracted by the route determining module.

The route determining module has various functions, including: (1) requesting from the forwarding module routing related information of all routable protocols maintained currently, so as to obtain all the currently possible candidate paths as well as the network states and resource occupying information corresponding to the candidate paths. For example, supposing the number of currently maintained routable protocols is M

and the m^{th} routable protocol corresponds to a number of $\{N_m\}$ candidate paths, then the set of all the candidate paths is $HN_q = \{N_1 \cup N_2 \cup \dots \cup N_M\}$, wherein HNI_q is the set of the network states and resource occupying information corresponding to all the candidate paths; (2) extracting the characteristic information of the applications and the characteristic performance target information of the applications according to data messages or interaction data; (3) selecting, based on the information obtained previously, an optimal route. Alternatively, the optimal route can be selected by calculating a decision function. As an example, the decision function is represented by the following formula: $y = F(A_q, O_q, HN_q, HNI_q)$, wherein A_q is the feature vector of an application, O_q is a set of the characteristic performance targets, HN_q is the set of all the candidate paths, HNI_q is the set of the network states and the resource occupying condition corresponding to the candidate paths, y is the next-hop routable protocol and path obtained from the decision process, the purpose of the decision function $F(A, O, HN, HNI)$ is to select, with A as the input, the optimal routable protocol and path under the condition of meeting the characteristic performance targets O of the applications, which is a multi-target optimization problem. The specific form of the decision function can be defined according to different applications, network characteristics and requirements. In addition, once the decision has been made, the route determining module further estimates, based on

the decision result, the new resource occupying condition of the related candidate routing paths after data forwarding under the current network environment.

The method realized by the multi-protocol routing system of the present invention is illustrated below with reference to Fig.2.

Step 1) a first router obtains the routing information related to applications through interaction with a host computer or another router after receiving a network layer message from the host computer or the later router. The obtained routing information includes: a set of feature vectors of the application and network $A_q = \{a_{q1}, a_{q2}, \dots, a_{qn}\}$ and a set of characteristic performance targets $O_q = \{o_{q1}, o_{q2}, o_{q3} \dots\}$, wherein the set of feature vectors of the application and network includes the characteristic values extracted according to the characteristics and states of the applications and the networks; and the set of characteristic performance targets includes the combination of two or more information related to the characteristics and states of the applications and the networks. For example, a characteristic performance target is "the total time delay is 1 second", and the feature vector of application and network corresponding to the characteristic performance target is "the time delay of a hop is 0.05 milliseconds", and the like.

step 2) the route determining module in the first router selects the optimal routable protocol and path capable of meeting the characteristic

performance targets of the current application according to the information obtained in step 1), the candidate paths obtained from the forwarding module, the network states and resource occupying condition information corresponding to the candidate paths; and the route determining module further estimates the new resource occupying condition of the candidate paths selected under the current network environment according to the decision result;

step 3) the first router selects the corresponding routable protocol and next-hop path according to the decision information of the route determining module, and then forwards the message; at the same time, the first router submits the decision information obtained in step 2) and a related estimated value to the forwarding module, which updates the corresponding resource state in the current routing table and rule according to the resource occupying condition during the forwarding process; and

step 4) the second router, after receiving the network layer message sent by the first router, un-packages the message, extracts (including extracting characteristic performance targets) and processes the information from the interaction data through the route determining module in itself, and updates the performance requirements after the last-hop forwarding procedure; if the characteristic performance targets are realized, then the routing process ends; or else, step 2) is re-executed.

In the above technical solution, step 2) comprises the following steps:

step 2-1) the route determining module requests the routing related information about the M routable protocols maintained currently by the forwarding module, and then the forwarding module returns information including the resource condition of the possible next-hop path correspondingly maintained by each routable path, network state information and a routing table to the route determining module;

step 2-2) the route determining module, based on the data obtained in step 2-1) and step 1), makes a decision of the optimal route. The decision can be realized by a decision function, which is represented by the following formula $y = F(A_q, O_q, HN_q, HNI_q)$, wherein A_q is the feature vector of an application, O_q is a set of the characteristic performance targets, HN_q is the set of all the candidate paths, HNI_q is the set of the network states and the resource occupying condition corresponding to the candidate paths, y is the next-hop routable protocol and path obtained from the decision process, the purpose of the decision function $F(A, O, HN, HNI)$ is to select, with A as the input, the optimal routable protocol and path under the condition of meeting the characteristic performance targets O of the applications.

step 2-3) the route determining module, based on the decision result, estimates the new resource occupying condition of the selected candidate

routing path under the current network environment.

It should be noted finally that, the embodiments aforementioned are merely used for illustrating the technical solution of the present invention, rather than limiting the present invention. Although the present invention is illustrated in detail with reference to the embodiments, those of ordinary skill in the art should understand that any modifications or equivalent replacements on the technical solution of the present invention not departing from the spirit and scope of the technical solution of the present invention are encompassed in the scope of the claims of the present invention.

Claims

1. A multi-protocol routing method realized on a multi-protocol routing system comprising a route determining module and a forwarding module which are located in a network layer of a computer network, wherein:

5 the route determining module is responsive to information related to applications and information related to networks for determining a type of routable protocol and a next-hop path which are to be selected in a current routing phase; and

10 the forwarding module having different routable protocols and corresponding routing information, the forwarding module: periodically determining the current remaining network resources and a state of at least one link during a routing process; and updating a forwarding routing table to a current state;

the method comprising the steps of:

15 (1) a first router obtaining routing information related to applications through interaction with a host computer or another router after receiving a network layer message from the host computer or the another router;

20 (2) the route determining module in the first router selecting an optimal routable protocol and path capable of meeting characteristic performance targets of a current application

according to the information obtained in step (1), candidate paths obtained from the forwarding module, network states and resource occupying condition information corresponding to the candidate paths;

5 (3) the route determining module estimating a new resource occupying condition of the candidate paths selected under a current network environment according to a decision result;

 (4) the first router selecting a corresponding routable protocol and next-hop path according to a determining result of the route
10 determining module, and then forwarding the message; at the same time, the first router submitting the determining result obtained in step (2) and a related estimated value to the forwarding module, which updates a corresponding resource state in the current forwarding routing table and rules according to the resource
15 occupying condition during the forwarding process; and

 (5) a second router, after receiving the network layer message sent by the first router, un-packages the message, extracts and processes information from interaction data through the route determining module in itself, including extracting characteristic performance
20 targets and updating performance requirements with the extracted characteristic performance targets after a last-hop forwarding

procedure; if the characteristic performance targets are realized,
then the routing process ends; or else, step (2) is re-executed.

2. A multi-protocol routing method according to claim 1 wherein the
information related to applications includes information about features and
5 states of at least one application.

3. A multi-protocol routing method according to claim 2 wherein
information about the features and states of at least one application
includes one or more of: content information; requirements information;
QoS (Quality of Service) information of other applications; operation state;
10 and other related state information.

4. A multi-protocol routing method according to any one of the preceding
claims wherein the information related to networks includes information
about features and states of one or more networks.

5. A multi-protocol routing method according to claim 4 wherein the
15 information about features and states of one or more networks includes
one or more of: position information; link state information; and
information about related networks.

6. A multi-protocol routing method according to any one of the preceding
claims wherein the route determining module:
20 requests from the forwarding module routing-related information
of all the routable protocols maintained currently to thereby obtain

all the currently possible candidate paths, network states
information and resource occupying information corresponding to
the candidate paths;

extracts according to data messages or interaction data,
5 characteristic information of applications and characteristic
performance target information of the applications;

determines a route; and

estimates, according to the above determined route, a new resource
occupying condition of related candidate routing paths after a
10 message is forwarded under the current network environment.

7. A multi-protocol routing method according to claim 6 wherein: the
routing determining is realized by means of calculating a decision
function.

8. A multi-protocol routing method according to any one of the preceding
15 claims, wherein step (2) comprises the following sub-steps:

(2-1) the route determining module requests the routing related
information about the M routable protocols maintained currently
by the forwarding module, and then the forwarding module returns
information including the resource condition of the possible
20 next-hop path correspondingly maintained by each routable path,
network state information and a routing table to the route

determining module;

(2-2) the route determining module, based on the data obtained in sub-step (2-1) and step (1), selects the optimal routable protocol and path under the condition of meeting the characteristic performance targets of the applications; and

(2-3) the route determining module, based on the determining result, estimates the new resource occupying condition of the selected candidate routing path under the current network environment.