Exploring the Impact of Differentiated Services on Carrier Networks

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Organization

- Motivation.
- Introduction.
- Impact of Overbooking in DiffServ Networks.
- Impact of Number of DiffServ Classes.
- Conclusions and Lessons Learned.
- Future Work.

Motivation

• Lack of detailed understanding of the characteristics and impact of Differentiated Services.

• The significance of Differentiated services to carrier networks is unknown.

Goal

• To identify the problems associated in the deployment of Differentiated Services.

• To identify the target architectures, functional elements and parameters.

Introduction

What is Differentiated Services ?

Differentiated services (DiffServ) are intended to provide service discrimination in the Internet.

Need for DiffServ:

- Demand for bandwidth due to increase usage of Internet
- Demand for QoS by voice and other mission critical applications.
- Scalable service discrimination.

Services and Per-Hop-Behavior (PHB)

- Service Overall treatment of a subset of a customer's traffic.
- PHB Service provided to a traffic aggregate.

Introduction (contd...)

Type of Service field in Internet Protocol header value may be used to categorize flows into aggregates.

The DiffServ Code Point (DSCP) value may be used to select a particular PHB for an aggregate flow.

Examples of PHBs

- Expedited Forwarding.
- Assured Forwarding.

Examples of Services

- Premium Service Van Jacobson.
- Assured Service David Clark.



| | Type of node | Type of interface | Functional Elements (FE). | Type of FEs. |
|-----------|--------------|----------------------|--|---|
| | Boundary | Input Interface. | Traffic classifier. Traffic conditioners (TC) | BA or MF classifier. TCs for each PHB offered in domain are required. Three-ColorMarkers. |
| DS domain | Node. | Output Interface. | Classifiers Queue management Scheduling TC (optional) | Mostly BA classifier. FIFO, RED, WRED and RIO the choice mainly depends on the PHBs offered in domain FIFO, SPQ, or DRR. TC is used particularly if SPQ is used. |
| | Interior | Input Interface. | Usually no special components are required. | None. |
| | Node. | Output Interface. | Classifiers Queue management Scheduling | Mostly BA classifier. FIFO, RED, WRED or RIO mainly depends on the PHB that is being realized. FIFO, SPQ, or DRR. |

Impact of Overbooking in DiffServ Networks

- To determine the impact of overbooking on end-to-end characteristics.
- Overbooking is achieved by increasing the number of customer sites served by a single provider edge router
- DRR and WRED in the Provider Edge Router.
- DRR and FIFO in the Customer Edge Router.



Traffic Model

| Parameter | Voice | Mission Critical | Best Effort (BE) |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Packet Length (PL) | 64 bytes | 1500 bytes | 1500 bytes |
| Packet Generation Rate (PGR) | 10,000 Pks/sec | 400 Pks/sec | 1500 Pks/sec |
| Total Traffic | 5.12 Mbps | 4.8 Mbps | 18.0 Mbps |
| Distribution for PL and PGR | Fixed | Exponential | Exponential |
| Class | AF1X | AF11 | BE |
| Transport Protocol | UDP / TCP | ТСР | ТСР |

Total AF1 traffic / site = 9.92 Mbps (22% of the DS3). Total BE traffic / site = 18 Mbps (22% of the DS3). Total traffic/site = 27.92 Mbps (62 % of a DS3).

Parameters

DRR Parameters:

| Provider router weights: 1 | Provider router weights: 2 | Provider router weights: 3 | Provider router weights: 4 | Provider router weights: 5 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| customer site | customer sites | customer sites | customer sites | customer sites |
| AF1 11.25 Mb/s | AF1 22.5 Mb/s | AF1 33.75 Mb/s | AF1 45.0 Mb/s | AF1 45.0 Mb/s |
| BE 33.75 Mb/s | BE 22.5 Mb/s | BE 11.25 Mb/s | BE 0 Mb/s | BE 0 Mb/s |



Parameters

WRED Parameters:

| Class | Minimum | Maximum | Max. Drop | Traffic Type |
|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Threshold (bytes) | Threshold (bytes) | Prob. | Queued |
| AF11 | 238,846 bytes | 477,692 bytes | 0.02 | Voice and MC |
| AF12 | 185,769 bytes | 477,692 bytes | 0.05 | Voice |
| BE | 135,000 (90 pks) | 270,000(180 pks) | 0.02 | Best Effort |

Performance Metrics:

- Average end-to-end delay per source,
- Jitter per source and
- Throughput per source and DSCP marking (are only presented).









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Conclusions from Overbooking Study

- AF1 traffic achieved end-to-end results even when the link was overloaded.
- When Voice sources were using UDP, mission critical traffic was treated unfairly.
- Mission Critical traffic was protected to certain extent by assigning higher drop precedence to voice traffic.
- Both Mission Critical and Voice traffic got good performance results till the number of sites were four, when was using UDP.
- When Voice was using TCP, performance started degrading when the number of sites were only four.
- RED treated larger size Mission Critical packets unfairly in byte mode.

Evaluation of the Performance Impact of the Number of DiffServ Classes

- To compare performance of the two-queue model and the three-queue model in the provider's core.
- To study the impact of scheduler in the customer edge.
- Three types of traffic are considered.
 - Real Time (RT) (Premium).
 - Non-Real Time (NRT) (Better than Best Effort / Assured).

•Best Effort (BE) (Best Effort).

- Two types of scheduling schemes in the customer edge.
 - FIFO (no bandwidth allocations).
 - DRR (bandwidth allocations).







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Scenarios

• Different Scenarios for the two-queue and the three-queue model.

| Queuing Scheme in CER | Load on the link between CER and PER. | Load on the link between PER and the Core Router. |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| | 80% | 80% to 110% |
| FIFO | 90% | 80% to 110% |
| | 110% | 80% to 110% |
| | 80% | 80% to 110% |
| DRR | 90% | 80% to 110% |
| | 110% | 80% to 110% |

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Parameters

• Traffic Model:

| Parameter | Real Time | Non-Real Time | Best Effort |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Pkt Length | 64 Bytes | 1024 Bytes | 1024 bytes |
| Pkt Transmission Rate | 20,896.1 Pkts/sec | 130.4 Pkts/sec. | 130.4 Pkts/sec. |
| Distribution | Constant | Exponential | Exponential |
| Total Traffic (Mbps) | 10.6875 | 6*1.068 = 6.408 | 9*1.068 = 9.612 |
| Transport Protocol | UDP | TCP | ТСР |
| Class | Premium | Assured | Best Effort |

• Two Color Marker:

• For NRT flows

| Parameter | Value |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Token Rate | 2*6.408 = 12.816 Mbps. |
| Bucket Size | 51,200 bytes / 50 Pkts. |

Parameters (contd...)

- Parameters at the Output Interface of the CER.
 - For DRR:

| Queue Type | Queue Size | Scheduler Weight |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Real Time | 102,400 bytes / 200 pks | 10.7 Mbps |
| Non-Real Time | 163,840 bytes / 160 pks | 6.7 Mbps |
| Best Effort | 163,840 bytes /160 pks | Variable |

Best Effort Queue weight depends on the load on the outgoing link.

• Parameters at the Output Interface of the PER:

For all the queues a weight of 0.005 was used for RED.

• For Two-Queue Model:

| Queue | Marking | Minimum | Maximum | Max Drop |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Туре | | Threshold | Threshold | Probability |
| Real Time | Premium | 25.6 KB / 400 Pkts | 51.2 KB / 800 Pkts | 0.02 |
| Assured and | Assured | 46.08 KB / 45 Pkts | 81.92 KB / 80 Pkts | 0.02 |
| Best Effort | Best Effort | 40.96 KB / 40 Pkts | 8.192 KB / 80 Pkts | 0.05 |

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• Queue Size = 430,080 bytes.

• For FIFO:

Parameters (contd...)

• For Three-Queue Model:

| Queue | Marking | Minimum | Maximum | Max Drop |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Туре | | Threshold | Threshold | Probability |
| Real Time | Premium | 25.6 KB / 400 Pkts | 51.2 KB / 800 Pkts | 0.02 |
| Assured | Higher DP | 46.08 KB / 45 Pkts | 81.92 KB / 80 Pkts | 0.02 |
| with 2 DP* | Lower DP | 40.96 KB / 40 Pkts | 8.192 KB / 80 Pkts | 0.05 |
| Best Effort | Best Effort | 40.96 KB / 40 Pkts | 8.192 KB / 80 Pkts | 0.05 |

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Conclusions from Classes Study

| A * | B * | FIFO/2Q | FIFO/3Q | DRR/2Q | DRR/3Q |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 0.8 | 0.8 | G-NRT G-BE | G-NRT G-BE | G-NRT G-BE | G-NRT G-BE |
| 0.8 | 0.9 | M-NRT P-BE | G-NRT P-BE | M-NRT M-BE | G-NRT M-BE |
| 0.8 | 1.1 | M-NRT P-BE | G-NRT P-BE | M-NRT P-BE | G-NRT M-BE |
| 0.9 | 0.8 | M-NRT M-BE | G-NRT G-BE | G-NRT M-BE | M-NRT M-BE |
| 0.9 | 0.9 | G-NRT M-BE | G-NRT M-BE | G-NRT M-BE | G-NRT M-BE |
| 0.9 | 1.1 | P-NRT P-BE | G-NRT P-BE | P-NRT P-BE | G-NRT P-BE |
| 1.1 | 0.8 | P-NRT P-BE | P-NRT P-BE | M-NRT P-BE | M-NRT P-BE |
| 1.1 | 0.9 | P-NRT P-BE | M-NRT P-BE | P-NRT P-BE | P-NRT P-BE |
| 1.1 | 1.1 | P-NRT P-BE | P-NRT P-BE | M-NRT M-BE | M-NRT M-BE |

A* - Load on the link between CER and PER, B* - Load on the link between PER and Core Router.

• The Real Time traffic was able get the offered throughput for all the cases.

• End-to-End throughput of the NRT flows were better when three-queue model was used.

• In some cases Best Effort traffic got better throughput values than Non-Real time traffic for the Two-Queue model .

• DRR scheme in the customer edge helped to obtain better throughput values.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

• Service level guarantees can be provided to higher service classes to certain extent even in an overloaded situation.

• UDP vs TCP

• The performance for TCP flows is badly effected when they are queued with UDP flows.

• TCP traffic could be protected to certain extent by marking UDP traffic to higher drop precedence.

• If performance results are critical for TCP traffic and congestion is expected, than it is highly desirable to mark UDP traffic to a separate class.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned (contd...)

UDP Flows

- It has been seen throughout the studies that the high priority UDP traffic was always able achieve good performance.
- Providing guarantees to UDP flows is less complex than to TCP flows (hard service guarantees).
- Service provider can charge more for UDP flows because of their non responsive nature.

TCP Flows

- TCP flows are very sensitive to packets dropped.
- Parameters should be configured carefully as TCP flows are complex, i.e., TCP bursts, fragmentation etc.

• Hard service guarantees can be provided to TCP flows but extreme caution should be taken in configuring the parameters and in protecting them from UDP flows.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned (contd...)

• RED performs better in byte mode than packet mode, but still discriminates based on packet lengths.

Classes Study:

- The three queue model was found to perform better than three queue model.
- It was found that better service guarantees can be provided if DRR is used in customer edge rather than FIFO.
- For two queue model the OUT of profile packets were dropped, which effected the whole flow.
- It can be recommended that marking packets to higher drop precedence values should be investigated further especially for TCP flows.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned (contd...)

• Differentiated services can be deployed into network with small number of classes or PHBs.

• The SLAs can be built based on the PHBs being offered and their expected performance.

• The network configuration should be tested thoroughly for parameter values and performance results.

•A service provider can offer service guarantees to customers whose flows are marked as high priority.

Future Work

• Models to provide better service guarantees to TCP flows can be investigated.

• A variation to the TCP protocol for differentiated services is good topic for research.

• The parameters of the components used to provide service guarantees to TCP flows can also be investigated under different scenarios.

• To determine the performance if the OUT of profile packets are shaped instead of being marked.

• The trade off between the shaper buffer sizes in the edge routers and the throughput gained can be investigated.

• Research could be done on resource allocation methods to provide harder service guarantees.



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