CSE/EE 461 – Lecture 19

Quality of Service

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Last Time ...

• HTTP and the Web (but not HTML)

• Focus
  – How do Web transfers work?

• Topics
  – HTTP, HTTP1.1
  – Get-If-Modified
  – Caching and Consistency
This Lecture

- Introduction to Quality of Service

- Focus
  - What transports do applications need?

- Topics
  - Real-time versus Elastic applications
  - Adapting to variable delay
  - Token buckets as bandwidth descriptors

Internet “Best Effort” Service

- Our network model so far:
  - IP at routers: a shared, first come first serve (drop tail) queue
  - TCP at hosts: probes for available bandwidth, causing loss

- The mechanisms at routers and hosts determine the kind of service applications will receive from the network
  - TCP causes loss and variable delay, and Internet bandwidth varies!

- Q: What kinds of service do different applications need?
  - The Web is built on top of just the “best-effort” service
  - Want better mechanisms to support demanding applications
An Audio Example

- Playback is a real-time service in the sense that the audio must be received by a deadline to be useful

Real-time apps need assurances from the network

Q: What assurances does playback require?

Network Support for Playback

- Bandwidth
  - There must be enough on average
  - But we can tolerate to short term fluctuations
- Delay
  - Ideally it would be fixed
  - But we can tolerate some variation (jitter)
- Loss
  - Ideally there would be none
  - But we can tolerate some losses
Example: Delay and Jitter

- Buffer before playout so that most late samples will have arrived

Tolerating Jitter with Buffering
**Taxonomy of Applications**

- Applications
  - Real-time
    - Tolerant
      - Adaptive
      - Non-adaptive
    - Rate-adaptive
      - Adaptive
      - Non-adaptive
  - Elbow
    - Interactive
    - Interactive bulk
    - Asynchronous

**Specifying Bandwidth Needs**

- Problem: Many applications have variable bandwidth demands

- Same average, but very different needs over time. One number. So how do we describe bandwidth to the network?
**Token Buckets**

- Common, simple descriptor
- Use tokens to send bits
- Average bandwidth is $R$ bps
- Maximum burst is $B$ bits

**Key Concepts**

- Different apps need different network support
  - Elastic versus real-time applications
- Adaptation is a key technique, e.g., playout buffer
- Token buckets are a simple bandwidth descriptor
- Next time: How do we build networks that provide more assurances than TCP/IP so far?