Chapter 6
PEER-TO-PEER COMPUTING

Overview

• What is Peer-to-Peer?
• Dictionary
  – Distributed Hashing
  – Search
  – Join & Leave
• Other systems
• Case study: Spam Filtering
• Conclusion

“Peer-to-Peer” is…

• Software: Napster, Gnutella, Kazaa, …
• File “sharing”
• Legal issues, RIAA
• Direct data exchange between clients
• Best effort, no guarantees
• 80% of Web Traffic “P2P”

…a socio-cultural phenomenon!

“Peer-to-Peer” is also…

• A hot research area: Chord, Pastry, 4S, …
• A paradigm beyond Client/Server
• Dynamics (frequent joins and leaves)
• Fault tolerance
• Scalability
• Dictionary… and more!

… a new networking philosophy/technology!
Client/Server Problems

- **Scalability**
  - Can server serve 100, 1'000, 10'000 clients?
  - What's the cost?
- **Security / Denial-of-Service**
  - Servers attract hackers
- **Replication**
  - Replicating for security
  - Replicating close to clients ("caching")

**Case Study: Napster**

- Beach Boys: Pet Sounds @ 170.13.01.02
- Aphex Twin: Ptolemy @ 212.17.11.69
- De La Soul: Ring Ring … @ 129.132.13.122
- Pavement: Zurich is … @ 129.132.13.122

**Case Study: Gnutella**

Search…

Search…

Search…

Search…

Search…

Search…

Search…

Search…
Pros/Cons Gnutella

- totally decentralized
- totally inefficient
  - “flooding” = directionless searching
- Gnutella often does not find searched item
  - TTL
  - Gnutella “not correct”

Dictionary ADT

- A collection of objects
  - Each object uniquely identified by key

- Supports these operations:
  - Search(key) \rightarrow object(key)
  - Insert(key, object) \rightarrow OK?
  - Delete(key) \rightarrow OK?

Dictionary Implementations

- **Classic** Implementations
  - Search Tree (balanced, B-Tree)
  - Hashing (various forms)

- **“Distributed”** Implementations
  - Linear Hashing
  - Consistent Hashing

Distributed Hashing

- Remark: Instead of storing a document at the right peer, just store a forward-pointer
Linear Hashing

- Problem: More and more objects should be stored; need to buy new machines!
- Example: From 4 to 5 machines

```
0 1
---
Move many objects (about 1/2)
```

- Linear Hashing: Move only a few objects to new machine (about 1/n)

Consistent Hashing

- Needs central dispatcher
- Idea: Also the machines get hashed! Each machine is responsible for the files closest to it. Use multiple hash funct. for reliability.

```
0 1
---
```

Not quite happy yet…

- Problem with both linear and consistent hashing is that all the participants of the system must know all peers…
- Number one challenge: Dynamics!
  - Peers join and leave

Dynamics

- Machines (peers) are unreliable
  - Joins; worse: spontaneous leaves!
- Decentralized (“symmetric”) System
  - scalable, fault tolerant, dynamic
P2P Dictionary = Hashing

- Remark: Instead of storing a document at the right peer, just store a forward-pointer

But who stores search tree?

- In particular, where is the root stored?
  - Root is scalability & fault tolerance problem
  - There is no root...!
- If a peer wants to store/search, how does it know where to go?
  - Does every peer know all others?
  - Dynamics! If a peer leaves, all peers must be notified. Too much overhead
  - Idea: Every peer only knows subset of others
P2P Dictionary: Search

Again: 001 searches 100
Peer Join

- **Part 1: Bootstrap**
  - In order to join a P2P system, a joiner must already know a peer already in system. **Typical solutions** are
    - Ask a central authority for a list of IP addresses that have been in the P2P regularly; look up a listing on a web site
    - Try some of those you met last time
    - Just ping randomly (in the LAN)
  - **Part 2: Find your place** in P2P system

2. Find your place

- **The random method**: Choose a random bit string (which determines the place)
  - **Search** for the bit string
  - **Split** with the current leave responsible for the bit string
  - **Search** for your neighbors

  * These are standard searches
Example: Bootstrap with 001 peer

Joiner searches 100101…

Joiner found 100 leave $\rightarrow$ split

Find neighbors
Random Join Discussion

• If tree is balanced, the time to join is
  – $O(\log n)$ for the first part
  – $O(\log n) \cdot O(\log n) = O(\log^2 n)$ for the second part

• It is believed that since all the peers are chosen their position randomly, the tree will more or less be balanced. However, theory and simulations show that this is widely believed but not really true.

Leave

• Since a leave might be spontaneous, it must be detected first. Naturally this is done by the neighbors in the P2P system (all peers periodically ping neighbors).
• If a peer that left was detected, it must be replaced. If peer had sibling leaf, the sibling might just do a “reverse split.”
• If not, search recursively... example!

Peer 01 leaves spontaneously

1. Go down sibling tree, until you hit sibling leaves.
2. Make the left sibling the new common node.
3. Move the free right sibling to the empty spot.

Was that all?

• Yes, you now mastered all the P2P basics... Congratulations!
• But there are some nasty “technicalities” 😊
• Most importantly we would like to know what happened to the data that was stored at the peer that left (important question if we want to use the P2P network as a storage/file system). We study that soon...
• First some other comments...
Questions of experts…

• Q: I know so many other peer-to-peer systems; they are completely different from the one you showed us!

• A: They look different, but in fact the difference comes mostly from the way they are presented. (I give a few examples on the next slides)

Chord

• The most cited system by Ion Stoica, Robert Morris, David Karger, M. Frans Kaashoek, and Hari Balakrishnan, MIT, presented at ACM SIGCOMM 2001.

• Most discussed system in distributed systems and networking books, for example in Edition 4 of Tanenbaum’s Computer Networks.

• CFS, Ivy

Chord

• Every peer has log n many neighbors; one in about distance 2^k, k=1, 2, ..., log n

Skip List

• Are you afraid of programming balanced search trees (e.g. AVL or red-black tree)?!?

• Then the skip list is a data structure for you!

• Idea: Ordered linked list with extra pointers
Skip List

- (Doubly) linked list, with sorted items
- All items have additional pointers on levels 1, ..., k, with probability $2^{-k}$
- Search, insert, delete: Start with root, search for the right interval on highest level, then continue with lower levels.

Skip Net

- Use the skip list as a peer-to-peer architecture: Again each peer gets a random value between 0 and 1, and is then responsible for storing that interval.
- Instead of a root and a sentinel node ("∞"), the list is short-wired as a ring
- There exist several proposals towards this end...

Many many others...

- Original work by Plaxton, Rajaraman, and Richa; "unfortunately" theory paper, so it include many other things... similar proposals are Pastry/Tapestry, or Kademlia.
- Some proposals improve the design; e.g. The Viceroy proposal which is Butterfly-based and therefore only needs a constant number of neighbors per peer.
- Some proposals are more complicated than needed; e.g. CAN
- Closest/best design in reality is Freenet. However, Freenet has some questionable design properties
Why should I care?

• Q: I don’t want to program a worldwide music stealing application, so why should I care?

• A: Many future networking applications will have a form of decentralized control, for scalability, fault-tolerance, and security.

• Example: P2P Spam-Filtering (e.g. SpamNet).