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A Two Rate Three Color Marker

Status of this Memo

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Abstract

This document defines a Two Rate Three Color Marker (trTCM), which can be used as a component in a Diffserv traffic conditioner [RFC2475, RFC2474]. The trTCM meters an IP packet stream and marks its packets based on two rates, Peak Information Rate (PIR) and Committed Information Rate (CIR), and their associated burst sizes to be either green, yellow, or red. A packet is marked red if it exceeds the PIR. Otherwise it is marked either yellow or green depending on whether it exceeds or doesn't exceed the CIR.

1. Introduction

The Two Rate Three Color Marker (trTCM) meters an IP packet stream and marks its packets either green, yellow, or red. A packet is marked red if it exceeds the Peak Information Rate (PIR). Otherwise it is marked either yellow or green depending on whether it exceeds or doesn't exceed the Committed Information Rate (CIR). The trTCM is useful, for example, for ingress policing of a service, where a peak rate needs to be enforced separately from a committed rate.

3. Metering

The behavior of the Meter is specified in terms of its mode and two token buckets, P and C, with rates PIR and CIR, respectively. The maximum size of the token bucket P is PBS and the maximum size of the token bucket C is CBS.

The token buckets P and C are initially (at time 0) full, i.e., the token count $T_p(0) = PBS$ and the token count $T_c(0) = CBS$. Thereafter, the token count T_p is incremented by one PIR times per second up to PBS and the token count T_c is incremented by one CIR times per second up to CBS.

When a packet of size B bytes arrives at time t, the following happens if the trTCM is configured to operate in the Color-Blind mode:

- o If $T_p(t) - B < 0$, the packet is red, else
- o if $T_c(t) - B < 0$, the packet is yellow and T_p is decremented by B, else
- o the packet is green and both T_p and T_c are decremented by B.

When a packet of size B bytes arrives at time t, the following happens if the trTCM is configured to operate in the Color-Aware mode:

- o If the packet has been precolored as red or if $T_p(t) - B < 0$, the packet is red, else
- o if the packet has been precolored as yellow or if $T_c(t) - B < 0$, the packet is yellow and T_p is decremented by B, else
- o the packet is green and both T_p and T_c are decremented by B.

The actual implementation of a Meter doesn't need to be modeled according to the above formal specification.

4. Marking

The Marker reflects the metering result by setting the DS field of the packet to a particular codepoint. In case of the AF PHB [RFC2597], the color can be coded as the drop precedence of the packet.

5. Service Example

The trTCM can be used to mark a IP packet stream in a service, where different, decreasing levels of assurances (either absolute or relative) are given to packets which are green, yellow, or red. For example, a service may discard all red packets, because they exceeded the peak rate, forward yellow packets as best effort, and forward green packets with a low drop probability.

6. Security Considerations

The trTCM has no known security concerns.

7. References

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- [RFC2474] Nichols, K., Blake, S., Baker, F. and D. Black, "Definition of the Differentiated Services Field (DS Field) in the IPv4 and IPv6 Headers", RFC 2474, December 1998.
- [RFC2475] Blake, S., Black, D., Carlson, M., Davies, E., Wang, Z and W. Weiss, "An Architecture for Differentiated Services", RFC 2475, December 1998.

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