

Design of Routing Protocols in IoT

Deepa Devassy, J. Immanuel Johnraja

Abstract: IoT is an emerging technology nowadays and it has many applications in our day to day life. Through Internet of Things, millions of devices can be connected to the internet which can communicate each other by exchanging the data. For efficient transmission of packets, proper routing and scheduling algorithms are required. Efficient routing and scheduling strategies ensure proper resource allocation in the network. Most of the IoT system uses the effective packet scheduling and routing concepts to enhance the performance of the network. This paper describes the concepts of various routing and scheduling protocols used in Internet of Things. Working of different protocols and its merits and demerits are discussed in this article.

Index Terms—Internet of Things, Routing Protocols

I. INTRODUCTION

Millions of devices are getting connected to the world of internet every day, which makes human life so easier. The devices can exchange any kind of information which will be processed and stored in a database. The devices connected in the network is termed as a node which forms the topology of the network. The nodes can be arranged in any structure, so that there should be multiple paths exist among all the nodes. Every node maintains routing information and packets are routed to the destination based on the unique address of the IP header. Routing is significantly important in the IoT network since the nodes will route the data through the routers and finally it stores in the database or cloud. The selection of best routing algorithm is very much important as far as network throughput is concerned. The concept of IoT is currently related to various technologies like Wireless sensor Network (WSN), Low Power Wireless Personal Area Network (LoWPAN), RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) and Machine to Machine (M2M) Communication[1]. Various types of protocols are being used in all these networks to support the routing of packets. Based on the characteristics of IoT network, the protocols which are working in the wireless network may be taken into the IoT environment. Identify applicable funding agency here. If none, delete this.

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II. RELATEDWORKS

With the current research trend in IoT, every year new protocols are getting standardized. There are many protocols defined in every layer of network model which provides different functionality. The network layer protocols [1] are mainly applicable for routing the data in the wired or wireless network. This paper discusses various network layer standards and their applications in different areas so that it can be further expanded to multiple network environments.

III. LAYERED ARCHITECTURE OF IOT

IoT architecture[2] can be viewed as a layered architecture and it has five layers. Each layer functionalities are defined as a set of protocols. The entire functionality of IoT system is divided into sub-functions and each layer performs them. Fig.1 shows the layered architecture of IoT and each layer is analyzed separately with its features.

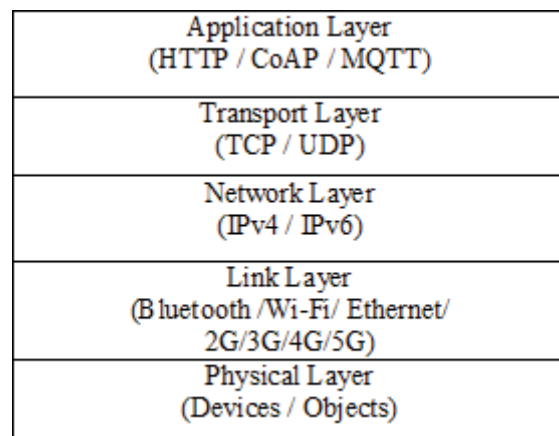


Fig. 1. Layered Architecture of IoT

A. Physical Layer

This is the lowest layer in the IoT architecture. This layer mainly deals with the devices and objects connected to the world of IoT. The devices like sensors, camera and RFID tags fall into this layer. The sensor collects the information such as temperature, humidity etc from the environment and converts this information into signals and passes it on to the devices connected to it. Various types of sensors are available

in the market for specific applications.

B. Link Layer

Link layer passes the data through the local network connection like Wi-Fi, Wi-Max etc. Protocol sare being defined for different kinds of network which provides different datarate.

C. Network Layer

The network layer is responsible for the routing of data packets through the network from source to the destination. IPv4 and IPv6 are the commonly used network layer protocol in IoT application.

D. Transport Layer

The transport layer provides end-to-end connection between the devices and commonly used transport layer protocols are TCP and UDP. TCP is a connection oriented protocol where the connection information is maintained throughout the session. UDP is a connectionless protocol in which the data packets cantake any routetoreach the destination.

E. Application Layer

All the user applications run in this layer where different protocols are being used to implement the business model. HTTP is the commonly used application layer protocol and for IoT specific applications other protocols CoAP[2] are also defined.

section mainly describes the various characteristics of routing protocols applicable to diversenetworks.

A. Packet Forwarding

Forwarding data packets from source destination cane be done in two different ways, Hop-By-Hop routing[4] and Source routing[5].The details are discussed in the following section.

Hop-By Hop routing: When a packet is travellingthrough the network, it may take different routes with various network devices connected along the path. The devices can be any network connecting devices such as router or gateway .As the packet arrives at each of these device, the device keeps the routing information, accordingly the packet is routed to the destination. The link between two successive network devices is called a hop. Every hop maintains some part of the route it is participating. The routing table at every node contains thenext-hop node and the cost-metric for the destination. Only the destination address is embedded in the data packet.

Source Routing: Insource routing the entire path has been embedded in the packet header itself. Fig.3 depicts how a packet is being routed from a source S to a destination D. The data packet contains the data and the address of the intermediate routers A and B to reach the destination D. It will never follow any other path to reach the destination.

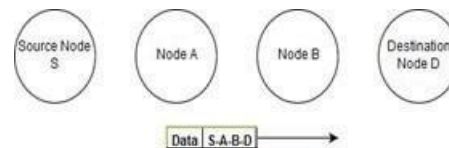


Fig. 3. Source Routing

B. Route Discovery

The availability of network topological information helps a node to discover its path to reach the destination. Based on the topological information routing protocols can be classified as proactive, reactive and hybrid [6].

Proactive: In proactive protocol, every node is aware about the entire information about the network topology before transmitting the data. The routing information is exchanged among all the nodes in the network .This enhances the network performance in terms of latency. However, the exchange of more amount of the routing information, cause more volume of data to be present in the network. Processing of the whole data reduces the lifetime of battery

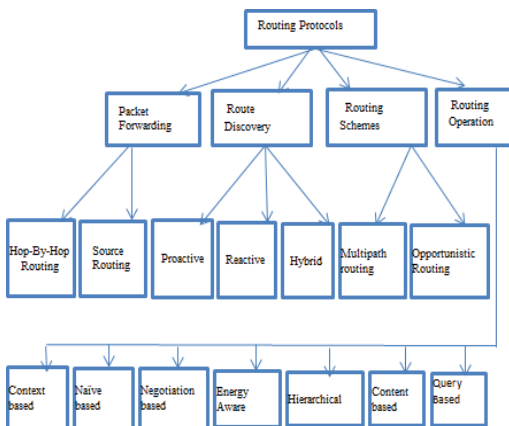


Fig. 2. Classification of Routing Protocols

IV. ROUTING PROTOCOLS IN IOT

The routing protocols used for wireless network[3] may be applicable to IoT network also. The classification of routing protocols is shown in Fig.2. There exist numerous categories of routing protocols. Each protocol is having its own characteristics which are adaptable in the IoT environment. This

attached with the sensor nodes. In this protocol, the routing information is periodically exchanged among the other nodes. Therefore, every node is aware about the network topology and updates routing information in its routing table.

Reactive: Are active protocol exchanges the topology information whenever it is needed. Thus it can save the energy. The path is obtained using a connection establishment process. The nodes are not aware of the network structure, so the routing information is not exchanged among the nodes frequently. Here the main drawback is packets may experience more delay in the network.

Hybrid: It combines the best features of both reactive and proactive routing protocols. That is, every node communicates with, neighboring nodes using proactive routing protocols. The communication with far distance node is possible using reactive routing protocol.

C. Routing Schemes

The packets can be routed from source to a destination in different ways based on the availability of paths. Based on the path availability from a source to a destination node routing schemes can be classified as follows.

Single-path routing: This is a traditional routing method, which is mostly applicable in wired network. In single path routing[7], the source node constructs a single route towards the sink. The varying link condition may cause routing process inefficient. The examples for single-path routing include DSR, AODV, and DSDV etc.

Multi-path routing: In Multi-path routing[7], multiple paths are available between the source to the destination. So, the packets can take different routes to reach the destination. This increases the network performance. The main advantages of multi-path routing are more robustness and better connectivity.

Opportunistic Routing: In this routing, the node closest to the destination is being selected to forward a packet. This type of routing is mainly applicable in wireless sensor networks. Commonly used opportunistic routing protocols[8] include SOAR[9], ExOR[10], ROMER[11] etc.

D. Routing Operations

Many of the routing protocols in wireless networks, sensor networks, and Ad Hoc networks can be gradually taken into the IoT environment for different applications. According to the goal and the QoS requirements the routing algorithm can be categorized into different groups. Every day the requirements are changing, and now, it

becomes a greater challenge to choose which algorithm to be selected for communication.

Context based routing: The node collects the information from the environment, and uses this data for route selection in IoT. The environmental data such as temperature, pressure, humidity can be taken as a measure of finding the energy level of sensor nodes in IoT network. RPL is one of the best examples for context aware routing[12], which uses the concept of different objective functions to learn the arguments from the environment.

Content based routing: In content based routing[10], the data is being transmitted based on the content stored in the database. The database contains the information such as node ID, traffic level, MAC address and energy level information. The collected data is aggregated and routed based on the content. EECBR [13] and ETERNAL [14] are the routing protocols which work on the concept of content based routing.

Flooding: The network uses the concept of flooding[15] in which the source node sends request to all the outgoing links and the link propagates this request to its outgoing links until it reaches the destination. Once it reaches the destination, the reply message is sent back to the source node using the reverse path mechanism.

Hierarchical routing: Hierarchical routing[16] is also called as cluster based routing. The nodes form different clusters or groups in the network. The cluster head is selected based on different criteria. The elected cluster head will forward the data only if the destination belongs to this particular cluster. Energy consumption of the node can be saved using cluster based routing. The protocols such as LEACH[17], FCM[18] are the best examples for energy aware routing protocols.

Query based routing: Query based routing protocols are the one, which falls under energy aware routing protocols[19]. It includes both energy balancing and energy savings. A query is being sent to monitor a specific event happening in the wireless sensor network. To send the query and to get the reply, different strategies are being used.

V. EXAMPLES OF ROUTING PROTOCOLS

In this paper, five different routing protocols have been taken for study and its features have been compared.

A. RPL

RPL[20] is the standard routing protocol defined for Low Power and Lossy Networks and nowadays it is being used in majority of the IoT applications. RPL uses the concept of Destination Oriented Direct Acyclic Graphs (DODAGs). Every node is ranked with an objective function and it uses different control messages to send the data. When a node receives any DIO message it joins as member in the DAG and forward it to the next node. If a node is already a member of DAG, then it discards the DIO message. DAO control message is used to communicate in the upward direction ie from the node to the gateway.

B. CORPL

This protocol is an enhancement to the RPL protocol and mainly used in cognitive radio enabled AMI networks. CORPL[21] uses the same concept of DAG with the concept of opportunistic forwarding. Mainly it considers the smart grid application in advanced metering infrastructure networks.

C. CARP

CARP[22], FBR[23] and EFlood[24] are some of the multi-hop routing protocols used for underwater wireless sensor networks. The hop distance from the sink is being stored by every node in the first step itself. Then a broadcast control packet called PING is transmitted and it is acknowledged with a PONG message by the neighbors. Then the data is forwarded to the sink through a separate path.

D. LEACH

Every node in the network is equipped with a battery which determines the life time of the node in the network. LEACH[17] is a hierarchical routing protocol, which conserves energy by rotating the cluster heads. The lifetime of the node can be increased by routing the data through the cluster heads. Many algorithms are proposed to form the clusters and the cluster head can be rotated to improve overhead performance of the network.

E. ETERNAL

ETERNAL[14] is a content based routing protocol, in which the data is being routed based on the content than the context. The related data from a network is to be forwarded and thus energy consumption of node can be reduced. ETERNAL algorithm enhances the network life time, and

limits the traffic by avoiding the redundant transmission of data. The data coming from various sensors have been collected and aggregated and data is routed based on the content to the destination.

Many IoT routing protocols have been discussed in this paper. These protocols are defined for different kinds of network applications. Table I summarizes the advantage and disadvantages of each of the protocols.

VI. RESULT AND CONCLUSION

In this survey different routing protocols are analyzed, and it is found that, for larger networks hierarchical routing protocols are efficient. This protocol reduces the energy consumption of sensor nodes. Hierarchical routing forms, different clusters and only the cluster heads become the part of communication. This saves the energy of nodes and increases the life time of network. Flat routing or flooding can be applied for small area networks where the data passes through all the nodes in that network. This leads to more energy consumption at each node and cause more dead nodes in the network.

TABLE I COMPARISON OF VARIOUS ROUTING PROTOCOLS

Routing Protocol	Application	Methodology	Context Aware	Risk Factor
RPL	LLN	DODAG	Yes	Single point of failure
CORPL	CR Network	DODAG with Opportunistic forwarding	Yes	Each node maintains forwarders list
CARP	Underwater WSN	Routing based on link quality	Yes	Communication overhead
LEACH	WSN IoT	Hierarchical Routing	Yes	Cluster head selection
ETERNAL	WSN IoT	Content based routing	No	Space complexity

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