ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTING IPV6 IN THE X-KERNEL SIMULATOR

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Declaration

I declare that this thesis is my own work and has not been submitted in any form for another degree or diploma at any university or other institute of tertiary education. Information derived from the published and unpublished work of others has been acknowledged in the text and a list of references is given.
Abstract

The new Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) or Internet Protocol Next Generation (IPNG) is bound to replace the existing Internet Protocol Version 4 (IPv4). This new protocol is to address and resolve the limitations of the existing Internet Protocols. At the moment the new protocol is still in its infancy stage, and it is being implemented by both the research society and the private sector.

The x-kernel being a research project done by University of Arizona is freely available on the Internet. This x-kernel is a networking software almost similar to the Berkeley version (BSD) and it is bundled together with a simulation software called x-sim. This x-kernel simulator enables the user to test various protocols available in the software itself or newly developed ones. The x-kernel package comes with an existing set of protocol modules for the TCP/IP protocol stack and other network implementation. The TCP/IP protocol stack uses the IPv4 for its IP layer.

The main intention of this dissertation is to look at the issues in implementing IPv6 in the x-kernel simulator. The issues needed in implementing IPv6 are basically derived from the existing IPv4 implementation. The issues here can be used for the real implementation later, as these issues fills the purpose of a test-bed for the IPv6 based network simulation. The simulation issues that was looked upon was a minimal IPv6 based network simulation consisting of two hosts connected via an Ethernet internetwork with no routing, fragmentation and other options enabled in the IP layer.
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Figures</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 1.0 Introduction</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Overview</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Objectives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1 Aims and Scope of study</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Research Methodology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Project Motivation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 2.0 The definition of x-kernel and OSI</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 The OSI Model</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Realizing OSI-Based Object-Oriented Systems</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 3.0 The x-kernel architecture</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 The x-kernel architecture explained</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1 Protocol objects</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2 Session objects</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1.3 Message objects 19
3.1.4 Relationship between protocol and sessions 20
3.1.5 The x-kernel support routines 21
3.1.5.1 The support routines description 22
3.2 The implementation environment 25
3.2.1 Network Protocols at User Level 25
3.2.1.1 Multiplicity of Protocols 25
3.2.1.2 Exploiting Application Knowledge 26
3.2.1.3 Alternative Protocol Structures 27
3.2.2 User Level Implementations 30
3.2.3 Simulator implementations 30
3.3 Designs and Implementation of User-Level Protocols 32
3.3.1 Design Overview 32
Chapter 4.0 An overview of IPv6 35
4.1 Header format 35
4.1.1 IPv6 Header description 36
4.2 Addressing 38
4.3 IPv6 implementation in Linux 40
4.3.1 Configuring a Linux host for IPv6 40
4.3.1.1 The kernel 40
4.3.1.2 Configuration files 41
Chapter 5.0 The x-kernel configuration 43
5.1 The x-kernel installation steps 43
5.2 The x-kernel simulator installation steps 46
Chapter 6.0 IPv6 implementation issues in the x-kernel

6.1 The Protocol vs. the Operating System 50
6.2 Protocol Layering 55
6.3 The IPv6 module issues 57
  6.3.1 The IPv4 module 58
  6.3.2 The proposed IPv6 module 60
6.4 IPv6 simulation and configuration issues 65
6.5 Summary 71

Chapter 7.0 Conclusion 72

7.1 Findings 72
7.2 Limitations 73
7.3 Future Work 73

Bibliography 75

Appendix 77

Appendix A 77
Appendix B 78
Appendix C 79

List of Figures

Figure 2.1 The OSI network architecture 8
Figure 2.2: Service Interface between protocols and peers 8
Figure 2.3 Unix-Based Multi-Protocol Architecture 9
Figure 2.4: A protocol graph 13
Figure 2.5: The Uniform Protocol Interface 13
Figure 3.1: Instances of protocol and session objects 16
Figure 3.2: Relationship between protocols and sessions 20
Figure 3.3: Monolithic Organizations 27
Figure 3.4: Non-monolithic Organizations 28
Figure 3.5: Structure of the Protocol Implementation 32
Figure 4.1: IPv6 header format 35
Figure 4.2: IPv6 three main division of its 128-address allocation bit 38
Figure 6.1: The relationship between header files and ip.c file in IPv4 module 59
Figure 6.2: A screen shot of IPv4 simulation in progress between two hosts on an Ethernet 66
Figure 6.3: Two virtual hosts in a simulation 67

List of Tables

Table 6.1: Main differences between IPv4 as compared to IPv6 49
Table 6.2: IPv6 header field descriptions table 50
Glossary

ANSI C: American National Standard Institute

API: Application Programmer Interface

ARP: Address Resolution Protocol

BGP-4: Border Gateway Protocol version 4

BSD: Berkeley Socket Distribution

C/C++: C/C plus plus Programming Language

CIDR: Classless Interdomain Routing

ETH: Ethernet Protocol

ETHD: Ethernet Driver

GNU: Gnu's Not Unix

ICMPV6: Internet Control Message Protocol version 6

IDRP: Inter-Domain Routing Protocol

IEEE: Institute of Electrical Engineers

IETF: Internet Engineering Task Force

IGMP: Internet Group Management Protocol

IP: Internet Protocol

IPNG: Internet Protocol Next Generation

IPV4: Internet Protocol version 4

IPv6: Internet Protocol version 6

LANCE: Lance Ethernet Adapter

OSI: Open Systems Interconnection

OSPF: Open Shortest Path First
RFC2460: Request For Comment no. 2460
RIP: Routing Information Protocol
RPC: Remote Procedure Call
RTCP: Real Time Control Protocol
SIM: Simulation layer for internetwork
System V: Operating System 5
TCP: Transfer Control Protocol
TCP/IP: Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol stack
UDP: User Datagram Protocol
UNIX: Unix operating system
UPI: Uniform Protocol Interface
UX: Usenix Server
VNET: Virtual Network layer
VMTP: Virtual Message Transport Protocol
Preface

This is a final year dissertation project that marks the end of my education at University of Malaya. The main goal of this project is to derive a review paper on the issues of IPv6 implementation in the x-kernel simulator. The protocol layer that is focused upon is the IP layer of TCP/IP protocol stack. The issues discussed are surrounding the IP layer of the protocol stack with its protocol semantics that is needed to implement and replace IPv4 with IPv6. Here the implementation is considered in terms of host-to-host connection, not involving any routing or fragmentation. The configuration issues of the x-kernel simulator the x-sim, is also discussed.

This dissertation project was performed between March 2001 and November 2001. My supervisor was Puan Miss Laiha Mat Kiah, (mlaiha@hotmail.com) lecturer and advisor at the faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology University of Malaya.

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