



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**POLICY-BASED DYNAMIC PROXY FRAMEWORK: AN
APPLICATION LEVEL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ACTIVE
SERVICE CREATION AND CONTENTS DELIVERY**

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**POLICY-BASED DYNAMIC PROXY FRAMEWORK: AN APPLICATION
LEVEL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ACTIVE SERVICE CREATION AND
CONTENTS DELIVERY**

By

CHOONG KHONG NENG

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

March 2003



Specially Dedicated To All I Love

My Father

Choong Set Ching

My Mother

Yap Moi Lan

My Wife

Yee Yoke Chek

My Brother and Sister

Choong Khong Wei

Choong Khong Ying



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

POLICY-BASED DYNAMIC PROXY FRAMEWORK: AN APPLICATION LEVEL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ACTIVE SERVICE CREATION AND CONTENTS DELIVERY

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This thesis focuses on the dynamic proxy framework named the Chek Proxy Framework (CPF). The main objectives are to scale the existing Internet architecture by conserving the backbone bandwidth, reducing server loads, and improving the overall networking system performance, particularly the client receiving rate. These were achieved by deploying application-level proxy services within the network, to accelerate and customise the delivery of contents.

The CPF is based on the 3-tier distributed computing architecture with the client and server residing at the ends of the respective networks. A dynamically appointed middle-tier system, the Dynamic Application Proxy Server (DAPS) is created on-demand and resides at the client-side network based on the designed clustering policy. The uniqueness of CPF lies on the use of voluntary client machines, instead of static and dedicated machines to host DAPS services created at runtime. This is



done by appointing selected clients (as proxy) that have already downloaded, or are downloading contents, to turn around and serve the contents to other clients within the same network segment governed by the adopted clustering policy, thereby relieving the server and network from redundant loads. Contents can be of both static and dynamic nature such as web pages and video streams. DAPS services include protocol conversion, message filtering and re-routing, transcoding, and caching.

Efforts have been made on implementing a prototype system and conducting simulation studies, based on different clustering policies. On the implementation aspect, attention was paid on defining the CPF architecture, its system components, operation modes and setup protocol, Chek Application Deployment System (CADS), Chek Application Service Template (CAST) and a Generic Object Transport (GOT). Simulations focus on evaluating two proposed proxy selection algorithms and on the performance gains of using CPF for networks of hierarchical topology.

The proposed framework opens avenues for building more complex services and applications such as customisable and reliable content dissemination, efficient collaborative system and congestion management. It is expected that, in the future, the application layer infrastructure approach will serve an important role for large-scale contents delivery in the Internet.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**KERANGKA PROKSI DINAMIK MENGIKUT DASAR: SATU
INFRASTRUKTUR LAPISAN APLIKASI UNTUK PEMBENTUKAN
SERVIS AKTIF DAN PENGHANTARAN KANDUNGAN INTERNET**

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Tumpuan tesis ini adalah di atas satu kerangka proksi yang bernama Chek Proxy Framework (CPF). Objektif utama CPF adalah untuk mengabadikan lebar jalur tulang belakang rangkaian, mengurangkan beban pelayan dan meningkatkan prestasi rangkaian secara menyeluruh, terutamanya kadar penerimaan pelanggan. Objektif tersebut boleh dicapai dengan meletak-aturkan perkhidmatan proksi lapisan aplikasi di dalam rangkaian, untuk memecutkan penghantaran kandungan.

CPF adalah berdasarkan kepada senibina komputing teragih 3-peringkat, di mana kedua-dua pelanggan and pelayan berada di hujung rangkaian masing-masing. Satu lagi sistem peringkat tengah, yang diberi name Dynamic Application Proxy Server (DAPS) dan dilantik secara dinamik dan mengikut permintaan, tinggal di rangkaian sebelah-pelanggan berasaskan kepada dasar pengelompokan yang ditentukan. Keunikan CPF adalah disebabkan oleh penggunaan komputer pelanggan yang

sukarela, bukannya komputer yang statik dan dedikasi, untuk menghoskan perkhidmatan-perkhidmatan DAPS yang tercipta sewaktu program berjalan. Ini dapat dilakukan dengan melantik pelanggan terpilih (sebagai proksi) yang telah atau sedang memuat-turunkan kandungan, untuk melayan pelanggan-pelanggan lain di segmen rangkaian yang sama, mengikuti dasar pengelompokan yang ditetapkan. Justeru itu, kaedah ini dapat menyenangkan pelayan dan rangkaian dari beban berganda. Perkhidmatan DAPS merangkumi penukaran protokol, penurasan dan pelaluan-semula mesej, transkodan dan caching.

Usaha dilakukan ke atas pelaksanaan prototaip dan simulasi yang berpandukan kepada dasar-dasar pengelompokan yang berlainan. Dari segi pelaksanaan, perhatian telah diberikan untuk mendefinisi senibina, ragam operasi dan protokol penyediaan CPF. Sistem Perletakan Atur Aplikasi CPF (CADS), Template Servis Aplikasi CPF (CAST) dan Pengangkut Objek Umum (GOT). Simulasi menjalankan penilaian terhadap dua jenis algoritma pemilihan proksi dan kepada gandaan pertunjukan melalui penggunaan CPF di rangkaian yang bertopologi hairaki.

Kerangkakerja CPF yang dicadangkan membuka ruang untuk pembinaan perkhidmatan-perkhidmatan yang lebih kompleks dan aplikasi-aplikasi seperti penyebaran kandungan yang boleh dipercayai dan diandalkan, sistem kolaboratif dan pengurusan kesesakan. Adalah dipercayai bahawa di masa akan datang, kaedah infrastruktur lapisan aplikasi akan memainkan peranan yang penting dalam penghantaran kandungan secara besar-besaran di Internet.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
DEDICATION		ii
ABSTRACT		iii
ABSTRAK.....		v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....		vii
APPROVAL SHEET.....		viii
DECLARATION FORM.....		x
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....		xi
LIST OF TABLES.....		xv
LIST OF FIGURES.....		xvi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....		xix
CHAPTER		
I	INTRODUCTION	1.1
	Problem Statements and Motivations	1.3
	Scarcity of Resources	1.4
	Uncoordinated and Duplicated Traffics	1.5
	Deficiency of Present Solutions	1.6
	Myriad Requirements of Various Applications	1.8
	Trends Leading to Dynamic Proxy Solutions	1.9
	The Proposed Dynamic Proxy Approach.....	1.13
	Objectives.....	1.15
	Scope and Contributions	1.16
	Thesis Organisation.....	1.19
II	LITERATURE REVIEW	2.1
	Introduction	2.1
	Proxy Server.....	2.1
	Static Proxy Server	2.3
	Dynamic Proxy Server.....	2.5
	Taxonomy of Content Delivery Solutions	2.8
	Server-tier Solutions.....	2.10
	Load Balancing.....	2.10
	Reverse Proxy Caching	2.11
	Summary.....	2.13
	Network-tier Solutions	2.13
	Proxy.....	2.14
	Content and Server Replications	2.15
	Network-level Acceleration Infrastructures and Protocol.....	2.17



	Application-level Acceleration Infrastructures and Protocol.....	2.21
	Client-tier Solutions	2.24
	Network-level Techniques and Protocols.....	2.25
	Application-level Techniques and Protocols.....	2.27
	Issues of Network Clustering	2.30
	Server Placement and Selection Schemes	2.33
	Algorithms for Server Placements	2.34
	Server Selection Approaches	2.37
	Anycast Mapping.....	2.38
	Special Probing Server	2.39
	Intelligent Client.....	2.40
	Summary	2.40
III	CPF SYSTEM DESIGN	3.1
	Introduction	3.1
	System Architecture.....	3.1
	System Components.....	3.3
	The CPFserver	3.3
	The ObjectBasket (OB).....	3.4
	The CPFnode	3.5
	Operation Modes.....	3.6
	Hand-shaking Setup Protocol.....	3.8
	Clustering Policy	3.12
	Local Clustering.....	3.12
	Neighbour Clustering.....	3.13
	Regional Clustering.....	3.14
	Summary	3.14
IV	SECURITY ISSUES OF THE CPF	4.1
	Introduction	4.1
	Threat Analysis	4.1
	Security Framework of CPF	4.4
	Delivery of Non-malicious Object.....	4.4
	Uncontrolled Resource Utilisation on the Client Machine ...	4.7
	Illegal Access to Contents.....	4.9
	Lost of Data Integrity and Illegal Redistribution of Contents	4.12
	The Secure Hand-shaking Setup Protocol.....	4.14
	Summary	4.17



V	PROTOTYPE IMPLEMENTATION AND BENCHMARKING	5.1
	Introduction.....	5.1
	Choice of Implementation Tools.....	5.1
	CPF Application Support Services	5.3
	Generic Object Transport (GOT) Layer.....	5.3
	Benchmarking GOT	5.4
	CPF Application Service Templates (CAST).....	5.9
	Addition of New Application Template	5.11
	CPF Application Deployment System (CADS).....	5.12
	Applications of CPF.....	5.14
	Video Broadcasting.....	5.14
	Collaborative Chat Application.....	5.16
	Distributed Compute Server.....	5.17
	Benchmarking CPF	5.19
	Overview.....	5.19
	Workloads of the Server and Network.....	5.20
	Overall Connection Time.....	5.22
	Resource Consumption	5.24
	CPF-enabled Video Server.....	5.25
	Dynamic Application Proxy Server	5.26
	Resource Conservation from 2-tier to 3-tier	5.28
	Implementation Hurdles.....	5.29
	Summary	5.30
VI	NETWORK AWARENESS MODEL OF THE CPF	6.1
	Introduction.....	6.1
	The Use of Agent in CPF.....	6.2
	Architecture of NAM.....	6.4
	The NAM Hand-shaking Protocol.....	6.9
	Generation of Heartbeat Message	6.11
	Implementation Rules	6.15
	Management of Fault and Overloading.....	6.17
	Failure of HOB and LOB.....	6.17
	Participation of new LOBs.....	6.18
	Sudden Death	6.19
	Summary	6.19
VII	PROXY SELECTION AND PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	7.1
	Introduction.....	7.1
	Proxy Selection Strategies.....	7.2
	Group Formation.....	7.2
	Selection Factors	7.5
	Selection Algorithms.....	7.7



Simulation Methodology.....	7.8
Network Model	7.9
Simulation Model.....	7.9
Simulation Parameters	7.11
Assumptions.....	7.14
Performance Metric.....	7.14
Results and Discussions	7.15
General Analysis	7.15
Performance Comparisons	7.18
Average Client Receiving Rates	7.18
Bandwidth Utilisation of WAN	7.20
Performance of Proxy	7.21
Proxy Allocation Rates	7.23
Effect of Client Size	7.25
Effect of Network Topology	7.28
Summary	7.31
VIII CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORKS	8.1
Summary	8.1
Future Works.....	8.4
REFERENCES	R.1
BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	A.1



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
4.1	Performance of Encryption for Different Key Size	4.9
5.1	Machine Configurations	5.4
5.2	File Size of the Proxy and Client Code of Video Broadcasting and Chat Applications	5.23
5.3	Overall Connection Time of CPF-enabled Applications	5.24
7.1	Selection Preference	7.6
7.2	Performance of Algorithms	7.16
7.3	Performance Figures of Selected Algorithms with Selection Threshold 2	7.20
7.4	Performance Figures of the AC Algorithm	7.22



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.1	A Typical Internet Path	1.6
1.2	Trends Leading to Dynamic Proxy Solutions	1.10
1.3	The ISP Network and Last-mile Network	1.13
1.4	Various Layers of the CPF Architecture	1.17
2.1	Classification of Dynamic Proxy Scheme	2.6
2.2	Classification of Various Content Delivery Solutions	2.9
2.3	The Architectural Overview of AN Node	2.19
2.4	Nested Compressions Generate Unnecessary Overheads	2.20
2.5	Applying Multiple Compressions Unnecessarily in Sequence	2.20
3.1	Architectural Overview of the CPF	3.2
3.2	Agent Enhanced Dynamic Proxy Framework	3.6
3.3	The Hand-shaking Process of Creating a Proxy on the 1st Client ...	3.9
3.4	The Hand-shaking Process of Subsequent Client Connections	3.11
4.1	Authentication between Objects at Various Tiers	4.2
4.2	Authentication between Objects at Various Tiers: (a) Adopting the asymmetrical key pair; (b) Using three separate keys; and (c) Operating with a common session key	4.6
4.3	Role-based Access Control Scheme	4.8
4.4	Hand-shaking Procedure for Agreeing on a Session Key	4.11
4.5	The Secure CPF Hand-shaking Protocol	4.15
5.1	Class Diagram of the Generic Object Transport Framework	5.3
5.2	The Startup Time for Client and Server	5.5



5.3	Server-side Thread Allocations	5.6
5.4	Server-side Memory Allocations	5.7
5.5	Client-side Thread Allocations	5.8
5.6	Client-side Memory Allocations	5.8
5.7	Converting 2-tier Video Broadcasting Application into the 3-tier ...	5.10
5.8	Code Snippet of the CPF Application Starter Class	5.12
5.9	The Client-side CADS Panel	5.13
5.10	The CADS Interaction Model	5.14
5.11	Performance of 2-tier Video Broadcasting System	5.15
5.12	Performance of 2-tier Video Broadcasting System	5.16
5.13	A 2-tier (left) and 3-tier (right) Collaborative Environment	5.17
5.14	Measurements of Server Load	5.25
5.15	Kernel Utilisation at the CPF-enabled Video Server	5.26
5.16	Memory Availability at the CPF-enabled Video Server	5.25
5.17	Memory Availability at the Dynamic Proxy Machine	5.27
5.18	Kernel Utilisation at the Dynamic Proxy Machine	5.28
5.19	Comparison of Kernel Utilisation between 3-Tier and 2-Tier Mechanisms	5.29
5.20	Comparison of Memory Usage between 3-Tier and 2-Tier Mechanisms	5.29
6.1	Standard Interface between the CPFnode and Agent	6.4
6.2	The Network Awareness Model (NAM)	6.6
6.3	Heartbeat Distribution in NAM	6.8
6.4	The Hand-shaking Procedure of NAM	6.10



6.5	Heartbeat Generation Algorithm	6.12
6.6	The Three NAM Interaction Models	6.15
7.1	The CPF Proxy Selection Algorithms	7.8
7.2	Event Stages in the Simulation	7.10
7.3	CDF of the Selected Algorithms with Selection Threshold 2	7.19
7.4	Bandwidth Utilisation of the WAN	7.21
7.5	Proxy Allocation Pattern of the Conservative Algorithm	7.24
7.6	Proxy Allocation Pattern of the Greedy Algorithm	7.24
7.7	Effect of Client Size with Selection Threshold of 2	7.25
7.8	Effect of Client Size with Selection Threshold of 3	7.26
7.9	Effect of Client Size with Selection Threshold of 4	7.26
7.10	Effect of Client Size with UC Algorithm of Various Resource Utilisation Levels	7.27
7.11	Effect of Client Size with UG Algorithm of Various Resource Utilisation Levels	7.28
7.12	CDF of Client Receiving Rate of the AC and AG Algorithms	7.29
7.13	Effects of the Combined Clustering Policy on Network Throughput	7.31
7.14	Effects on Server Workloads	7.31



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	User-Aware Conservative
ACC	Active Congestion Control
ACL	Access Control List
AG	User-Aware Greedy
ALAN	Application Level Active Network
ALF	Application Level Framing
ALMI	Application Level Multicast Infrastructure
AMM	Application Management Module
AMnet	Active Multicasting Network
AN	Active Network
ARM	Active Reliable Multicast
AS	Autonomous Systems
BGP	Border Gateway Protocol
BTP	Banana Tree Protocol
CADS	CPF Application Deployment System
CAN	Content Addressable Network
CASS	CPF Application Supporting Service
CAST	CPF Application Service Template
CDF	Cumulative Density Function
CDN	Content Delivery Network
CIDR	Classless InterDomain Routing
CM	Client Module



CNP	Caching Neighborhood Protocol
COS	Cluster Operating Systems
CPF	Chek Proxy Framework
CSCW	Computer Supported Cooperative Work
DAPS	Dynamic Application Proxy Server
DES	Data Encryption Standard
DMM	Decision Making Module
DVMRP	Distance Vector Multicast Routing Protocol
E2E	End-to-End
GOT	Generic Object Transport
GRCD	Grass-Roots Content Distribution
GUI	Graphical User Interface
HDy	Hard Dynamic
HOB	Heavy ObjectBasket
HTTP	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol
ICP	Internet Cache Protocol
ISP	Internet Service Provider
JNI	Java Native Interface
JNLP	Java Network Launching Protocol
JWS	Java Web Start
LB	Load Balancer
LOB	Light ObjectBasket
MARCH	Mobile Aware Server Architecture



MAS	Mobile Agent System
MBone	Multicast Backbone
MMM	Metric Management Module
MMT	Mesh based Multicast
NAM	Network Awareness Module
NAT	Network Address Translation
NC	NAM-Client
NOS	Node Operating Systems
NS	NAM-Server
NTP	Network Time Protocol
P2P	Peer-to-Peer
PDA	Personal Digital Assistant
PGM	Pragmatic General Multicast
PPS	Packets Per Second
QCIF	Quarter Common Intermediate Format
RMX	Reliable Multicast Proxy
RPC	Reverse Proxy Caching
RTP	Real Time Transport Protocol
RTSP	Real Time Streaming Protocol
SAN	Storage Area Network
SDP	Secure Dynamic Proxy
SDy	Soft Dynamic
SM	Server Module



SNS	Scalable Network Services
SPAND	Shared Passive Network Performance Discovery
SRM	Scalable Reliable Multicast
TPS	Transparent Proxy Signaling
TTL	Time-To-Live
UC	User-Unaware Conservative
UG	User-Unaware Greedy
VPN	Virtual Private Network
WAP	Wireless Access Protocol



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

One of the main challenges to design a cost-effective network service is to maximise the number of clients that can be served, while minimising the workload of both the server and network backbone. These two conflicting requirements become more challenging given approximately 70% of today's Internet traffics are of dynamic nature (e.g. multimedia contents, personalised information and transactions) [1], which deemed to utilise more server and network resources, than the static contents (such as texts and pictures). This urges for better optimisation techniques to scale and improve the performance of the existing Internet infrastructure.

Internet optimisation techniques could be generally divided into either the network or application layer solution. Here, the network layer refers to the lowest 4 layers of the OSI reference model. Examples of optimisation techniques at these layers include upgrading or replacement of physical equipments (e.g. from cable circuit to fiber circuit), the use of different MAC protocols, Active Network (AN) [2], and the Transparent Proxy Signaling [3]. Examples of the application layer optimisation include the conventional cache proxy server, Content Delivery Network (CDN) [4, 5], Conductor [6] and the recent Peer-to-Peer (P2P) communication approach [7].



While the network-layer solution gains the merit of being transparent to higher communication layers, it is regarded less flexible and programmability as far as the support of application semantics are concerned [6, 8, 9]. On the contrary, working at the application layer allows the complexity associated with the large-scale broadcasting mechanisms such as MBone [10], be shifted from the routing layer to the application layer, renders them more manageable and programmable. Such migration also causes the issues of receivers' heterogeneity and application characteristics to be more tractable. The contents requested can be adaptively modified to suit the needs and attributes of the receivers. Moreover, customised application templates could be built (and also be made reusable) to tailor the requirements of the application, and leverage seamlessly on the existing TCP/IP layers. Deriving solutions at the application layer further avoids possible pitfalls and demerits, in terms of security, safety, deployment, and in some cases the performance, which were restricting the wide acceptance of network layer solutions [5, 8, 11, 12].

This thesis proposes an application level dynamic proxy solution to deal with the growing Internet, by deploying mobile code called the Dynamic Application Proxy Server (DAPS), into the network to customise and streamline the Internet service delivery. The framework discussed in this thesis is called the Chek Proxy Framework¹ (CPF). CPF exploits the application-level programmability to craft the DAPS with intelligence to execute server-delegated active services, such as protocol conversion, application-oriented message routing and contents transcoding. Unlike other proxy-

¹ The framework is named after the author's wife. The letter "C" in the word Chek also implies the meaning the Customisable and Collaborative, which are the key features of the framework.

