Chapter 16

Cooperative Caching in Mobile Ad Hoc Networks

Naveen Chauhan  
National Institute of Technology Hamirpur, India

Lalit K. Awasthi  
National Institute of Technology Hamirpur, India

Narottam Chand  
National Institute of Technology Hamirpur, India

Ramesh C. Joshi  
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India

Manoj Misra  
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India

ABSTRACT

Mobile ad hoc network (MANET) presents a constrained communication environment due to fundamental limitations of client’s resources, insufficient wireless bandwidth and users’ frequent mobility. MANETs have many distinct characteristics which distinguish them from other wireless networks. Due to frequent network disconnection, data availability is lower than traditional wired networks. Cooperative caching helps MANETs in alleviating the situation of non-availability of data. In this paper, the authors present a scheme called global cluster cooperation (GCC) for caching in mobile ad hoc networks. In this scheme, network topology is partitioned into non-overlapping clusters based on the physical network proximity. This approach fully exploits the pull mechanism to facilitate cache sharing in a MANET. Simulation experiments show that GCC mechanism achieves significant improvements in cache hit ratio and average query latency in comparison with other caching strategies.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Due to information overflow, people can no longer be disconnected from their information systems. Caching plays a vital role in providing access of data to the information systems in case of disconnection. This is a well established way of providing faster data in the area of web caching, proxy servers and browsers (Malpani, Lorch, & Berger, 1996). With the advent of mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs), which is demand based infrastructureless network, being resource poor, caching plays a pivotal role in making MANETs a success in many applications like rescue operations, military operation, etc. A mobile node (MN) is envisioned to be equipped with more powerful capabilities, like sufficient storage space, more processing power, etc. Even though there is no dearth of storage space in present scenario, it is always better to utilize the resources optimally.

With caching, the data access delay is reduced since data access requests can be served from the local cache, thereby obviating the need for data transmission over the scarce wireless links. However, caching techniques used in one-hop mobile environment may not be applicable to multihop ad hoc environment since the data or request may need to go through multiple hops. Variable data size, frequent data updates, limited client resources, insufficient wireless bandwidth and clients’ mobility make cache management a challenging task in mobile ad hoc networks. As mobile nodes in ad hoc networks may have similar tasks and share common interest, cooperative caching, which allows the sharing and coordination of cached data among multiple nodes, can be used to reduce the bandwidth and power consumption.

To date there are some works in literature on cooperative caching in ad hoc networks, such as consistency (Yin & Cao, 2004; Chiu & Young, 2009), and placement (Tang, Gupta, & Das, 2008). In this paper, we investigate the data retrieval challenge of mobile ad hoc networks and propose a novel scheme, called global cluster cooperation (GCC) for caching. The goal of GCC is to reduce the cache discovery overhead and provide better cooperative caching performance. GCC partitions the whole MANET into equal size clusters based on the geographical network proximity (Figure 1). To enhance the system performance,