

15-441 Computer Networking P2P

## Why P2P?



- Scaling: system scales with number of clients, by definition
- Eliminate centralization:
  - Eliminate single point of failure
  - · Eliminate single point of control
- Use "spare" capacity
- Self-managing

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## P2P example: file-sharing



- Lots of different P2P uses, but file sharing is common and useful example
- Issues:
  - Search: Find a file
  - Fetch: Downloading the file
  - Publish: inserting a new file
  - **Join**: Maintaining network (e.g., dealing with faults, new members, etc.)

## Approaches to P2P



- Centralized
- Flooding
- Supernodes
- Routing
  - Structured
  - Un-structured

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#### Centralized



- (How is this P2P?)
- Search: ask central server
- Fetch: download from a peer
- Publish: report to central server
- Join: contact central server

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Flooding



- Search: ask everyone you know, then they ask, ...
  - · How to limit search message traffic?
- Publish: implicit
- Join: let a peer know you exist
- Supernodes help with this, but in the end still has same properties

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## Structured routing: e.g, Chord



- · We saw how this might work with Chord
- · Search: use hash to find node. Makes none-exact searches hard
- Fetch: from single peer or ?
- Publish: implicit in joining
- Join: needs one peer in system

## Unstructured routing: E.g., Freenet



- Freenet is an example of an unstructured overlay using key-based routing.
- Goals
  - · Censorship-resistance
  - · Anonymity: for producers and consumers of data
    - Nodes don't even know what they are storing
  - Survivability: no central servers, etc.
  - Scalability

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# Big Idea: Keys as First-Class Objects



Keys name both the objects being looked up and the content itself

- Content Hash Key
  - SHA-1 hash of the file/filename that is being stored
  - Produces 160-bit digest
  - Hash property: should be difficult to find a different file/filename that hashes to same value
- File key
  - Key is based on human-readable description of the file (SHA-1 hash)
  - · used to search for content
  - Problem: same name might be selected for different files
- Encryption of files
  - Documents can be encrypted: suggested key is unhashed humanreadable description of file

9

## Publishing and Querying in Freenet



- · Process for both operations is the same!
- Keys passed through a chain of proxy requests
  - · Nodes make local decisions about routing queries
  - Queries have hops-to-live and a unique 64-bit ID
- Two cases
  - · Node has local copy of file
    - · File returned along reverse path
    - Nodes along reverse path cache file
  - Node does not have local copy
    - Forward to neighbor "thought" to know of a key close to the requested key
    - First look up nearest key in routing table and forward request to that neighbor, if that fails, try second nearest key, etc.

10

### Routing Queries in Freenet



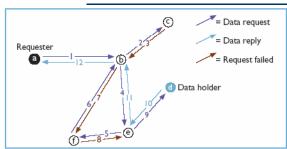


Figure 1.Typical request sequence. The request moves through the network from node to node, backing out of a dead-end (step 3) and a loop (step 7) before locating the desired file.

After success, node a creates a link in its routing table for the key to node d.

Note: alternatively, any node on path from d to a,

### Freenet Design



- Strengths
  - Decentralized
  - Anonymous
  - Scalable
- Weaknesses
  - Problem: how to find the names of keys in the first place?
  - No guarantee search will succeed
  - No file lifetime guarantees
  - No efficient keyword search
  - No defense against DoS attacks

## Freenet Security Mechanisms



- Encryption of messages
  - · Prevents eavesdropping
- Hops-to-live
  - · prevents determining originator of query
  - prevents determining where the file is stored

13

- Hashing
  - · checks data integrity
  - prevents intentional data corruption

P2P: summary



- · Many different types: centralized, flooding, routing
- Issues:
  - Failure mode: single point of failure? Search success?
  - Flooding is onerous
  - Network Topology different than overlay topology
  - · Nodes aren't all the same
  - · Search can be hard

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