Passive End-to-End Packet Loss Estimation for Grid Traffic Monitoring

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Roadmap

- Introduction
- Passive Packet Loss Measurement Characteristics
- Methodology
- Integration within a Network Monitoring Service
- Experimental Evaluation
- Conclusions

Why to Measure Packet Loss?

- Accurate network monitoring is vital for Grids
  - Resource allocation
  - Scheduling decisions
  - Performance debugging

- Packet loss is an important performance metric
  - Identify poor network conditions
  - Highly affects the TCP throughput and the overall end-to-end data transfer quality

Existing Measurement Tools

- Most existing tools for packet loss estimation use active probes
  - ping, zing, badabing, sting
  - Incur network overhead due to the injected packets
- Existing passive monitoring techniques are based on TCP's loss recovery algorithms
- A passive monitoring tool for packet loss estimation at the IP layer is still missing

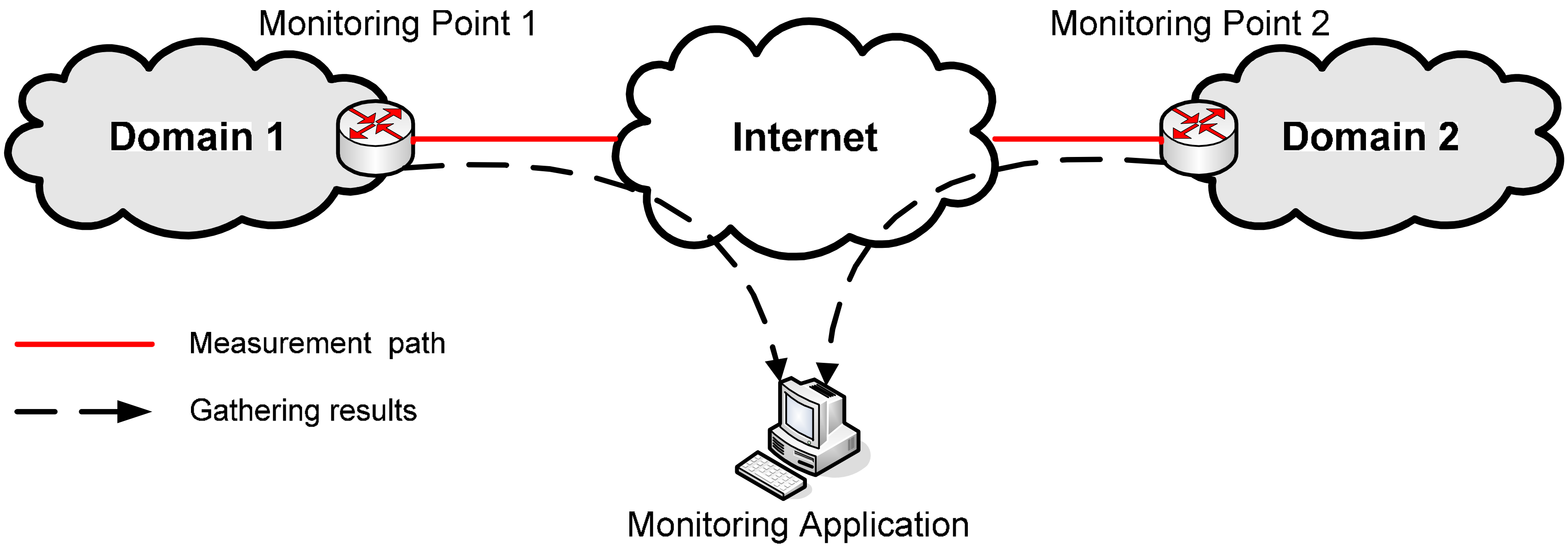
Passive Packet Loss Measurement Characteristics (1/2)

- Non-intrusive
  - It does not inject any probe packets
- Real-time measurement of the actual loss ratio
- Scalability
  - Measure end-to-end packet loss between many different domains
- Per-application measurement
  - Differentiated services or rate limiting may result to different loss ratios in the same path
- IP-level measurement

Passive Packet Loss Measurement Characteristics (2/2)

- Limitations:
  - Requires two passive monitors at the ends of the measured path
  - Presence of real traffic in the path
- Can be used as complementary to existing active probing techniques

Our Approach



- Based on distributed passive network monitoring
- Two passive monitors at the two ends
- Send periodically information to a central application that computes the loss ratio

A Naive Algorithm

- Count the number of packets at both ends
- The application periodically subtracts the number of packets received from the number of packets that were actually sent

- Major drawback: inaccuracy
  - We cannot accurately synchronize the monitoring points to count the same window of packets
  - Packets in transit are not counted

Our Estimation Methodology (1/2)

- Measure the packet loss in each flow separately
- A flow is defined as a set of IP packets with the same 5-tuple:
  - Protocol
  - Source and destination IP address
  - Source and destination port (for UDP and TCP)
- An expired flow is a flow with no arriving packets for a specified timeout (e.g. 60 seconds)
- Expired flow is well defined: we know the first (e.g. TCP SYN) and the last (e.g. TCP FIN) packet of the flow

Our Estimation Methodology (2/2)

- Each monitoring sensor sends periodically statistical information about the expired flows it has seen
- The monitoring application correlates the statistics regarding the same expired flow
- The difference of the number of packers gives an accurate estimation of the loss ratio for this flow

Passive Monitoring Platform

- In each measurement point we run two daemons:
  - mapid: A passive monitoring daemon that identifies and collect the expired flows
  - mapicommd: A communication daemon that accepts monitoring requests and sends back the results
- Using a distributed monitoring API (DiMAPI) we manipulate multiple monitoring sensors from the same application

Identification of Expired Flows

- Every new packet is associated with exactly one active flow record
- Hashtable for fast lookup
- Linked list with temporal order for immediately identifying the expired flows

A Flow record

Source IP address	Destination IP address
Source port	Destination port
Protocol	
Timestamp of first packet	Timestamp of last packet
Packet counter	Byte counter

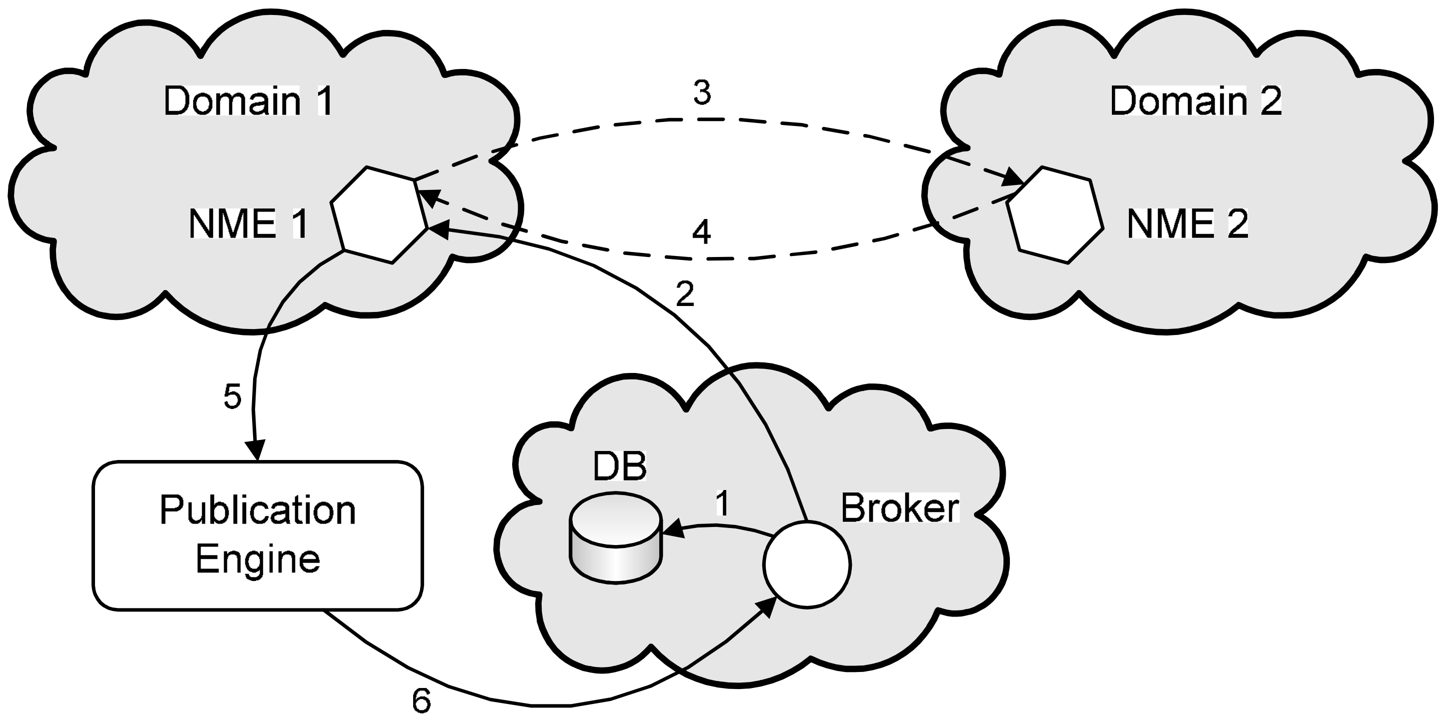
Distributed Sensor Management

- The monitoring application communicates with many distributed sensors
- It periodically collects the expired flows from them
- Then, it correlates the pairs of statistics regarding the same flow
- For every matched pair, it computes the packet and byte loss ratios
- It reports both the total loss ratio, and loss ratio per every individual flow

Integration within a Network Monitoring Service (1/2)

- Network Monitoring Element (NME)
  - Offers an interface for measurement requests
  - Plug-in based interface for publishing measurements
  - Access a database that contains information about Grid resources and other NME
- Network Monitoring session for packet loss ratio measurement
  - Identify the source and destination domains
  - Type of service that the measurement corresponds
  - Time period of the measurement (historical, most recent, one-shot, or periodic)

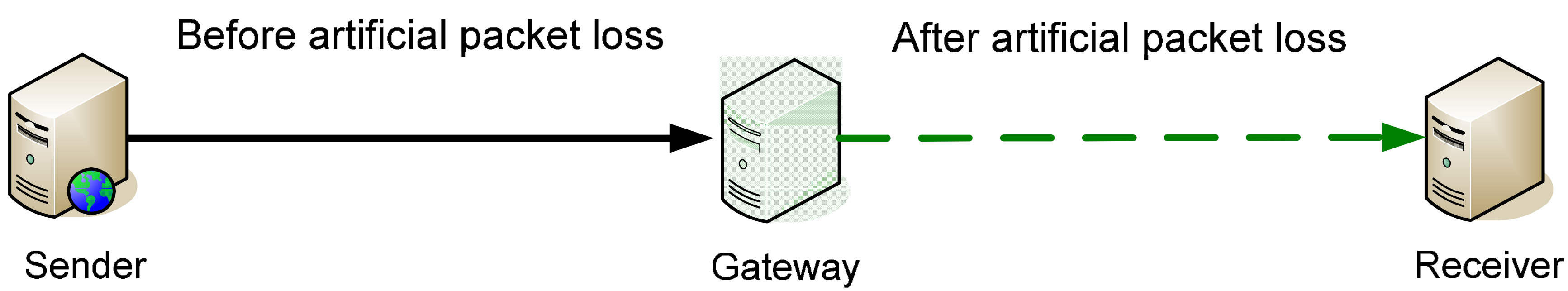
Integration within a Network Monitoring Service (2/2)



Experimental Evaluation

- Packet Loss Measurement Accuracy
- Experiences with Grid Network Traffic

Artificially generated packet loss



Packet Loss Measurement Accuracy (1/2)

Artificially Generated Loss (%)	Estimated Loss (min/avg/max %)	Measurement Error (%)
0	0.00/0.002/0.01	0.002
1	0.91/0.98/1.06	0.020
5	4.80/5.014/5.13	0.014
10	9.86/10.09/10.18	0.090
25	22.24/24.74/25.32	0.260

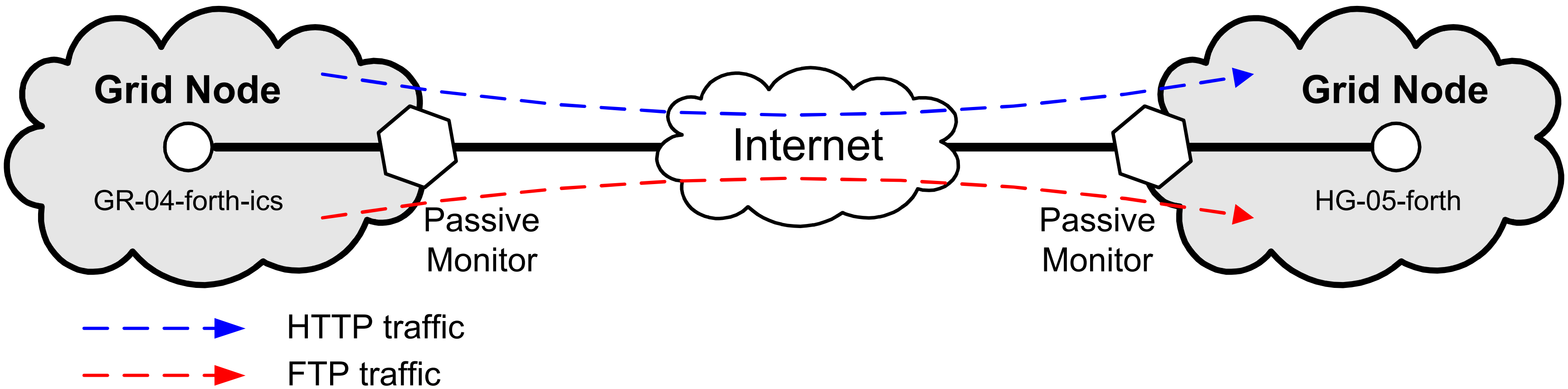
- Packet loss measured while generating 10 parallel UDP flows over a 2 hour period
- Accurate results, very close to the generated loss
- Small aberrations due to the probabilistic nature of loss generation

Packet Loss Measurement Accuracy (2/2)

Artificially Generated Loss (%)	Estimated Loss (min/avg/max %)	Measurement Error (%)	Served Requests	Rate (Mbit/s)
0	0.00/0.06/0.17	0.060	2944	38.75
1	1.02/1.078/1.16	0.078	1666	22.23
5	4.92/5.07/5.23	0.070	1058	14.11
10	9.86/10.086/10.12	0.086	290	3.90
25	24.89/25.235/25.50	0.235	0	0.26

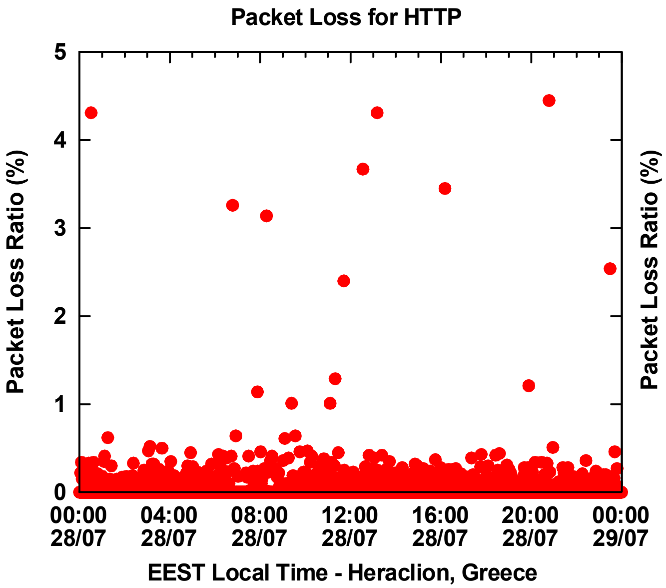
- Packet loss measured while performing normal HTTP requests
- Packet loss ratio significantly affects the number of completed requests
- TCP throughput drops dramatically from 38.75 Mbit/s to 0.26 Mbit/s

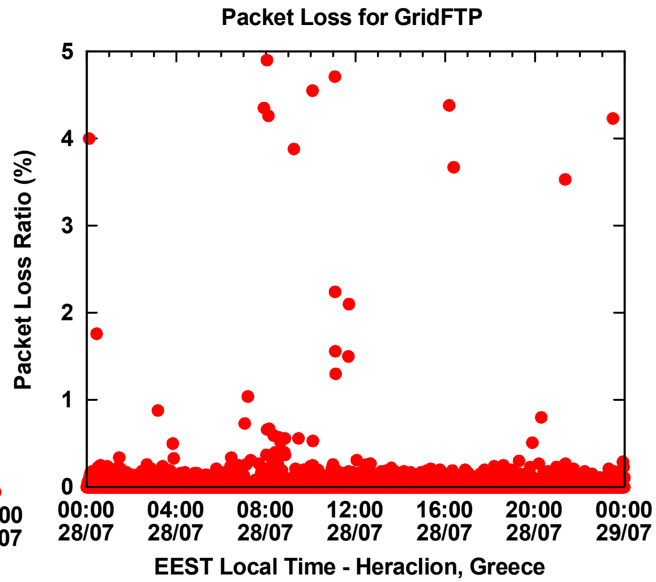
Experiences with Grid Network Traffic (1/2)

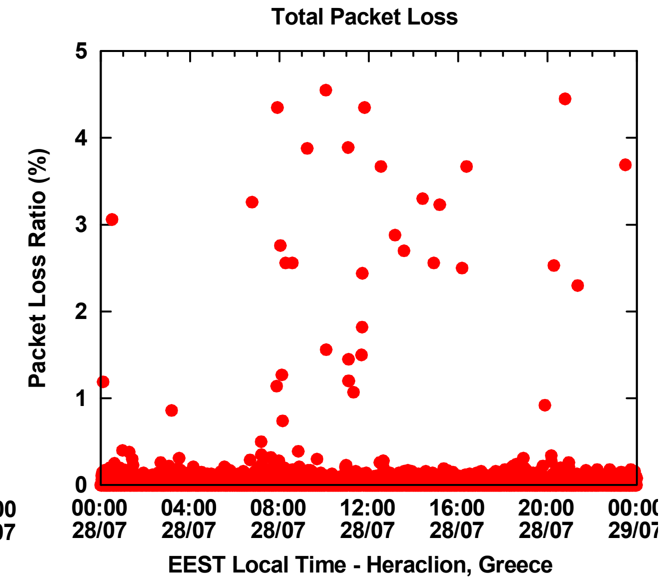


- Deployment of the technique to an operational Grid network path
- Running for a 24-hour period with measurements every 30 seconds
- Generating more traffic using HTTP and GridFTP

Experiences with Grid Network Traffic (2/2)







- Bursts of HTTP and FTP transfers result to higher loss rates
- The 83% of the 30-seconds intervals indicate 0% loss ratio (89% and 87% for HTTP and FTP)
- 0.09% overall loss ratio over the 24-hour period for total traffic, 0.13% for HTTP-only and 0.19% for FTP-only traffic

Conclusions

- A novel passive monitoring technique for packet loss estimation between different Grid domains
- Scalable, non-intrusive and real time
- Can be complementary to active monitoring tools
- Based on tracking the expired flows at each monitoring sensor
- Uses a distributed infrastructure for gathering and correlating the results
- Validated using realistic traffic

Thanks!

Any questions?