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Network coding and satellites
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Abstract

This memo presents the current deployment of network coding in some satellite telecommunications systems along with a discussion on the multiple opportunities to introduce these technics at a wider scale.

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1. Introduction

Network coding schemes are inherent part of the satellite systems, since the challenging physical layer require specific robustness to guarantee an efficient usage of the expensive radio resource. Further exploiting these schemes is an opportunity for a better end user experience along with a better exploitation of the scarce resource.

In this context, this memo aims at:

- o summing up the current deployment of network coding schemes;
- o identifying opportunities for further usage of network coding in satellite systems.

1.1. Glossary

The glossary of this memo is related to the network coding taxonomy document [I-D.irtf-nwcrg-network-coding-taxonomy].

The glossary is extended as follows:

- o XX: XX

1.2. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

2. A note on satellite topology

The objective of this section of to provide a generic description of the components composing a generic satellite system and their interaction. It provides a high level description of a multi-gateway satellite network. Figure 1 shows a example of a multigateway satellite system. It is worth pointing out that some fonctionnal blocks aggregate the traffic coming from multiple users, and thus are opportunity for including network coding.

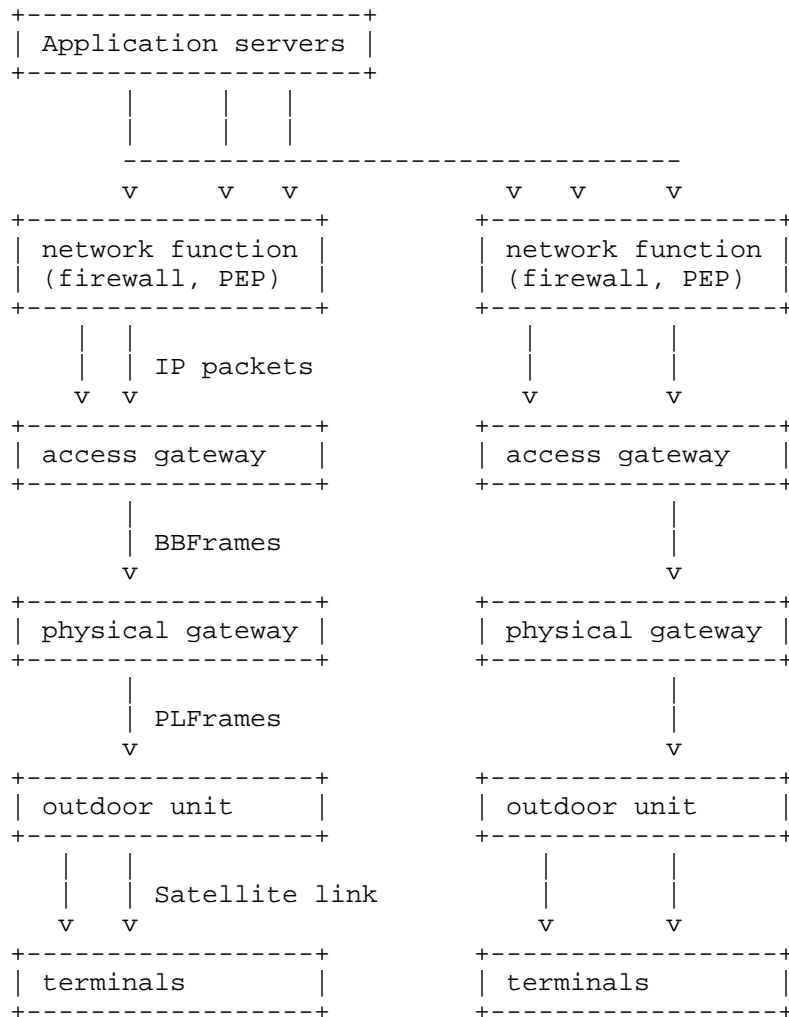


Figure 1: Data plane functions in a generic satellite multi-gateway system

3. Status of network coding in actually deployed satellite systems

Figure 2 presents the status of the network coding deployment in satellite systems. The information is based on the taxonomy document [I-D.irtf-nwcrp-network-coding-taxonomy] and the notations are the following: End-to-End Coding (E2E), Network Coding (NC), Intra-Flow Coding (IntraF), Inter-Flow Coding (InterF), Single-Path Coding (SP) and Multi-Path Coding (MP).

X1 embodies the source coding that could be used at application level for video streaming on a broadband access. X2 embodies the physical layer that is applied on the PLFRAME to have an optimal usage of the satellite capacity.

	Upper Appl.	Middle ware	Communication layers	
	Source coding	Network AL-FEC	Packetization UDP/IP	PHY layer
E2E	X1			
NC				
IntraF	X1			
InterF				X2
SP	X1			X2
MP				

Figure 2: Network coding and satellite systems

4. Opportunities for more network coding in satellite systems

This section extends Section 3 by presenting the opportunities for more network coding in satellite systems.

These opportunities are further detailed in Section 5 and listed in this section:

- o (1) two way relay channel mode;
- o (2) reliable multicast;
- o (3) improving random access;
- o (4) network coding and hybrid access;

We propose to include some of the identified opportunities in the Figure 3.

	Upper Appl.	Middle ware	Communication layers		
	Source coding	Network AL-FEC	Packetization UDP/IP	PHY layer	
E2E	X1		(4)		
NC		(1)	(1)(2)(3)(4)		
IntraF	X1		(2)(4)		
InterF		(1)	(1)(3)		X2
SP	X1	(1)	(1)(3)		X2
MP			(2)		

Figure 3: Opportunities for more network coding and satellite systems

Opportunities for more network coding in SATCOM seems to be more relevant at the middle ware or at the communication layer levels.

5. Deployability and related use cases

This section details use-cases where the usage of network coding schemes could improve the overall system and the deployability of the opportunities that are provided in Section 4.

5.1. Network coding and VNF

Related to the foreseen virtualized network infrastructure, the network coding schemes could be proposed as VNF and their deployability enhanced.

5.2. Network coding and PEP

Related to the impact and integration of network coding in Proxy-Enhanced-Proxy RFC 3135 [RFC3135] architecture. In particular how network coding can be integrated inside a PEP with QoS scheduler as defined, for instance, in RFC 5865 [RFC5865].

6. Acknowledgements

7. Contributors

Many thanks to

8. IANA Considerations

This memo includes no request to IANA.

9. Security Considerations

This document, by itself, presents no new privacy nor security issues.

10. References

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