More Accurate ECN Feedback in TCP

draft-ietf-tcpm-accurate-ecn-20

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Solution (recap)
Congestion extent, not just existence

- AccECN: Change to TCP wire protocol
  - Repeated count of CE packets (ACE) - essential
  - and CE bytes (AccECN Option) – supplementary

- Key to congestion control for low queuing delay
  - 0.5 ms (vs. 5-15 ms) over public Internet
Recent draft history

draft-ietf-tcpm-accurate-ecn

• 22-Mar-22: -18

• 11-Jul-22: -19 [summary of diffs to list]

• 25-Jul-22: -20 [summary of diff to list]

• 18 → 19: 2 changes promised last meeting (slides 4&5):
  • one in response to Gorry on ACK filtering
  • one in response to a suggestion from Ilpo on optionality of implementation of the AccECN Option
  • plus one other minor change from Ilpo
    - reorder IP-ECN mangling tests to match implementation order

• 19 → 20: 2 recent changes (slides 5&6):
  • follow-on from change suggested by Ilpo
  • IANA exID assignments - NCardwell – RScheff uncovered in interop
Change #1: draft 18 → 19
Interaction with ACK Filtering (§3.3.3)

• Previously, draft-18 updated RFC3449*; saying that an ACK filtering node...
  SHOULD determine if an ACK is part of a connection using AccECN
  and SHOULD then preserve the correct operation of AccECN feedback.

• Gorry:
  • no need for AccECN to update RFC3449,
    which already says (in its section on ACK filtering):
    need to preserve correct operation of ECN feedback [RFC3168].
  • AccECN will update RFC3168,
    so this statement in RFC3449 will apply to AccECN feedback too

• Text changes in draft-19:
  • Emphasizes that the RFC3449 statement applies to AccECN too;
  • Also, more technical detail in the "how-to":
    – states worst-case wrap of ACE field (8 ACKed packets)
    – presence of AccECN TCP Option doesn’t remove ACE wrap issue,
      because the Option might not be read

*TCP Performance Implications of Network Path Asymmetry
The AccECN Option (§3.2.3)

• Draft-19 and -20 say (paraphrasing):
  Even if a developer does not implement logic to understand received AccECN Options it is RECOMMENDED that they still implement logic to send AccECN Options.

• Draft-20: added additional text more strongly motivating the RECOMMENDATION:
  Otherwise, those remote peers that implement the receiving logic will still be excluded from congestion feedback that is robust against the increasingly aggressive ACK filtering in the Internet. The logic to send AccECN Options is the simpler to implement of the two sides.

• BTW: Both snd & rcv logic already implemented for Linux. Assuming that covers majority of servers, implementing snd logic in other clients at least completes a robust feedback loop for most downstream flows.
Change #3 draft 19 → 20
IANA Considerations (§7)

- Retrospectively registered Experimental IDs
  - used for pair of TCP Options in Linux implementation
  - interop testing discovered different from FBSD pair

- Recorded these ExIDs in draft
Status & Next Steps
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- SECDIR (Scott Kelly) review: tracker status
  - he intended 'Almost ready' after draft was fixed
  - but still showing as 'Has issues'

- Now ready for WGLC

- Early pair of TCP Option Kind assignments?

- draft-ietf-tcpm-generalized-ecn (EXP)
  also ready but dependent on AccECN
Problem (Recap)
Congestion Existence, not Extent

- Explicit Congestion Notification (ECN)
  - routers/switches mark more packets as load grows
  - RFC3168 added ECN to IP and TCP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IP-ECN</th>
<th>Codepoint</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>not-ECT</td>
<td>No ECN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>ECT(0)</td>
<td>ECN-Capable Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>ECT(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>CE</td>
<td>Congestion Experienced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Problem with RFC3168 ECN feedback:
  - only one TCP feedback per RTT
  - rcvr repeats ECE flag for reliability, until sender's CWR flag acks it
  - suited TCP at the time – one congestion response per RTT