

Transparent Rate Adaptation Indications for Networks

IETF 121, Dublin, 2024-11

Martin Thomson*, Christian Huitema, 奥一穗 (Kazuho Oku)



Problem

Networks deploy rate limiters

These can intercept TCP

These can only damage QUIC





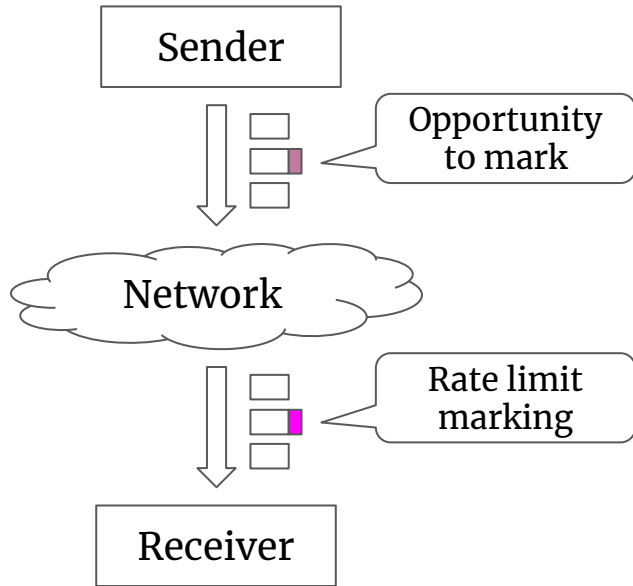
SCONE Approach

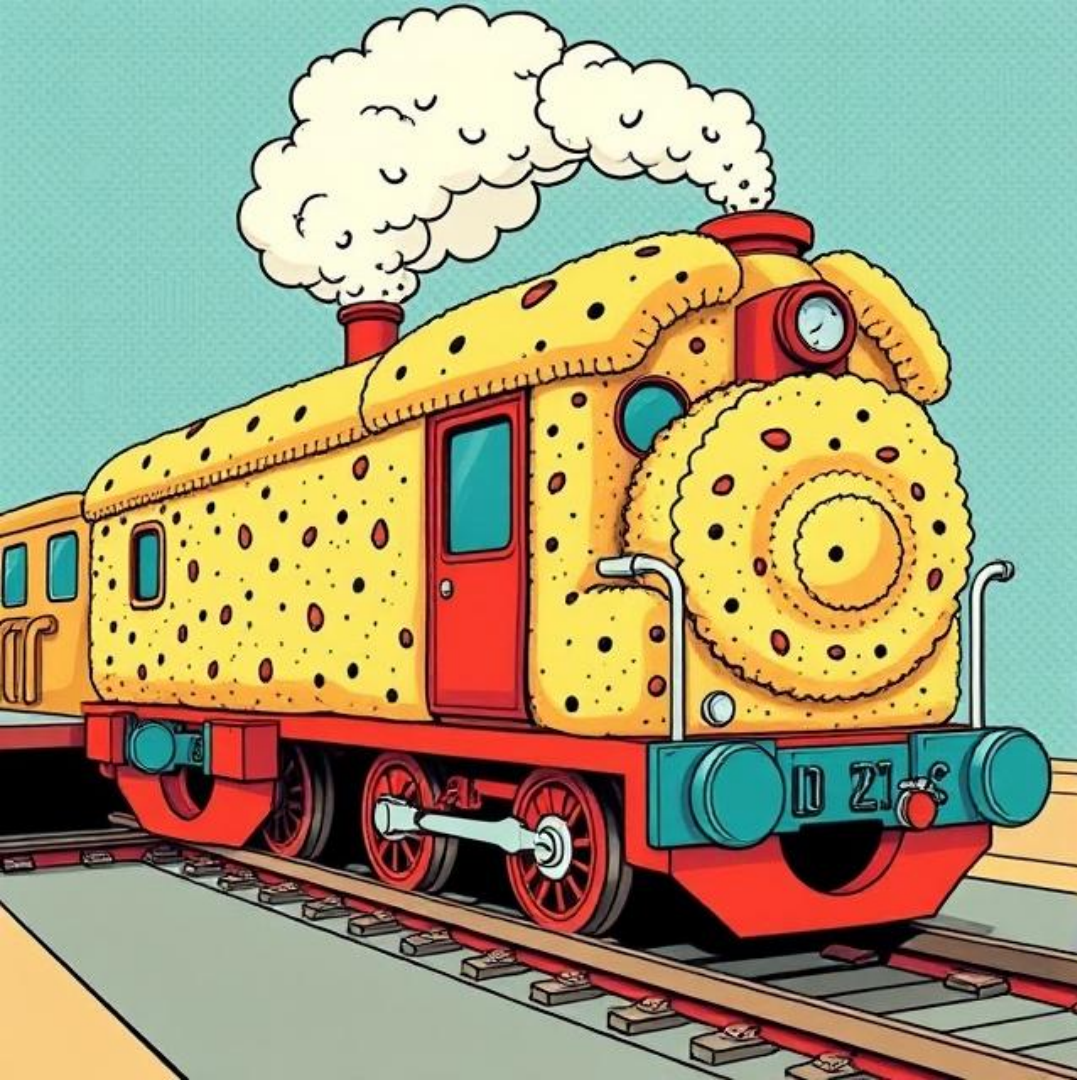
Network indications

Attach to a flow

Scope of true rate limits
is probably wider

Idea





TRAIN Solution

Special QUIC version

Packets in that version

carry rate limit signal

added to datagram

ahead of normal packets

QUIC transport parameter

to signal support

in proper QUIC versions

Details

1?	signal	train version (32)
	dcid len	dcid ...
	scid len	scid ...
QUIC v1 or v2 packet		





Network Elements

Rewrite packets to reduce the limit

Leave packets alone if the limit is low enough

Signal is in the first byte of the UDP payload so it is easy to rewrite

What Signal?

Six bits to encode send rate

Need help picking values

How?

Common rate limits?

Or common usages?

Or mix both?

Token buckets

Many rates at fixed depth?

Or at multiple depths?





Security

Signal availability

Signal only available if

peer signals support

endpoint sends packet

Signal only consumed if

real packet is accepted

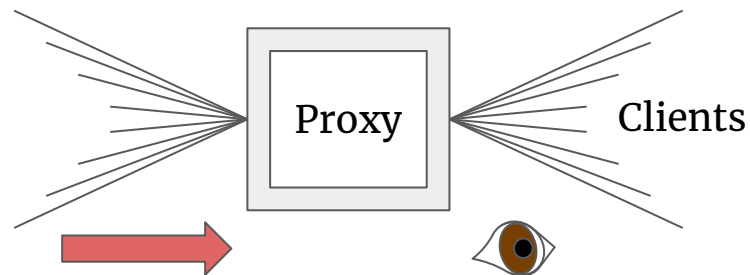
Two party agreement required





Proxies

Changing send rate leaks into send rate side channel



Inject fake signal,
look for change

Same as ECN
or packet dropping

Sticking Out

If few clients deploy this
those few who do stick out





Good Solution?

Good enough
to develop further?