Application-Layer Traffic Optimization (ALTO) Requirements

draft-kiesel-alto-reqs-00.txt

Sebastian Kiesel (Editor) <kiesel@nw.neclab.eu>
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Authors
- S. Kiesel, Editor, NEC
- L. Popkin, Pando Networks, Inc.
- S. Previdi, Cisco Systems, Inc.
- R. Woundy, Comcast Corp.
- Y. R. Yang, Yale University

Further contributors
- V. Gurbani, Alcatel Lucent
- J. Livingood, Comcast Corp.
- E. Marocco, Telecom Italia
- S. Niccolini, NEC
- J. Seedorf, NEC
- M. Stiemerling, NEC

Related research projects
- NAPA-WINE: Network-Aware P2P-TV Application over Wise Networks (EC 7th FP) [NEC people]
- P4P working group (hosted by DCIA) and Yale Laboratory of Networked Systems [L. Popkin, Y.R. Yang]
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- Terminology
- Requirements
- Open issues

- Further steps
Initial ALTO Terminology

- Note: This is a requirements draft
  ➔ Don’t think too much about solutions

- However: It’s hard to talk about requirements without having any common view at the problem, the terminology, and the framework
  ➔ So …

The following gives an example how ALTO could look like, in a tracker-based P2P network

It is NOT an elaborated proposal for a framework architecture!
Eventually, ALTO must be more general and flexible as shown here
Terminology: How ALTO could work in a Tracker-based P2P network
Terminology: How ALTO could work in a Tracker-based P2P network

Client Application (out of scope)

Application overlay topology

Physical topology

Transport address
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Client Application (out of scope)

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Tracker (optional) CliApp Directory

Peer

CliApp Resource

CliApp Provider

CliApp Consumer

CliApp Resource
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From ISP:
- Static topology information
- Operational costs
- Policies

Routing state information

Application overlay topology

Client Application (out of scope)

Physical topology

Transport address
Terminology

Still at a very early stage
- TBD: consider non-P2P use cases
- TBD: move to a separate draft

- Client Application
- Client Application Resource
- Client Application Resource Identifier
- Client Application Provider
- Client Application Consumer
- Client Application Directory

- Transport Address
- Host Location Attribute
- ALTO Service
- ALTO Server
- ALTO Client
Requirements Overview

- ALTO Interface
- Error handling and overload protection for ALTO
- Security and Privacy
Requirements: ALTO Interface

An ALTO server may have to implement several interfaces, e.g., for

- Feeding topology related information into the ALTO server
  - Maybe, we don‘t need a new protocol:
  - Import BGP, OSPF, etc.
  - Static configuration via config file, etc. (→ implementation specific)

- Coordination, data exchange, or referral between ALTO servers
  - Hard to decide at this stage of the discussions

- Querying the ALTO service (by clients)
  - Let‘s focus on this interface / protocol for now!
Requirements: ALTO Interface

- The ALTO protocol is a query/response protocol.
- The ALTO server rates different providers for the same resource, based on criteria related to connectivity between client & provider.
- It must be known that the resource is actually available at the provider (discovery), or that it is willing to fetch it for us (cache).
- Client doesn’t have to give resource provider’s address, instead, a location attribute (e.g., prefix, AS number) may be sufficient.
- **TBD:** is reply a sorted list of locations/addresses, or will the server return values for every location?
Example rating criteria

- Rating criteria are not specified, only examples
  - Move to a separate document in the future
  - Protocol must be extensible

Example criteria

- Topological distance, e.g.,
  - AS hop count
- Expected cost for transport

Criteria that SHOULD NOT be used for rating

- Performance metrics related to instantaneous congestion status. This has to be probed and adapted to continuously, e.g., using TCP
Requirements: Relation to Congestion Control

REQ. 7: The information available from the ALTO service is not a replacement for congestion control mechanisms. Applications using ALTO MUST ensure that they do not cause congestion in the network, e.g., by using TCP transport, which includes congestion control mechanisms.

- This requirement will most likely not result in a protocol feature
- However, consensus among ALTO designers with respect to this issue is crucial!
Error handling and overload protection

- Client applications MUST also work reasonably without ALTO

- Retransmission and load control strategy
  - Simple transaction based query protocol assumed
  - Inspired by TCP’s CWND
  - Explicit server overload flag

- Client may specify required level of detail
  - Resources spent at ALTO server for rating alternatives should reflect the amount of data to be exchanged or session duration

- Lifetime attributes for caching
Security and Privacy

- An ALTO provider must be able to control information disclosure (e.g., about the network topology, policies, operational costs, etc.)

- An ALTO user must be able to control information disclosure
  
  REQ. 22: One ALTO interface should be defined in a way, that the operator of one ALTO server cannot easily deduce the resource (e.g., filename in P2P file sharing) which the requester wants to obtain.

- TBD: The ALTO service provider might want to inform the client, that he does not want to be told content IDs, even if that could lead to better recommendations. Do we need to support this?

- Several independent ALTO instances must be able to coexist

- Mutual authentication & authorization, encryption, DoS protection
Open Issues

- Is the ALTO service offered by servers, or is ALTO just a data format, e.g., for sending topology info from routers to “trackers”?

- Relation between resource provider discovery and selection
  - Combined or separate?
  - Query/response or asynchronous pushing of topology information
  - Which models to work on? One combined or separate protocols?

- How to avoid additional exposure of privacy sensitive or legally relevant information to ALTO operator (e.g., P2P file sharing IDs)

- Do we need special protocol elements and handling for caches, or are they just altruistic peers with good connectivity?

- How to generalize ALTO for non-P2P usage?

…AND MANY MORE!
Further steps

- Updates reflecting discussions here and on mailing list
- Adjust requirement levels (SHOULD ↔ MUST)
- Separate framework architecture and terminology draft(s)
- Separate specification and assessment of rating criteria
- Start the actual design
Appendix B. Acknowledgments
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