Quick Failover Algorithm in SCTP

draft-nishida-tsvwg-sctp-failover

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What is Quick Failover?

- A solution for failover issue in SCTP
  - SCTP needs 30-60 secs to failover in standard settings
Issues in SCTP Failover

- SCTP needs 6 consecutive timeouts before failover
  - Path.Max.Retrans is recommended to be 5 in RFC4960

A is sending data to B and B has two address B1, B2 (B1 is primary) when primary becomes unavailable at 20 sec, it takes 60 secs to restart data transmission. (Path.Max.Retrans = 5)
SCTP Path Management

- SCTP marks path inactive when errcount > PMR
  - Failover happens after path is marked as inactive

- SCTP terminate association when errcount > AMR

![Diagram showing the states of active and inactive paths with errcount conditions and failover actions.]

- Active state
- Inactive state
- Errcount > PMR transition
- Errcount > AMR transition
- HB is acked
- Terminate Association
Quick Failover

- Introduce an intermediate state
  - When path is in PF, SCTP can utilize secondary path
    - Send HB to the primary and if HB ack returns, it quickly fallback to active

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Active -> Potential Failure -> Inactive

Timeout, errcount > PMR, errcount > AMR

HB is acked
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Terminate Association
Quick Failover Summary

- Use secondary path quickly in case of path failure
- Simple and sender only logic
- Research results indicate it’s useful and harmless
- No need to change current PMR, AMR, HB.Interval
  - No need to change applications or OS’s settings
- It can be applied to both RFC4960 and CMT proposal
  - draft-tuexen-tsvwg-sctp-multipath
- Behavior is configurable
  - Apps can preserve original behavior if they want
Do We Really Need This?

- We have several choices
  - Do nothing. 30-60 secs delay can be acceptable
  - Expect developers and sysadmins to solve this
    - Tuning several parameters will work in some situations
  - Update the spec to support PF
    - No requirement for app developers or sysadmins
    - Give consistent behavior to users
Setting PMR=0 can also be a solution for this.

But,

- We’ll still need to update RFC4960 to some extent
  - Recommended value for PMR
  - Behavior in dormant state
  - Relationship between PMR and AMR
    - RFC4960 states ’users should avoid having the value of Association.Max.Retrans larger than the summation of the ’Path.Max.Retrans’
  - May need to add special logic for sending HB