Best practices for HTTP-CoAP mapping implementation

draft-castellani-core-http-mapping-01

Angelo P. Castellani, Salvatore Loreto, Akbar Rahman, Thomas Fossati and Esko Dijk

Introduction

- The I-D provides a base reference documentation for HTTP-CoAP (HC) proxy implementers
- It details deployment options, discusses possible approaches for URI mapping, and provides useful considerations related to protocol translation

Cross-protocol proxies taxonomy

- Forward
  - It is explicitly known by the client
- Reverse
  - Acts as if it was the origin server
  - It knows explicitly the servers that is proxying
- Interception [RFC3040]
  - Receives requests through network interception
  - Zero configuration or discovery of the endpoints

Cross-protocol URI

- Protocol-aware
  - Client uses the scheme specific to the protocol
    - **Example**: An HTTP client accesses coap://node.something.net/foo directly
- Protocol-agnostic
  - Client uses its natively supported scheme
    - **Example**: An HTTP client accesses coap://node.something.net/foo at an http: URI
      - The client does not even need to know the coap: URI
  - Requires cross-protocol URI mapping

URI mapping

- It is a mechanism to map a URI across two different scheme domains
  - Example: coap://node.something.net/foo is mapped to http://something.net/node/foo
- Could be complex in general
  - **Static**: the mapping does NOT change over time
  - **Dynamic**: the mapping can change over time

URI mapping examples

- Homogeneous
  - Only the scheme part of the URI changes, authority and path stay the same
    - **Example**: coap://node.something.net/foo is mapped to http://node.something.net/foo
    - Interception proxy deployments MUST use this mapping
- Embedded
  - All but the scheme part of the URI is embedded as-is in the mapped URI
    - **Example**: coap://node.something.net/foo is mapped to http://example.com/node.something.net/foo
    - Reduces mapping complexity in reverse proxy deployments

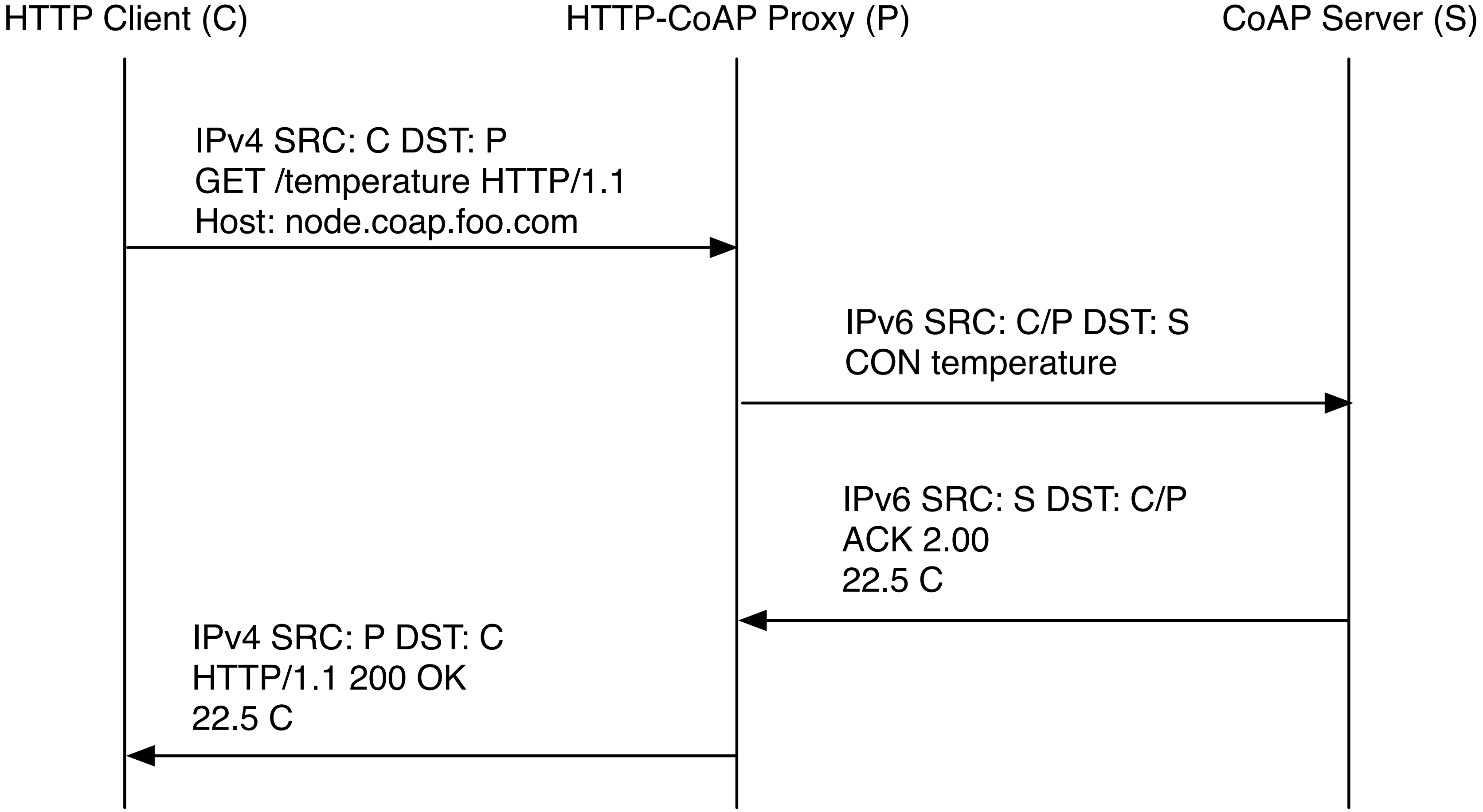
Dynamic URI mapping (TODO)

- Dynamic URI mappings can change over time
- Useful for more complex deployments to perform various functions
  - Load-balancing
  - Handle dynamic node topology

HTTP-CoAP caching and congestion

- An HTTP-CoAP (HC) proxy using caching reduces load on CoAP servers
  - e.g. avoiding duplicate requests
- Observe relationship can be established towards “popular” resources
  - See draft-ietf-core-observe-02
- HC proxy may apply aggregate congestion control towards the same constrained network
  - See draft-eggert-core-congestion-control-01

HTTP-CoAP v4/v6 use case



HTTP Client (C)

HTTP-CoAP Proxy (P)

CoAP Server (S)

IPv4 SRC: C DST: P
GET /temperature HTTP/1.1
Host: node.coap.foo.com

IPv6 SRC: C/P DST: S
CON temperature

IPv6 SRC: S DST: C/P
ACK 2.00
22.5 C

IPv4 SRC: P DST: C
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
22.5 C

DNS A record for node.coap.foo.com points to P or P is Forward

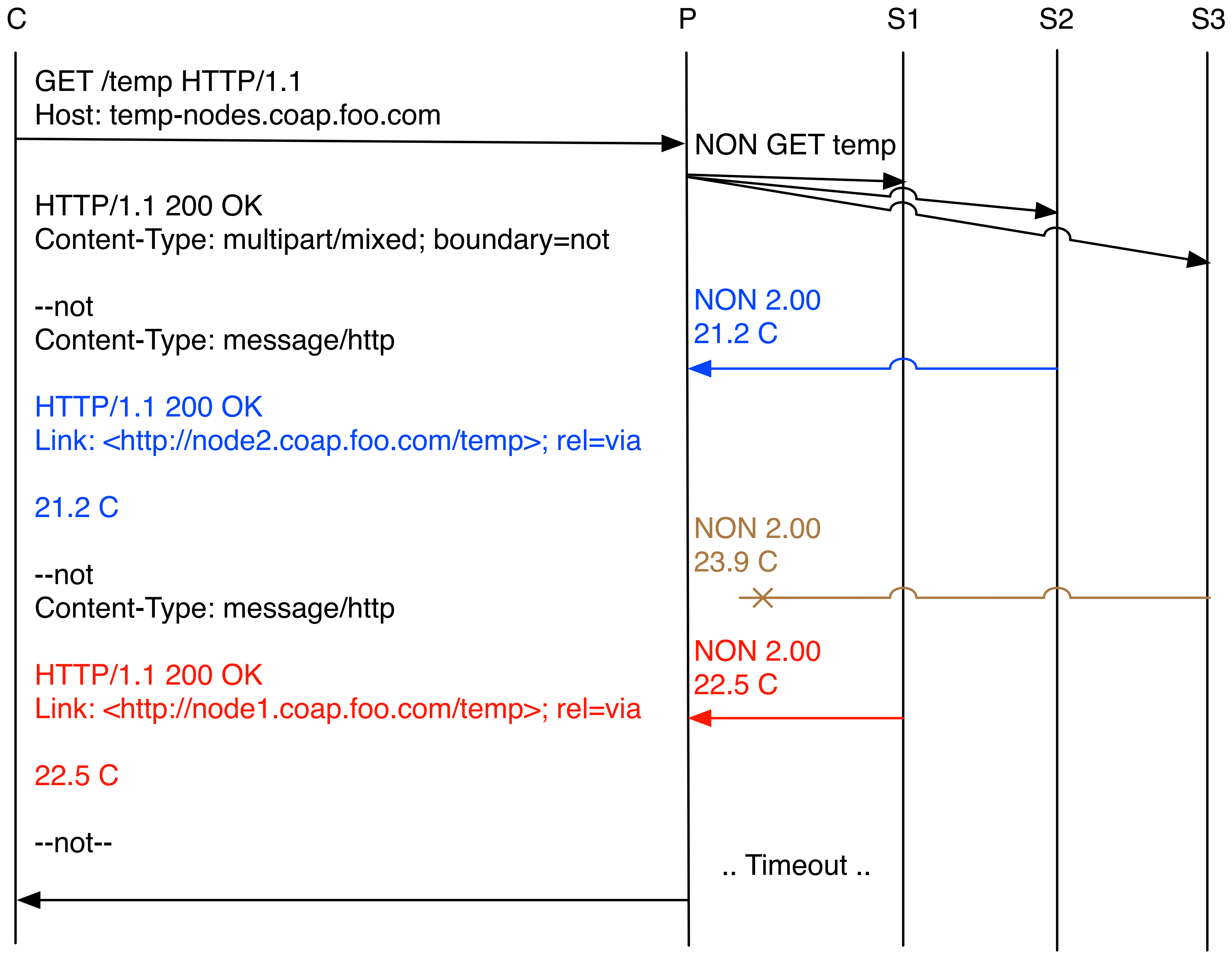
HTTP unicast --> CoAP multicast

- Identification and mapping
  - The HC proxy understands whether an URI identifies a multicast resource
  - Maps the request to the relevant multicast group
  - The mapping depends on the multicast communication technology in use
    - see draft-rahman-core-groupcomm-06

HTTP unicast --> CoAP multicast (cont.)

- Request handling
  - Involves the following tasks
    - Distributing the request
    - Collecting the responses
    - Timeout handling
    - Responses aggregation and delivery
  - Some tasks depend on the multicast communication technology in use

HTTP unicast --> CoAP multicast (cont.)



C

P

S1

S2

S3

GET /temp HTTP/1.1
Host: temp-nodes.coap.foo.com

NON GET temp

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary=not

NON 2.00
21.2 C

--not
Content-Type: message/http

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Link: <http://node2.coap.foo.com/temp>; rel=via

21.2 C

NON 2.00
23.9 C

--not
Content-Type: message/http

NON 2.00
22.5 C

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Link: <http://node1.coap.foo.com/temp>; rel=via

22.5 C

--not--

.. Timeout ..

Security considerations

- **Availability**
  - **Risk**: Multicast amplification attacks
  - **Countermeasure**: Only known/authorized clients may access multicast resources

  - **Risk**: An high number of subscriptions can cause resource exhaustion
  - **Countermeasure**: Limit the number of concurrent subscription requests

Security considerations (cont.)

- **Integrity**
  - **Risk**: Cache poisoning on the CoAP side by an evil mote spoofing the response (feasible when using NoSec or even SharedKey).
  - **Countermeasure**: Use MultiKey with 1:1 identity binding, or SharedKey with procedurally secure mote crypto enrollment.

Security considerations (cont.)

- **Confidentiality**
  - A resource requested via a secure channel by the source SHOULD be mapped to a secure request (if possible) or rejected.

Next Steps

- Any comments?

- WG adoption?