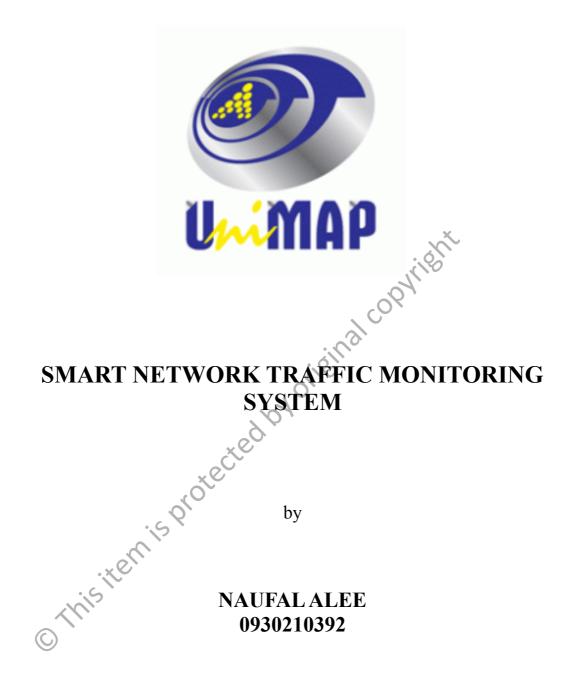
SMART NETWORK TRAFFIC MONITORING SYSTEM



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A thesis submitted in fulfillment of requirements for the degree of Master of Science (Computer Engineering)

School of Computer and Communication Engineering UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PERLIS

2012

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF ABBREVATIONS	xi
ABSTRAK	xiv
ABSTRACT	XV
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
LIST OF FIGURES LIST OF ABBREVATIONS ABSTRAK ABSTRACT CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION 1.1 Overview 1.2 Research Objectives 1.3 Thesis Outline CHAPTER 2 THEORY AND LITERATURE REVIEW	1
1.2 Research Objectives	3
1.3 Thesis Outline	3
CHAPTER 2 THEORY AND LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Overview	4
2.2 GNU/Linux	5
2.2.1 Overview	5
2.2.2 Embedded Linux	7
2.2.3 Anatomy of Embedded Linux System	8
2.2.3.1 Boot Loader	9
2.2.3.2 Kernel	10
2.2.3.3 Root File System	10
2.2.3.4 Cross-Compiler	12
2.2.3.5 Application	13

2.3	Networ	k	13
	2.3.1	OSI Model	14
	2.3.2	TCP/IP Model	17
2.4	Etherr	net	21
2.5	Intern	et	22
2.6	Packe	t Structure Protocol I P TCP UDP ICMP DNS ECCENTION NTM)	23
2.7	Major	Protocol	27
	2.7.1	I P	28
	2.7.2	TCP	28
	2.7.3	UDP CIRCU	29
	2.7.4	ICMP 104	30
	2.7.5	DNS CC	30
2.8	Netwo	ork Traffic Monitoring (NTM)	30
	2.8.1	Hardware Based NTM	31
	2.8.2	Software Based NTM	33
	2.8.3	Hybrid Technology	38
2.9	Embe	edded System	39
	2.9.1	Real Life Example of Embedded System	40
	2.9.2	Real-Time Embedded Systems	45
	2.9.3	x86-based and ARM based SBC	46
2.10	Relate	ed Journal on Embedded Linux	49
2.11	Sumn	nary	50

CHAPTER 3 DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

3.1	Overvi	iew	52
3.2	Systen	n Overview	52
3.3	Hardw	vare Components	55
	3.3.1	TS-7800 SBC	55
		3.3.1.1 Hardware Description	56
		3.3.1.2 Software Description	59
	3.3.2	 3.3.1.1 Hardware Description 3.3.1.2 Software Description LCD Panel SC Card Development PC Switch Embedded Operating System for TS 7800 SPC 	60
	3.3.3	SC Card	61
	3.3.4	Development PC	62
	3.3.5	Switch	63
	3.3.6	Embedded Operating System for TS-7800 SBC	67
	3.3.7	Wireless LAN USB Adapter	67
3.4	GNU/I	Linux Configuration and Setup	67
	3.4.1	TCP/IP Network Setup	68
	3.4.2	Services Setup	68
C	3.4.3	Host and Target System Interconnection Setup	69
3.5	Modul	es Design and Development	71
	3.5.1	Capturing Packet Module (CPM)	72
	3.5.2	System Control Module (SCM)	80
	3.5.3	View Module (VM)	82
3.6	Summ	ary	85

CHAPTER 4 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

4.1	Overview 86		86
4.2	Hardwa	re Performance	86
	4.2.1	vmstat	88
		4.2.1.1 Memory Utilization	90
		4.2.1.2 System Utilization	92
		4.2.1.3 CPU Utilization	93
4.3	Capture	4.2.1.2 System Utilization 4.2.1.3 CPU Utilization Performance Evaluation Hardware Performance Software Performance	95
	4.3.1	Hardware Performance	96
	4.3.2	Software Performance	99
4.4	Operati	ng System Comparison	101
	4.4.1	Lmbench	101
	4.4.2	STREAM/STREAM2	106
4.5	Results		111
	4.5.1	SnetMon Web Page	104
	4.5.2	Traffic Page	105
\bigcirc	4.5.3	History Page	109
	4.5.4	System Page	110
4.6	Summa	ry	112
CHAP	FER 5 C	CONCLUSION	
5.1	Overvi	ew	120
5.2	Future	Work	121
REFER	REFERENCES 123		

APPENDIX – A	127
APPENDIX – B	142
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	143
LIST OF AWARDS	144

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LIST OF TABLE

PAGE

2.1	Commands for troubleshooting in GNU/Linux	20
2.2	x86-based SBC product feature matrix	47
2.3	ARM-based SBC product feature matrix	48
3.4	Common data link types	76
3.5	Network layer protocol and ethertype values	77
3.6	Transport layer protocols	77
4.7	Specifications of the selected system	97
4.8	Memory operations from Imbench	102
4.9	Process latency operation from Imbench	102
4.10	Kernel operation from STREAM and STREAM2	107
	.xell	
1 his	iten	
© `		

LIST OF FIGURES

NO.		PAG
2.1	IP Datagram Structure	23
2.2	Spirent SmartBits	33
2.3	OptiView® XG Network Analysis Tablet	39
2.4	Spirent SmartBits OptiView® XG Network Analysis Tablet A simple view of real-time system	45
3.5	General diagram of a data-acquisition and control system	53
3.6	Embedded network monitoring tool in the proposed system	54
3.7	Hardware components of TS-7800 SBC	56
3.8	ARM9 CPU architecture	58
3.9	Host PC and SBC are connect via RS232 (null cable)	59
3.10	Minicom configuration	59
3.11	Alphanumeric 2x24 LCD display panel with back-light and cable	60
3.12	Intel® Core i5 Architecture	62
3.13	Dualcomm patent pending 5-Port 10/100Base-T Ethernet	64
3.14	Setup diagram for Dualcomm Switch	65
3.15	Cisco 3750 Series Switch	66
3.16	Configuration script of eth0	68
3.17	Network packet capturing method	70
3.18	Flowchart for Capturing Packet Module (CPM)	72
3.19	Element in the capture process	73

3.20	Normal program flow of libpcap application	75
3.21	Table structure of packet table in MySQL	78
3.22	Table structure of detail table in MySQL	79
3.23	List of files and folders in System Control Module (SCM)	81
3.24	The asynchronous interaction for AJAX engine	83
3.25	List of files and folders in view module	84
4.26	vmstat command result from TS-7800 SBC	88
4.27	Memory usage after CPM started	91
4.28	Memory usage after CPM started	91
4.29	System behavior before CPM started	92
4.30	System behavior after CPM started	93
4.31	CPU utilization before CPM started	94
4.32	CPU utilization after CPM started	95
4.33	Size of captured packet from TS-7800 and Desktop	97
4.34	Amount of captured packet from TS-7800 and Desktop	98
4.35	Size of captured packet from SNetMon and Wireshark	99
4.36	Amount of captured packet from SNetMon and Wireshark	100
4.37	Memory bandwidth vs. load collected from Imbench suit	103
4.38	Memory bandwidth vs. array size collected from Imbench suit	104
4.39	Memory load latency collected form lmbench suite	104
4.40	Process latency collected form Imbench suite	105
4.41	System call latency collected form Imbench suite.	106
4.42	Context switch latency collected from Imbench suit.	106
4.43	STREAM bandwidth collected form Imbench suite	108

4.44	STREAM lantency collected form Imbench suite	109
4.45	STREAM2 bandwidth collected form Imbench suite	110
4.46	STREAM2 latency collected form lmbench suite	110
4.47	The home page of the system	112
4.48	Traffic page, the main monitor page for SNetMon	113
	contains 3 part of display	
4.49	Date selection to view history statistic	114
4.50	Peak traffic is set to 5 KBps and application enables	115
	peak level status History page	
4.51	History page	116
4.52	History data page: Only ARP protocol is selected by user	117
4.53	History data page: Only ARP protocol is selected by user System page	118
OTHIE		

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

AH	Authentication Header
API	Application Programming Interface
ARCNET	Attached Resource Compter NETwork
ARM	Advanced RISC Machine
BOOTP	Boot Protocol
BPF	Berkeley Packet Filter
CAM	Boot Protocol Berkeley Packet Filter Content Addressable Memory Compact Flash
CF	Compact Flash
DHCP	Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol
DIO	Data Input Output
DMA	Direct Memoy Access
DNS	Domain Name Server/Service
FDDI	Fiber Distributed Data Interface
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
GBIC	Gigabit Interface Converter
GRE	Generic Routing Encapsulation
GSNW	Gateway Service for NetWare
HTTPS	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure
ICMP	Internet Control Message Protocol
ICSD	Information and Computing Sciences Division
IETF	Internet Engineering Talk Force
IMAP	Internet Message Access Protocol

IPSec	Secure Internet Protoco
IPSec	Secure Internet Flotoco

ISAKMP Internet security Assiciation and Key Management Protocol

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- ISO International Standards Organization
- LACP Link Aggregation Control Protocol
- LAN Local Area Network
- LBNL Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- LLC Logical Link Control
- MAC Media Access Control
- MMU Memory Management Unit
- MPLS Multi Protocol Label Switching
- NFS Network File System
- NetBIOS Network Basic Input Output System
- NIC Network Interface Card
- NNTP Network News Transfer Protocol
- NPP Network Packet Probe
- NRG Network Research Group
- NTM Network Traffic Monitoring
- NTRC Network Time Protocol
- OS Operating System
- OSI Open Systems Interconnection
- PC Personal Computer
- PC/AT Personal Computer / Advanced Technology
- POP Post Office Protocol
- POSIX Portable Operating System Interface

- RAM Random Access Memory
- RFC Request For Comments
- RPC Remote procedure Call
- RTEMS Real-Time Executive for Multiprocessor Systems

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- RT Kernel Real-Time Kernel
- SAP Service Access Point
- SIP Service Initiation Protocol
- SBC Single Board Computer
- SDRAM Synchronous Dynamic RAM
- SMTP Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
- SNA System Network Architecture
- SNetMon Smart Netrork Traffic Monitoring
- SNMP Simple Network Management Protocol
- SPAN Switch Port ANalyzer
- SPARC Scalable Processor Architecture
- SSH Secure Shell
- TCP Transmission Control Protocol
- TS (C) Technologic Systems
- TS-Linux Technologic Systems Linux
- UDP User Datagram Protocol
- VFS V Virtual File System
- VM Virtual Machine
- VPN Virtual Private Network

ABSTRAK

Kemajuan perkembangan Internet menyebabkan peningkatan kadar trafik data. Oleh itu pengukuran trafik untuk rangkaian berdasarkan IP telah menarik minat pengendali rangkaian dan organisasi untuk tujuan pengkormesilan, sosial dan tujuan teknikal. Keperluan pengukuran trafik adalah untuk memahami keadaan sesuatu rangkaian tentang prestasi dan reliabiliti. Oleh itu penganalisis rangkaian (PR) dibangunkan bagi membolehkan analisis trafik di dalam sesebuah rangkaian. Perkembangan teknologi sistem terbenam membolehkan pembinaan sistem yang fleksibel dan kos yang rendah. Teras sistem yang dibangunkan adalah menggunakan perkakasan sistem terbenam yang menggunakan sistem pengoperasian (OS) Linux berskala kecil yang semakin popular digunakan oleh sistem-sistem terbenam yang lain. Penyelidikan ini mempamerkan satu rekabentuk baru yang dinamakan Smart Network Traffic Monitoring (SNetMon) yang menggunakan komputer papan tunggal dan sistem pengoperasian sumber terbuka GNU/Linux. SNetMon mampu menangkap paket rangkaian, menganalisis dan memaparkan data tersebut. Sistem ini juga mudahalih bagi pengendali rangkaian membuat analisis trafik rangkaian. Perkakasan utama SNetMon adalah TS-7800 SBC, panel, LCD dan kad SD. Perisian SNetMon juga adalah mudah alih dan boleh dilaksanakan pada pelbagai platform perkakasan. Sistem ini terdiri dari 3 modul: Capturing Packet Module (CPM), System Control Module (SCM) dan View Moudle (VM). CPM dibangunkan menggunakan bahasa C untuk menangkap, ekstrak, menganalisis dan menyimpan data. SCM dibangunkan menggunakan bahasa PHP untuk mengawal CPM, mendapatkan data dan menyimpannya kedalam format JSON. VM dibangunkan menggunakan bahasa HTML, CSS dan JavaScript. Ia akan dimuatnaik dan diproses oleh pihak pengguna menggunakan pelayan web, menganalis data dan memplot graf-graf. Prestasi sistem SNetMon dibandingkan diantara PC dan Wireshark, penganalis rangkaian yang terkenal. Keputusan yang diperolehi menunjukkan bahawa kadar tangkapan data oleh SNetMon hampir sama (kurang daripada 0.1%) sahaja. Prestasi dua jenis kernel GNU/Linx 2.6.21 dan 2.6.34 dibentangkan. Keputusan menunjukkan kernel terbaru memberikan prestasi yang lebih baik darisegi lebarjalur dan lengahkan Keputusan-keputusan yang diperoleh membuktikan rekabentuk sistem SNetMon berhasil walaupun perkakasan yang mempunyai kekuatan prosesor dan memori yang lebih rendah digunakan.

ABSTRACT

The rapid Internet development has eventually increased the network traffic as well. Therefore, the IP-based network traffic measurement has attracted network administrators and organizations for commercial, social and technical purposes. The need for traffic measurement is to understand the network itself in terms of the reliability and performance. Thus, Network Analyzer (NA) is developed to be able to analyze network traffic. Developments in embedded system technologies making it possible to design new low operational-cost but highly flexible NA systems. The core of the developed system is an embedded hardware running a scaled-down version of Linux Operating System (OS), a popular choice of operating system for embedded applications. This research proposed a new design and development of a Smart Network Traffic Monitoring (SNetMon) system based on single board computer (SBC) and using open source embedded GNU/Linux OS. The system is capable of capturing network packet, analyze and display data. The system is a portable device for network administrator to analyze network traffic. The main hardware components of SNetMon system are TS-7800 SBC, LCD panel and SD card. SNetMon software system is also a portable software which able to run on large variety of device platform. It is composed of three modules; Capturing Packet Module (CPM), System Control Module (SCM) and View Module (VM). CPM is developed using C language to capture, extract, analyze and store data. SCM is developed using PHP language to control CPM, query selected data and save into JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) format. VM is developed using Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML), Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) and JavaScript language. It will be loaded and processed from the client side by web-browser, analyze the data and to plot graphs. SNetMon system performance is compared between PC and Wireshark, a well known de facto standard network analyzer. Result depicted show data capture rates of SNetMon is very much identical with wireshark (less than 0.1%) during execution. The performances of two difference GNU/Linux kernels, 2.6.21 and 2.6.34, are reported. Results indicate that the new kernel has better performance, more bandwidth and low latency. The results prove that SNetMon on SBC system design and implementation is highly competitive even though it has low processing power and memory.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Since the Internet was developed then regulated later by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the first priority was the implementation and the enhancement of the packet switched technology and then development of new applications. As a result, there is interest in the network management of operations, including traffic measurement analysis. Statistical study and empirical study are two major traffic measurement analysis studies. Statistical studies are only for predict a network by mathematically. On the other hand, empirical studies of a network are based on measurement and analysis of real Internet environment, which is used for improving existing network protocol and applications (Kushida, 1999). One of the main problem of developing embedded software is inadequate software architecture and to have better performance in order to reduce processing overhead, memory and power (Xuejian, et al., 2005). Numerous networks monitoring software are available but most of them are proprietary based and expensive.

Traffic analysis equipment is often highly cost with dedicated hardware and uses proprietary software. This research target are (i) to implementing an embedded GNU/Linux system and (ii) to measure the system performance of the developped embedded network traffic monitoring system. Embedded Smart Network Traffic Monitoring System (SNetMon) using TS-7800 single board computer (SBC) and GNU/Linux is developed. SNetMon is tested on x86 architecture Desktop PC and ARM architecture TS-7800 SBC. SNetMon is to be a portable system, which means it is compatible with wide variety of computers. Advantage of SNetMon is it uses Free Software which means free to use, free to edit and free to modify. The operating system (OS) used in SNetMon is GNU/Linux of GNU General Public License (Stallman, 1997). *Libpcap* is library that allows capturing network packet uses 3-clause BSD License (Tcpdump & Libpcap, 2010). These licenses are compatible with GPLv3 License. The advances in open source packet processing, with the potential of receiving packets using a regular GNU/Linux PC, opens up very interesting possibilities in terms of implementing a traffic analysis system based on an open-source GNU/Linux system. SNetMon can be used for teaching and research purposes in order to understand TCP/IP packet networks traffic.

Processor manufactures currently are focusing their designs in systems with multiple processors, instead of increasing the processor clock (Sodan, et al., 2010). Processors with up to 4 cores are becoming common in the commodity market. In order to take advantage of multi-core systems, new feature such multiple queues can be added to network cards. This allows multiple CPUs to work concurrently without any interference. Each CPU is in charge of one queue, making possible the parallelization of the packet processing of a single interface. This feature can be used to increase the performance of the tools that analyze high speed networks in the future.

There are many network analyzer applications in the open source community of GNU/Linux to analyze network behavior but most of them are user-space based applications. They have advantages in terms of usability but it has drawbacks in terms

of performance. Managing small packets in high speed networks requires a lot of processes and all the resources of the system are needed.

1.2 Research Objectives

- i) To develop an Internet/Intranet network traffic monitoring system based on embedded GNU/Linux and single board computer.
- ii) To analyze and compare the system performance of SBC with desktop based by original copyri system.

1.3 Thesis Outline

This work is organized as follows:

- i) Chapter 2 introduces the existing work and concept related to Internet/Intranet network traffic monitoring system. It contains study of the current network analysis tools, embedded system and operating system that network monitoring system depends on. Related journals are also represented in this chapter.
- *ii)* Chapter 3 describes system development components, integration of peripheral devices, important services setup, implementation and methodology in achieving the desired goal.
- *iii*) Chapter 4 describes the results and discussions that contain the final tables, diagrams and screen captures which is used to support the conclusion.
- iv) Chapter 5 covers the conclusion. This chapter concludes the thesis by summarizing the important ideas for future work and contributions.

CHAPTER TWO

THEORY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Overview

Many different organizations have interest in measuring network or in obtaining Internet measurements. There are three main reasons for network measurement; commercial, social and technical. Internet network traffic engineering for packetswitched networks is important in terms of network managements (Crovella, et al., 2006). A common methodology for traffic measurement is to establish and facilitate understanding of the characteristics of individual networks. Network traffic monitoring provides a comprehensive view of a network health and performance. It has made significant advances in the recent year, so that it has effectively turned from a passing curiosity into a viable and portable option for any application where cost effectiveness is important. Although, there are some simple tools come with operating system by default such as *Ping* which is useful for checking connectivity in network and *Traceroute* which is useful to find path of packets transferred but to monitor network traffic in deeper details, network analyzer become necessary.

A network analyzer is a software or device which can capture all the packets transferred through the network and display those packets to users. During capture and analysis session, network analyzer listens the network and view the interested traffic, which design by users, to the users. A capture filter able to reduce the amount of traffic that is captured into the trace buffer. The filter enables administrator to build subsets of the packets in the trace buffer based on some criteria. An analyzer should be able to build trend graphs to illustrate the current and long-term traffic patterns. The information provided by an analyzer helps administrator to determine how much bandwidth and packets per second are being used.

Many network traffic monitoring applications have been developed to run on PC with high unnecessary processing power. A network engineer only needs network traffic monitoring system to work few tasks such as determine status of the network, capture network traffics. Those functions can hep the network engineer to troubleshoot network problems. In additional the benefit of low cost, small size and portability which embedded system has offered has can be benefited by SNetMon. The growth of embedded Linux had driven developers to take up the challenge of developing high processing power application on embedded Linux platform. An embedded system for this purpose should enable "plug and play" devices to provide traffic conditions in particular network segment and enables real time traffic capture and storage. At the same time acts as a server to provide collected traffic statistics to enable network engineer to identify network problems.

2.2 GNU/Linux

2.2.1 Overview

During the past few years, GNU/Linux operating system (OS) has grown from a student playground to an upstart challenger in the server market to a well-respected system taking its rightful place in educational and corporate networks. Many analysts claim that its trajectory has just begun, and that it becomes the world's most widespread operating system (Siever, et al., 2009). Linux was first developed by Linus Torvalds at

the University of Helsinki and he continues to centrally coordinate improvements. The Linux kernel continues to develop under the dedicated cultivation of a host of other programmers and hackers all over the world, joined by members of programming teams at major computer companies, all connected through the Internet.

By "kernel," it means the core of the operating system itself, not the applications (such as the compiler, shells, and so forth) that run on it. Today, the term "Linux" is often used to mean a software environment with a Linux kernel, along with a large set of applications and other software components. In this larger meaning, many people prefer the term GNU/Linux, which acknowledges the central role played by tools from the Free Software Foundation's GNU project as complements to the development of the Linux kernel (Siever, et al., 2009). Despite its large code base, the Linux kernel is the most flexible operating system that has ever been created. It can be tuned for a wide range of different systems, running on everything from a radio-controlled model helicopter, to a cell phone, to the majority of the largest supercomputers in the world. By customizing the kernel for specific environment, it is possible to create something that is both smaller and faster than the kernel provided by most GNU/Linux distributions. Modern distributions have gotten very accommodating, compiling in support for every known device and for power conservation. There are also good reasons to remove features from the kernel, particularly if it has been running on an embedded system or one with a small form factor. GNU/Linux systems cannot be technically referred to as a "version of Unix," as they have not undergone the required tests and licensing. However, GNU/Linux offers all the common programming interfaces of standard UNIX systems.