NETCONF, RESTCONF, YIN and YANG, BEEP, and UML

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These slides and audio/video recordings of this class lecture are at:
http://www.cse.wustl.edu/~jain/cse570-18/

Overview

1. Legacy Network Management: SNMP
2. NETCONF: Network configuration protocol
3. YANG and YIN: Data modeling
4. RESTCONF
5. BEEP: Transport
6. UML: Software modeling

Network Management

- Management = Initialization, Monitoring, Control
- Manager, Agents, and Management Information Base (MIB)

SNMP

- Based on Simple Gateway Management Protocol (SGMP)
- SNMP = Simply Not My Problem [Rose]
  Simple Network Management Protocol
- Only Five commands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>get-request</td>
<td>Fetch a value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get-next-request</td>
<td>Fetch the next value (in a tree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get-response</td>
<td>Reply to a fetch operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set-request</td>
<td>Store a value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trap</td>
<td>An event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Management Information Base

- MIBs follow a fixed naming and structuring convention
  ⇒ Structure of Management Information (SMI)
- All names are unique
- All nodes of the name tree are assigned numeric values by standards authorities
  iso.org.dod.internet.mgmt.mib.ip.ipInReceives 1.3.6.1.2.1.4.3
- Tables rows are referenced by appending the index

Global Naming Hierarchy

- ccitt(0) → iso (1) → joint-iso-ccitt (2)
  - standard (0) → org (3)
  - iso9314 (9314) → dod (6)
    - fddiMIB (1) → internet (1)
      - directory (1) → mgmt(2) → experimental (3) → private (4)
      - mib (1) → fddi (8)
      - system (1) → interfaces (2)
      - transmission(10) → fddimib (73)

MIB (Cont)

- All names are specified using a subset of Abstract Syntax Notation (ASN.1)
- ASN.1 specifies notation (that humans can read) and encoding (representation and ranges)
- Only INTEGER, OCTET STRING, OBJECT IDENTIFIER, NULL types
- Only SEQUENCE, SEQUENCE OF, CHOICE constructors

MIB Definition: Example

ipAddrTable ::= SEQUENCE of ipAddrEntry
ipAddrEntry ::= SEQUENCE {
  ipAdEntAddr ipAddress,
  ipAdEntIfIndex INTEGER,
  ipAdEntNetMask ipAddress,
  ipAdEntBcastAddr ipAddress,
  ipAdEntReasmMaxSize INTEGER (0..65535)
}

ipAddrEntry { ipAddrTable 1}
ipAdEntNetMask {ipAddrTable 3}
NETCONF

- IETF XML based Network device configuration protocol (RFC 6241, June 2011)
- Allows setting configuration parameters when the device is instantiated and changing these parameters later, e.g., set IP address to 192.168.0.1
- Replacement for:
  - SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol)
  - Command line interfaces (CLIs)
  - Scripts used by operators
- XML based ⇒ Both human and machine readable
- Also allows monitoring the device
- Uses remote procedure calls (RPCs) called “Operations”
- Runs over SSH ⇒ Secure

Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NETCONF
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NETCONF Protocol Layers

- Content: Full configuration, Partial Configuration
- Notification Data
- Operations: Edit, Copy, Delete
- Messages
- Notification: RPC, RPC-Reply, Notifications (Publish/Subscribe)
- Secure Transport: SSH, TLS, BEEP over TLS, SOAP over HTTP over TLS

Notification: Publish/subscribe mechanism to get state/alerts

Netconf Wiki, http://trac.tools.ietf.org/wg/netconf/trac/wiki
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Configurations

1. Running: Complete currently running configuration
2. Start up: Configuration to be used on next reboot
3. Candidate: Part of currently running configuration. Scratch pad for configuring pieces before commit.

NETCONF Operations

- Get: Get complete running configuration and state
- Get-Config: Get all or part of running configuration
- Edit-Config: Edit configuration
- Copy-Config: Copy the entire configuration store to another
- Delete-Config:
- Lock: Lock the full/partial configuration (so that no one else can modify)
- Unlock
- Close-Session: Graceful termination of session
- Kill-Session: Abort

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**NETCONF Parameters**

- Parameters are stored in a hierarchical XML file.
- Any branch or the entire tree can be over-written or retrieved.

**NETCONF Example**

- Show currently running BGP Configuration:
  
  ```xml
  <rpc message-id="101" xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:netconf:base:1.0">
    <get-config>
      <source>
        <running/>
      </source>
      <filter type="subtree">
        <top xmlns="http://example.com/schema/1.2/config">
          <bgp/>
        </top>
      </filter>
    </get-config>
  </rpc>
  ```

**YANG Data Model**

- Yet Another Next Generation data modeling language.
- By IETF netmod working group.
- Sequel to SMI (Structure of Management Information) used with SNMP, SMIv2 used by SNMPv2, and SMI3.
- To express configuration data and state data.
- Data model: Describes the data, its constraints. A.k.a., Schema. E.g., address may consist of street, state, zip within 50 states. 1 Brookings Dr., Saint Louis, MO 63130 is an instance.
- YANG defines a number of built-in data types and specifies a way to construct more complex data types.

**YANG Concepts**

- YANG is used for configuration data, state data, RPCs (Operations), and event notifications.
### YANG Node Types

- **Container**: A subtree of related nodes. No data values. Only a set of child nodes. Single instance. E.g., WUSTL
- **Leaf**: Has a value and no child nodes. Can have a default value. Can be mandatory or optional. Single instance. E.g., Department of CSE
- **List**: A set of list entries. Each list entry may contain many child nodes including other lists. Uniquely identified by its key value. E.g.,
  ```
  list user {
    key login-name;
    leaf login-name { type string; }
    leaf full-name { type string; }
  }
  ```

### YANG Node Types (Cont)

- **Leaf-List**: A set of leafs. Leaf nodes have only one instance, while leaf-lists may have multiple instances, e.g., “Departments” is a leaf-list, while “CSE” is a leaf in “WashU” container.
- **Typedef**: Define new types by adding to another data type
  ```
  typedef port-number {
    type uint16 {
      range “1..65535”; 
    }
  }
  ```
- **Uses**: Refines and augments another data type
  ```
  Container server {
    Container address {
      uses address-type;
    }
  }
  ```

### Anyxml: any chunk of XML data

### Choice: One of n case statements. Only one is satisfied

### Augment: Allows vendors to add vendor-specific data to standard data modules. Should not break applications that do not understand vendor-specific data

### Vendor Extensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Models</th>
<th>Vendor Extensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Configuration Data</td>
<td>State Data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Built-in Data Types in YANG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>binary</td>
<td>Any binary data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bits</td>
<td>A set of bits or flags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boolean</td>
<td>“true” or “false”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int8</td>
<td>n-bit signed integer, n=8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int16</td>
<td>n-bit signed integer, n=16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uint8</td>
<td>n-bit unsigned integer, n=8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uint16</td>
<td>n-bit unsigned integer, n=16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decimal64</td>
<td>64-bit signed decimal number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>string</td>
<td>Human readable string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>empty</td>
<td>A leaf that does not have any value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enumeration</td>
<td>Enumerated strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instance-identifier</td>
<td>References a data tree node</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leafref</td>
<td>A reference to a leaf instance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>union</td>
<td>Choice of member types</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YANG Examples

- Built-in data type
- User defined data type
- List of domains to search
- No value. Only presence or absence.
- Enumeration = Set of assigned names
- Member of enumeration

YIN

- Yin and Yang: Complementary and interrelated
- YANG is human readable
- YIN is an equivalent XML syntax for YANG.
- YANG module can be translated into YIN, manipulated by XML tools and translated back into YANG without loosing any information.
  \[ \text{YANG}(\text{YIN}(\text{M})) = \text{M} \]
- XML syntax useful for XML tools.
  - E.g., Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations (XSLT)
    - Extract documentation
    - Generate Code
    - Display graphically

YIN Example

- YANG:
  
  ```
  leaf address {
    type inet: ip-address;
  }
  ```

- YIN:
  
  ```
  <leaf name="address">
    <type name="inet:ip-address"/>
  </leaf>
  ```

YANG Tools

- **Libsmi**: Generate YANG from SMIv2
- **Pyang**: Validate YANG. Translate between YANG and YIN. Generate XML schema definition (XSD) and document scheme definition language (DSDL) from YANG or YIN.
- **Yangdump**: Validate YANG. Generate XSD and HTML from YANG.
**RESTCONF**

- Same function as NETCONF
- Same datastore can be accessed by NETCONF or RESTCONF
- Uses HTTP for transport instead of SSH
- Similar CRUD Operations
  - NETCONF: create, replace, merge, delete, get/get-config
  - RESTCONF: POST, PUT, PATCH, DELETE, GET
- Listens on port 8080 for HTTP requests
- Request and response data can be in XML or JSON
- Structure of data defined in YANG by XML-YANG and JSON-YANG
- RESTfullness and ability to use JSON makes RESTCONF attractive

**Secure Transports**

- SSH: Secure Shell
- TLS: Transport Level Security
- BEEP: Blocks Extensible Exchange Protocol
  - Framework for creating network application protocols
  - Provides building blocks, e.g., authentication, framing, pipelining, multiplexing, reporting, …
  - Allows multiple parallel pipelines (channels)
  - Can define multiple profiles (sets of blocks)
  - Runs on TLS
- SOAP: Simple Object Access Protocol
  - Protocol to exchange structured information for web services
  - Can run over HTTP, SMTP, TCP, UDP, …

**BEEP**

- Blocks Extensible Exchange Protocol
  - A general purpose protocol framework for exchange of data.
  - Allows application developers to concentrate on their application messages and offload message exchange by using ready made BEEP code.
- BEEP implementations in C, Java, Pascal, C++, Python, JavaScript, Ruby, TCL, perl are available at beepcore.org
- Like XML, BEEP is eXtensible and most applications can be implemented on the top of BEEP.
- After the success of HTTP, many applications started modifying HTTP to suite their applications, e.g., Internet Printing Protocol added a few new headers to HTTP.
- HTTP is a stateless client-server protocol.
  - Not easy to use for stateful or peer-to-peer applications.

**BEEP (Cont)**

- BEEP is designed for applications that are:
  - Connection Oriented: Connect, Exchange,…, Exchange, Disconnect.
  - Message Oriented: Loosely coupled peers communicating using messages
  - Asynchronous: Multiple parallel exchanges
  - Example: FTP, SMTP. Not good for one-shot exchanges, e.g., DNS
- BEEP Provides the following functions:
  - Separating one message from next (Framing)
  - Multiple parallel asynchronous exchanges
  - Negotiating encryption, authentication
  - Reporting errors
BEEP Channels

- **Initiator** sends a connection request to **listener** and sets up a bidirectional **session**. Multiple **channels** are then setup.
- **Channel 0** is used for managing other channels.
- Some **tuning** channels are used for negotiating profiles such as encryption and authentication for other **data exchange** channels.
- Libraries of standard profiles are available as XML Document Type Definitions (DTDs).
- Many application profiles use XML to encode their messages.

Unified Modeling Language (UML)

- UML is a modeling language for software engineering. Standardized by the Object Management Group (OMG) and ISO.
- Structural diagrams show the static view of objects, attributes, operations, and relationships.
- Behavior diagrams show the dynamic behavior in terms of collaborations among objects and state changes.

UML Diagrams

1. Class Diagram: Attributes and relationships of systems classes.
4. Deployment Diagram: Hardware used in implementations.
5. Object Diagram: Structure of a sample modeled system.
6. Package Diagram: Logical groupings inside a system.
7. Profile Diagram: profiles of various classes.
8. Activity Diagram: Work flows of components in a system.
10. Use Case Diagram: Actors and their goals in some use cases.
11. Communication Diagram: communication between components.
12. Interaction Overview Diagram: Interactions between communication diagrams.
13. Sequence Diagram: Sequence of messages between objects.

UML Diagram Notation

- Unidirectional Association: 
  
- Bidirectional Association: 
  
- Dependency: Change to A will cause change to B.

- Aggregation: A is a part of B
  
- Composite Aggregation: A (Child) and B (Parent) are tightly coupled such that child can not exist without the parent.

- Generalization: A is a subclass of B
Sample UML Class Diagram for OF-Config Data Model

1. "OF capable switch" consists of many logical switches
2. OF capable switch is configured by many "OF configuration points"
3. "OF logical switch" is controlled by many "OF controllers"
4. Logical switch uses many "OF resources"
5. Resource types are Ports, Queues, External certificates, own certificate, and flow tables


Summary

1. NETCONF is the network device configuration protocol (next generation of SNMP)
2. YANG is the human-readable data modeling language (next generation of SMI). YIN is the XML version of YANG modules
3. RESTCONF uses HTTP for network device configuration.
4. BEEP is the message exchange transport protocol
5. UML is the software modeling language

Reading List

- Netconf central, http://www.netconfcentral.org/

WikiPedia Links

### Acronyms

- **ASN.1** Abstract Syntax Notation 1
- **BEEP** Blocks Extensible Exchange Protocol
- **BGP** Border Gateway Protocol
- **CLI** Command line interface
- **CSE** Computer Science and Engineering
- **DNS** Domain Name System
- **DSDL** Document Scheme Definition Language
- **DTD** Document Type Definition
- **FTP** File Transfer Protocol
- **HTML** Hyper Text Markup Language
- **IETF** Internet Engineering Taskforce
- **IP** Internet Protocol
- **ISO** Internet Standards Organization
- **JSON** JavaScript Object Notation
- **MIB** Management Information Base
- **NETCONF** Network configuration protocol

### Acronyms (Cont)

- **OF-Config** OpenFlow Management and Configuration Protocol
- **OF** OpenFlow
- **OMG** Object Management Group
- **RPC** Remote Procedure Call
- **SMI** Structure of Management Information
- **SMIv2** Structure of Management Information Version 2
- **SNMP** Simple Network Management Protocol
- **SNMPv2** Simple Network Management Protocol Version 2
- **SOAP** Simple Object Access Protocol
- **SSH** Secure Shell
- **TCL** Tool Command Language
- **TCP** Transmission Control Protocol
- **TLS** Transport Layer Security
- **UDP** User Datagram Protocol
- **UML** Unified Modeling Language

### Acronyms (Cont)

- **WashU** Washington University in Saint Louis
- **WUSTL** Washington University in Saint Louis
- **XML** eXtensible Markup Language
- **XSD** XML Scheme Definition
- **XSLT** Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations
- **YANG** Yet Another Next Generation Data Modeling Language
- **YIN** Complement of Yang

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https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjGG94etKypJEkJNAa1n_1X0bWWNyZcof

CSE473S: Introduction to Computer Networks (Fall 2011),
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjGG94etKypJWOSPMh8Azcgv5e_10TiDw

Wireless and Mobile Networking (Spring 2016),
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjGG94etKypKeb0nzyN9tSs_HCd5c4wXF

CSE571S: Network Security (Fall 2011),
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjGG94etKypKvzfVutJh3PFJXumyyg93u

Video Podcasts of Prof. Raj Jain's Lectures,
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4-5wzNP9-ruOzQMs-8NUw