Broadcast/Multicast Routing

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Introduction

In some applications, hosts need to send messages to many or all other hosts. For example, a service distributing weather reports, stock market updates, or live radio programs might work best by sending to all machines and letting those that are interested read the data.

• Sending a packet to all destinations simultaneously is called **broadcasting**.

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Broadcast Routing

1- One broadcasting method that requires no special features from the network is for the source to simply send a distinct packet to each destination.

Broadcast Routing

2 - An improvement is **multidestination routing**, in which each packet contains either a list of destinations or a bit map indicating the desired destinations. When a packet arrives at a router, the router checks all the destinations to determine the set of output lines that will be needed. (An output line is needed if it is the best route to at least one of the destinations.) The router generates a new copy of the packet for each output line to be used and includes in each packet only those destinations that are to use the line.

Broadcast Routing

3 - We have already seen a better broadcast routing technique: **flooding**. When implemented with a sequence number per source, flooding uses links efficiently with a decision rule at routers that is relatively simple.

Broadcast Routing

4- The idea for **reverse path forwarding** is elegant and remarkably simple once it has been pointed out (Dalal and Metcalfe, 1978). When a broadcast packet arrives at a router, the router checks to see if the packet arrived on the link that is normally used for sending packets *toward* the source of the broadcast. If so, there is an excellent chance that the broadcast packet itself followed the best route from the router and is therefore the first copy to arrive at the router. This being the case, the router forwards copies of it onto all links except the one it arrived on. If, however, the broadcast packet arrived on a link other than the preferred one for reaching the source, the packet is discarded as a likely duplicate.



