关于 TCP 定时器管理的答疑

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同学提问:老师,为什么过早重传里定时器过期之后只重传第一个分组,在TCP可靠传输里定时器不是针对整个窗口吗?

答疑:

- 1、过早重传例子里定时器过期之后只重传第一个分组,这是没错的,因为 TCP 用的是选择重传的重传逻辑。
- 2、在 TCP 可靠传输里定时器针对整个窗口,这也是没错的。这是个定时器管理问题,和上面的重传逻辑是独立的,没有关系。
- 3、"TCP 的定时器是针对整个窗口的",这种表述确实容易让大家联想回退 N 步协议时产生疑虑。更恰当的表述是"TCP 的定时器是针对窗口中最早未确认报文段的"。
- 4、我们在课堂上没有详细介绍 TCP 定时器的管理方法。有一个 RFC 标准《Computing TCP's Retransmission Timer》专门标准化 TCP 定时器(https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2988)。我摘取其第五节,给大家看看 RFC2988 推荐的定时器管理方法。

下面 RTO 就是定时器时长。

5 Managing the RTO Timer

An implementation MUST manage the retransmission timer(s) in such a way that a segment is never retransmitted too early, i.e. less than one RTO after the previous transmission of that segment.

The following is the RECOMMENDED algorithm for managing the retransmission timer:

(5.1) Every time a packet containing data is sent (including a retransmission), if the timer is not running, start it running so that it will expire after RTO seconds (for the current value of RTO).

每当一个分组发送时(包括重传),如果定时器没有运行,就启动使得其在RTO之后到期。

(5.2) When all outstanding data has been acknowledged, turn off the retransmission timer.

当所有未确认的数据都已被确认时,关闭定时器。

(5.3) When an ACK is received that acknowledges new data, restart the retransmission timer so that it will expire after RTO seconds (for the current value of RTO).

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当收到对于新数据的一个确认时,重启定时器使得其在 RTO 之后过期。

When the retransmission timer expires, do the following: 当定时器过期时:

- (5.4) Retransmit the earliest segment that has not been acknowledged by the TCP receiver.
- 重传未被接收方确认的最早的报文段。
- (5.5) The host MUST set RTO <- RTO \star 2 ("back off the timer"). The maximum value discussed in (2.5) above may be used to provide an upper bound to this doubling operation.

主机必须设置 RTO 未其当前值的两倍。RTO 的最大值在(2.5)中讨论过。(RTO 的退避, 我们课程中没有介绍过)

(5.6) Start the retransmission timer, such that it expires after RTO seconds (for the value of RTO after the doubling operation outlined in 5.5).

重启定时器,使得其在RTO之后过期。

5、综上能看到,TCP的定时器确实不是对每个未确认分组单独设置一个(像选择重传协议中那样)。对其最恰当的描述是"TCP的定时器针对的是窗口中最早未确认报文段"。