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計畫編號：NSC89-2219-E-009-001
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計畫主持人：楊啟瑞
共同主持人：
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行政院國家科學委員會專題研究計畫成果報告
寬頻網際網路之允入控制與訊務排程
Admission Control and Traffic Scheduling in Broadband Internet

計畫編號：NSC89-2219-E-009-001
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主持人：楊啟瑞 国立交通大學資訊工程研究所

1. 中文摘要

寬頻網際網路上的QoS (Quality-of-Service)排程必須提供有限延遲與公平性的考量且保持最小之計算複雜度。Prevailing weight-based的排程原則提倡應用multiple queues和engage於timestamp的計算。這些原則在高複雜度的花費下，可以達到最佳之QoS效能，也可以為了計算簡化，達到次級之效能。在今年度的計畫中，我們設計了一個weight-based Versatile QoS Scheduler (VQS)和其可行之VLSI硬體實作架構。為了促進較適當之效能與複雜度間的平衡，VQS可以在寬頻網際網路內用不同之網路元件來實作。VQS利用較簡單之single-queue與不需timestamp計算之優點，以weight來控制封包插入於一分享式之資料結構。此資料結構包含了一系列固定大小之windows。在一給定的window內，由一個session來的最大封包個數，是和此session的weight和window大小成正比。實驗結果證明，應用較小之window於high-power的網路元件，VQS可以在throughput fairness、mean delay、與worst-case delay fairness等項目上表現和WFQ相似。甚至在和WFQ相容與具備traffic burstiness的條件下，VQS較WFQ優越約99%之delay bound和jitter。

關鍵字：服務品質排程 產出公平性 99% 延遲限制。

Abstract

Quality-of-Service (QoS) scheduling for broadband Internet is aimed to provide bounded delay and fairness while retaining a minimum of computational complexity. Prevailing weight-based scheduling disciplines advocate the use of multiple queues and engage in timestamp computation. These disciplines achieve either superior QoS performance at the expense of higher complexity or degraded performance in return for computational simplicity. In the project of this year, we have designed a weight-based Versatile QoS Scheduler (VQS) and its feasible VLSI hardware implementation architecture. VQS is capable of being implemented in various network elements in broadband Internet facilitating proper trade-off balance between performance and complexity. Taking advantage of simpler single-queue management and lack
of timestamp computation, VQS governs packet insertion in a shared data structure comprising a sequence of fixed-size windows based on weights. Within a given window, the maximum number of packets from a session is proportional to the session weight and the Window Size \((WS)\). Simulation results demonstrate that, applying a smaller \(WS\) for high-power network elements, VQS performs as superior as WF\(^2\)Q with respect to throughput fairness, mean delay, and worst-case delay fairness. Moreover, compatible to WF\(^2\)Q, VQS outperforms WFQ with respect to 99-percentile delay bound and jitter in the presence of traffic burstiness.

**Keywords:** Quality-of-Service (QoS) scheduling, throughput fairness, 99% delay bound, jitter.

2. **Approaches**

2.1. **Background and Concept**

Scheduling disciplines proposed in the literature have been either single-queue [1-3] or multiple-queue-based [4-7]. Single-queue-based disciplines advocate the maintenance of a single shared queue for each output link. Different-session packets destined to the same output link are inserted in the shared queue in accordance with, for instance, the deadlines or priorities of packets. Packets are then transmitted in a FIFO manner. Consequently, scheduling complexity completely resides in the enqueueing process. Examples of this class include Earliest Deadline First (EDF) [1], Threshold Based Priority (TBP) [2], and Precedence with Partial Push-Out (PPP) [3]. The EDF discipline was shown to successfully support tight delay bound. However, it undergoes two major limitations- a priori deadline assumption and high implementation complexity due to packet sorting. Although TBP and PPP were justified effective for switches supporting two priorities, they fail to provide bounded delay and throughput fairness in the presence of malicious sessions.

Multiple-queue-based disciplines, on the other hand, adopt multiple queues maintained at each output link, one for each session. Packets arriving from different sessions are simply placed at the end of their corresponding queues. Scheduling complexity in this class resides in the dequeueing process instead. Prevailing disciplines in this class, which are weight-based, include Weighted Fair Queueing (WFQ) [4], Worst-case Fair Weighted Fair Queueing (WF\(^2\)Q) [5], Self-Clocked Fair Queueing (SCFQ) [6], and Frame-based Fair Queueing (FFQ) [7].

In this project, we aim to design a weight-based, highly versatile QoS scheduler, referred to as VQS, capable of being implemented in diverse network elements facilitating proper trade-off balance between performance and complexity. Taking advantage of simpler single-queue management and lack of timestamp computation, VQS governs the insertion of packets belonging to the same
output link in a shared data structure comprising a sequence of fixed-size windows. Within a given window, the maximum number of packets from a session is proportional to the session weight and the Window Size (WS). Packets being placed at the same window are transmitted on a FIFO basis, limiting short-term unfairness to within a window interval. Packets being arranged outside of the window trigger new windows to be activated, enforcing weight-proportional service to be exerted.

2.2. The VQS System

VQS is assumed non-cut-through and non-preemptive. In other words, a packet is not served until its last bit has arrived, and once a packet is being served, no interruption is permitted until the whole packet is completely served. It is also work conserving in the sense that the server remains busy as long as there are packets in the queue. Packets are served under a normalized service rate of one cell/slot. Given a backlogged session, \( i \), assigned with weight \( w_i \), VQS allocates the session a minimum service rate of \( w_i/W \) (cells/slot), where 
\[
W = \sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i
\]
and \( N \) is the total number of sessions in the system. For ease of description, we assume the packet size is fixed (=L cells). The VQS algorithm, as will be shown, requires little modification for supporting variable-size packets.

For generalization, we consider two different VQS systems- a standalone VQS and an embedded VQS. While the former directly accepts input traffic from each session, the latter exerts a leaky-bucket regulator [8] between each session's input traffic and VQS. First, the input traffic from each session is generally modeled by a discrete-time Switched Bernoulli Process (SBP) [9]. The process alternates between the High and the Low states. Second, the leaky-bucket regulator for session \( i \) is defined by \( (\rho_i, \sigma_i) \), where \( \rho_i \) (cells/slot) is the token generation rate and \( \sigma_i \) (cells) is the maximum token bucket size. Thus, under the embedded system, traffic from session \( i \) exhibits a mean arrival rate of \( \rho_i/L \).

![Figure 1. VQS implementation architecture.](image-url)
(packets/slot) and burstiness which increases with $\sigma_i$.

### 2.3. Implementation Architecture

The architecture (see Figure 1) includes a VLSI chip, called the Sequencer [10], as a key component. The Sequencer is essentially a sorting-memory chip. By cascading multiple Sequencer chips in series or in parallel, a large linked list type packet pool could be implemented. As depicted in Figure 2, when a packet arrives, the packet is stored in the packet pool at the address provided by the Idle-Address FIFO, which contains the addresses of unused space in the packet pool. Before the packet is written into the packet pool, its session identifier is extracted and used as an index into the Session (S)-cache. The S-cache maintains a separate entry for each session, including the normalized weight and credit. Notice that since we assume $W_S=1$ in this architecture, the sum of normalized weights of all sessions is equal to 1. The Session Controller is responsible for determining the index of the window in which this arriving packet can be placed, based on the normalized weight of the session to which the packet belongs.

### 3. Results and Merit Review of the Project

The performance of VQS is evaluated via simulation. Simulation results demonstrate that, applying a smaller $W_S$ for network elements
with sufficient computation power, VQS performs as superior as the optimal scheme, WF^2Q, with respect to mean delay, throughput fairness, and worst-case delay fairness (see Figure 2). Moreover, compatible to WF^2Q, VQS outperforms WFQ with respect to 99-percentile delay bound and jitter in the presence of traffic burstiness. For network elements with limited power, VQS provides the best possible QoS using a larger window size.

The design and experimental results have been presented and demonstrated in various conferences and meetings, including IEEE ICC’00. Moreover, we have designed several networking control systems making use of the mechanism, which has been submitted to IEEE ICC 2001.

4. References


