IMPLEMENTATION OF A WEB APPLICATION THAT MANAGES A MESH NETWORK ON OLSR PROTOCOL

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# INDEX

1. Introduction .................................................................................................................. 3
2. Cognitive Network Testbeds .......................................................................................... 5
   2.1 Cognitive Radio and Cognitive Network ............................................................... 5
   2.2 MESH Testbeds ...................................................................................................... 7
   2.3 Cloud Testbeds ...................................................................................................... 9
3. CARMEN Testbed ......................................................................................................... 13
   3.1 Environment of the testbed ..................................................................................... 13
   3.2 ALIX ....................................................................................................................... 14
   3.3 Infrastructure of the testbed .................................................................................... 16
   3.4 Multihop Network and OLSR protocol .................................................................. 17
   3.5 COGNITIVE NETWORKING PLATFORM ......................................................... 17
   3.6 Interacting with nodes ............................................................................................ 20
      3.6.1 SSH .................................................................................................................. 20
      3.6.2 Running experiments with IPERF .................................................................. 20
      3.6.3 IWCONFIG ...................................................................................................... 21
      3.6.4 NTP .................................................................................................................. 22
4. Web Application ............................................................................................................ 23
   4.1 Introduction to Java web applications ..................................................................... 23
   4.2 MVC ....................................................................................................................... 24
   4.3 View level and WEBGL ......................................................................................... 25
   4.4 DB Level ................................................................................................................ 27
   4.5 Architecture of the Web Application ..................................................................... 27
   4.6 External Libraries .................................................................................................. 29
   4.7 Functional Specifications ...................................................................................... 30
5. Test Case and Conclusions .......................................................................................... 35
   5.1 Conclusions and future work ................................................................................ 37

Appendix A ....................................................................................................................... 39
1. Introduction

In the last years there has been a high interest in the cognitive networks. Several Universities and Commercial Enterprises are investing on research studies. Usually they build a network of WiFi sensors (testbed) where they submit experiments by transmitting data with different transmission protocols.

The Department of Information Engineering in the University of Padua has its own Research Team. They have implemented a testbed in the SIGNET Laboratory, which they use from several years. The team needs a unique point for submitting the experiments, so it can be shared with all members. This solution would make it more comfortable, as the numbers of nodes are around 50 and there are several script to launch.

The solution implemented in this thesis is a Web Application developed in Java Language which will run in the local server “wisewai-server”. It will store data in a MYSQL database and will give the opportunity to the Research Team, to use an interface from where they can run the experiments and check the status of the nodes involved.

In this solution is developed also a 3D scene with all the maps of planes and the position of the nodes installed. In this way, it would be more comfortable to understand which nodes are involved in the experiment and where is their position.

The thesis is organized in 5 chapters. In the second one I give an introduction to the Cognitive Networks. Why there is a big interest in studying them, when they have been introduced. What is the relationship with other kind of networks and so on. I also list some interesting cases of Testbeds that are used for studying this kind of network.

In the third chapter I focus in our testbed, CARMEN. First I describe the infrastructure of the testbed, where are distributed the nodes in the department. Then follows a description of the nodes, their hardware and software and the network infrastructure for the MESH. I describe also the usual protocols used during experiments, such as OLSR. At the end of the chapter, I list the principal terminal commands used in the experiments, with a brief description.

The fourth chapter is used to describe all the software implemented for the web application. What is the MVC(Model, View, Controller) software model, why it has been chosen for the application. Then I introduce WEBGL API as a successful solution for complex image interactive graphic softwares.
It is widespread and already integrated in all browsers. Then it is the turn of the framework X3DOM, well accepted by developers for translating standard scripting language in WEBGL solution.

Then follows a quick listing of external java libraries, comfortable for implementing the core of the application. The rest of the chapter is dedicated mostly to the functional part. How the end user should interact with the application, and the description of each element of the web page. What are the steps to take for submitting an experiment and the rules that validate the data inputted.

In the last chapter I describe a real experiment used for testing the application, followed by the analyzes of the output data. At the end I define the conclusions of the work done.
2. Cognitive Network Testbeds

The technology used in the network of nowadays causes several limitations when is applied in a dynamic scenario as it presents limitations in adapting to changes and interactions, often resulting in sub-optimal performance. The network elements (such as nodes, protocols) are unable to make intelligent decisions and adaptations. The rigidness of the layered protocol architecture doesn’t give to the elements sufficient information about the conditions experience by other elements, so the element is adapted to the network basing only in the proper information. The adaption is done in consequence of the events and problems that occur in the network. This example and others more aware the need of a different approach in designing the protocols of the network. One of the several solutions studied in different researching works is the cognitive network which seems to have the capacity of removing the above limitations by allowing networks to observe ,act, and learn in order to optimize their performance.[1]

2.1 Cognitive Radio and Cognitive Network

The first researcher that studied the cognitive networks was Theo Kantor during his doctoral research at the Royal Institute of technology in Stockholm, defining the cognitive network as the network with memory in his publication in June 1998. At the same period, in the same institute, Joe Mitola was studying the cognitive radio. In Mitola’s thesis, published in August, 1999 was included the following quote "Over time, the Radio Knowledge Representation Language -empowered network can learn to distinguish a feature of the natural environment that does not match the models. It could declare the errors to a cognitive network." This is the earliest publication of the concept cognitive network, since Kantor published a bit later¹.

Cognitive Radio(CR) is considered as a potential solution to improve spectrum utilization via opportunistic spectrum implement. Using Software defined Radio(SDR) technology, a flexible radio platform can potentially configure a Cognitive Engine(CE) to transmit many different incompatible radio standards. As by the definition of Mitola, a CR “is a goal-driven framework in which the radio autonomously observes the radio environment, infers context, assesses alternatives, generates plans, supervises multimedia services, and learns from is mistakes.”[17]

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive_network
We can think of the Cognitive network as a data communication network between intelligent nodes. The nodes have sufficient information of the status of their device and also about the network they are connected to. They can use this information to adapt themselves to different conditions or scenarios that may occur in the network and take the proper decisions. So the objective is to have a proactive behavior of the network in order that it can predict different situations and can take actions before they occur. The node could work in two modes, proactive and reactive. When the cognitive proactive mode fails, it can switch in reactive mode. But the aim is to use the knowledge gathered in past cases and use this information for predicting the behavior of the network. So the mail goal is to avoid blocking issues and increase network efficiency and performance. Using this approach is met also the goal of optimizing the communication for the whole network.

Network becomes cognitive when all its components are self-adjusting and self-aware. When the decisions of configuring the network and the way nodes behave are taken from and external component, then the network is no more Cognitive. Future aims are that the network itself takes decisions and find optimal ways of connecting devices and setting network parameters to reach best performance for data transfers. This can be achieved by using the Knowledge Base of past events but also for events that are not happened, but are likely to happen. Preventing data loss and congestion can be achieved by using routing algorithms and knowing the status of every node.[2]

Cognitive network is different from cognitive radio as it covers all the layers of the OSI model (not only layers 1 and 2 as with CR).

As Cognitive Radio is only considering scope of single radio and tries to optimize conditions for single user only, Cognitive network is trying to optimize whole network in order to achieve best end-to-end performance as anticipated earlier. The Cognitive Radio can be involved in a Cognitive Network to optimize their usage taking account also of the other nodes.

Software Defined Networks and software defined radios are both closely related Cognitive Networks, while they don’t necessarily have any intelligent components. Cognitive networks and Cognitive Radio networks depends on both of these technologies, because they enable network to adapt dynamically without user intervention.

A relationship of these approaches of networking can be described Figure1, which is also a schema of the present and future evolution of the networking.
The schema defines a natural evolution of the networks. As anticipated previously, once the Cognitive Radios were introduced, a solution such as Cognitive networks was foreseen.

2.2 MESH Testbeds

In the last years there has been a high interest in the cognitive networks. Several Universities and Commercial Enterprises are investing on research studies. Usually they build a network of wifi sensors (testbed) where they submit experiments by transmitting data with different transmission protocols.

In Figure 2 is represented the basic schema of a testbed. The first component is the mesh of sensors used in the networks. Obviously they need a network interface to exchange data between each other and with the Cognitive Controller, which is the second component. It can be represented by a human controller or can be automated. It is the entity that takes the decisions using its Knowledge Base and interacting with the third component: Optimization Process. This is a list of algorithms that helps the Cognitive Controller to take the optimal decision.
Most of the testbeds are designed to test CR techniques, but they can be adapted to investigate CN solutions. They are based on software defined radio (SDR), a radio communication system where all the layers of the protocol stack are implemented in software on a device. The device is connected to ad hoc hardware responsible for producing the modulated signal. The universal software radio peripheral (USRP) is a common choice to build the physical layer; another option is to use the wireless open access research platform (WARP, http://warp.rice.edu/). With the WARP board, both the physical (PHY) and MAC layers can be implemented on the field programmable gate array (FPGA) to reduce latency. However, the FPGA on the WARP board is not powerful enough to accommodate full-duplex communication, which is often desirable in CR testbeds.[3]

Three interesting testbeds are the Virginia Tech cognitive radio network (VT-CoRNET)\(^2\), the open access radio testbed for next-generation wireless networks (ORBIT)\(^3\), and EMULAB\(^4\), which are CR testbeds with the goal of optimizing spectrum sharing. They are composed of a very flexible architecture, can be controlled remotely, and are available to the research community to run network experiments.

**VT-CoRNET[18]** is an SDR testbed developed using 48 USRP2 nodes, a newer version of USRP nodes. The nodes are spread over four floors of a building and equipped with a custom made daughterboard spanning a frequency range from 100 MHz to 4 GHz. The 48 wireless software-defined nodes provide a hardware and software sandbox for software sandbox for SDR and CR development. This sandbox is designed so that the testbed users will have complete access to a high-performance computing platform so they will be able to develop next-generation wireless techniques.

\(^2\) [http://cornet.wireless.vt.edu/](http://cornet.wireless.vt.edu/)
IRIS[19]: Implementing Radio in Software (IRIS) is a testbed project in Europe, at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. The main idea is the same as for VT-CoRNET: it is composed of a highly flexible architecture for real-time radio reconfiguration. Its nodes are fully reconfigurable SDR (USRP2). IRIS is designed to be component-based. Discrete signal processing functions such as digital filter or modulator are implemented as components with generic interfaces for life-cycle control, data passing, and reconfiguration.

ORBIT[20] is a heterogeneous testbed developed at WINLAB, Rutgers University. It uses a two-tier architecture with a lab emulator trial network architecture to deal with the issue of reproducibility in experimentation. The radio grid emulator consists of 64 wireless nodes. Users can have full access to the radio nodes used in their experiments, download and run their own OS image and software packages, control and reboot the nodes and other operations.

EstiNet[21]: is developed in EstiNet Technologies, Inc and uses an unique approach to testing the functions and performances of OpenFlow controllers. By using particular simulation methodology, called “kernel re-entering”, EstiNet combines the advantages of both simulation end emulation approaches where each simulated host can run the real Linux operating system.

2.3 Cloud Testbeds

Fed4Fire\(^3\) is a project of the European Union, for federating the Mesh Network Tesbeds used in different Universities or Researching Laboratories.

It uses some frameworks such as : OMF (Optimal Measurement and Management Framework)\(^4\) and OML (Optimal Measurement Library)\(^5\)

OMF is a generic framework for controlling and managing networking testbeds, co-developed by NICTA\(^6\) and Winlab\(^7\).

OMF provides a domain-specific language, named OEDL, which allows the user to give an Experiment description including information about the resources needed for the experiment and their configuration, description about the applications to use in the experiment and data collected

\(^3\) [http://doc.fed4fire.eu/index.html](http://doc.fed4fire.eu/index.html)
\(^4\) [http://omf.mytestbed.net/projects/omf/wiki/An_Introduction_to_OMF](http://omf.mytestbed.net/projects/omf/wiki/An_Introduction_to_OMF)
\(^5\) [http://oml.mytestbed.net/projects/oml/wiki/](http://oml.mytestbed.net/projects/oml/wiki/)
\(^7\) [http://www.winlab.rutgers.edu/](http://www.winlab.rutgers.edu/)
to be analyzed, also a description of the different tasks to perform during the experiment and scheduling time or events that trigger them.

OMF provides also a set of software tools that use as input the experiment described at the first step and then configure the required nodes and resources involved in the experiment. After that the Experiment is executed by sending the commands to the resources and in a successive step are collected the measurement data from the applications or resources

![OMF: process used in the testbed](http://omf.mytestbed.net/)

As mentioned, the input to OMF is an experiment described with OEDL. OMF deploys and configures this experiment on the testbeds based on the user’s description. It then initiates and controls the execution of the experiment. While the experiment is being executed, data is measured and collected according to the user’s description. This data is stored in a database for later analysis, or re-used by the OMF’s control functions to steer some aspects of the experiment.

OML is an instrumentation tool that allows application writers to define customizable measurement points (MP) inside new or pre-existing applications. Experimenters running the applications can then direct the measurement streams (MS) from these MPs to remote collection points, for storage in measurement databases.

Experiments can be submitted in Fed4Fire with the proper account, previously registered, and by using the software jFED that facilities user interaction with the testbed.

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8 Courtesy of [http://omf.mytestbed.net/](http://omf.mytestbed.net/)
9 [http://jfed.iminds.be](http://jfed.iminds.be)
Some of the Researching Group that participate in this project are:

**The Virtual Wall** hosted at and operated by iMinds iLab.t. There are currently +300 physical servers available ranging from 4 to 16 raw cores per server and interconnected by multiple gigabit interfaces, some with 10 gigabit. Some of the nodes are connected to an OpenFlow switch to be able to do OpenFlow experiments in a combination of servers, software OpenFlow switches and real OpenFlow switches. The Virtual wall supports OMF as described here Control your experiment with OMF and OML as described here Instrument your experiment with OML.

**Planetlab Europe** is the European arm of the global PlanetLab system, the world’s largest research networking facility, which gives experimenters access to Internet-connected Linux virtual machines on over 1000 networked servers located in the United States, Europe, Asia, and elsewhere.
3. CARMEN Testbed

The Department of Information Engineering in the University of Padua has its own Research Team. They have implemented a testbed named CARMEN (Cognitive Android Mesh Network Testbed) in the SIGNET Laboratory, which they use from several years for researching aims. In this chapter we will describe step by step how it is implemented.

3.1 Environment of the testbed


Figure 4 Map of nodes in the building

The nodes in red color represent the ALIX engines (Chap 3.2), while the nodes in green color represent the sensors that collect data to transmit to the ALIX.
In Figure 5 is represented SIGNET laboratory, in which is installed a part of the MESH. In the areal cables are installed the sensors, while in desk appended in the wall are positioned the ALIX nodes.

### 3.2 ALIX

ALIX engines are calculators but with limited functionalities. They are optimized for networking. They have both Ethernet and Wifi card. The Operating System installed on the ALIX is Voyage Linux, a derivation of Debian.

In figure 6 are listed the hardware characteristics of an ALIX 3d3. As we will deepen later, they only have a Flash storage, and for this reason we will need to store the softwares and files for each node in a shared server.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPU</th>
<th>500 MHz AMD Geode LX800</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DRAM</td>
<td>256 MB DDR DRAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>CompactFlash socket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power</td>
<td>DC jack or passive POE, min. 7V to max. 20V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three LEDs</td>
<td>presenti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expansion</td>
<td>2 miniPCI slots, LPC bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectivity</td>
<td>1 Ethernet channel (Via VT6105M 10/100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/O</td>
<td>DB9 serial port, dual USB, VGA, audio headphone out / microphone in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTC battery</td>
<td>presente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board size</td>
<td>100 x 160 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firmware</td>
<td>Award BIOS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6 ALIX hardware specifications
In the following table are listed all the nodes used in the MESH testbed of the department. The first column contains the name of the node (used in the application, so the experimenter can familiarize with the nodes). In the second column is listed the model of ALIX (as described previously).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NICK</th>
<th>MODEL</th>
<th>WIFI IP</th>
<th>ETH IP</th>
<th>MAC</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>BUILDING</th>
<th>PLANE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>192.168.1.101</td>
<td>'10.1.128.101'</td>
<td>'00:00:89:16:39:30'</td>
<td>'navale'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAV6</td>
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<td>192.168.1.105</td>
<td>'10.1.128.105'</td>
<td>'00:00:89:16:39:30'</td>
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<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>'10.1.128.102'</td>
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<td>'navale'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAV7</td>
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<td>192.168.1.103</td>
<td>'10.1.128.103'</td>
<td>'00:00:89:16:39:20'</td>
<td>'micro'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAV6</td>
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<td>192.168.1.104</td>
<td>'10.1.128.104'</td>
<td>'00:00:89:16:39:10'</td>
<td>'corridoi'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT1</td>
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<td>192.168.1.105</td>
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<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
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<td>'10.1.128.106'</td>
<td>'00:00:89:16:39:08'</td>
<td>'potenza'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT3</td>
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<td>192.168.1.107</td>
<td>'10.1.128.107'</td>
<td>'00:00:89:16:39:40'</td>
<td>'scale'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>'10.1.128.108'</td>
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<td>'potenza'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
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<td>192.168.1.109</td>
<td>'10.1.128.109'</td>
<td>'00:00:89:16:39:20'</td>
<td>'potenza'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
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<tr>
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<td>'ALIX.3c3'</td>
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<td>'00:00:89:16:39:40'</td>
<td>'potenza'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT4</td>
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<td>192.168.1.108</td>
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<td>'00:00:89:16:39:10'</td>
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<td>'10.1.128.107'</td>
<td>'00:00:89:16:39:40'</td>
<td>'potenza'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
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<td>POT5</td>
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<td>192.168.1.108</td>
<td>'10.1.128.108'</td>
<td>'00:00:89:16:39:10'</td>
<td>'potenza'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
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<tr>
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<td>192.168.1.109</td>
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<td>'00:00:89:16:39:20'</td>
<td>'potenza'</td>
<td>'DE</td>
<td>A'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Figura 7 ALIX Database**

As anticipated previously the ALIX nodes have both Ethernet and WIFI interfaces. The Ethernet Interface is needed for the Controller to communicate with the nodes, as it is the application server where the web application will be deployed. For the WIFI interface the subnetwork 192.168.1.0 is chosen. While the nodes are available through the Ethernet interface on 10.1.(128/129/130).0 subnetwork. This information can be found in the third and fourth column.

The last three columns contain the information about the positions on the map for each node.
3.3 Infrastructure of the testbed

Despite the ALIX nodes, in the testbed are involved also two servers: \textit{wisewai-server and wisewai-signet}. Only one ALIX node, \textit{wisewai-signet}, owns in its storage the OS Linux. The other nodes load the SO from \textit{wisewai-signet} on booting process through PXE(Preboot Execution Environment). The rest of the data for each node (software, scripts to run in each node) is stored in \textit{wisewai-server} and is synchronized with the nodes through TFTPboot.[8]

As we can deduce, \textit{wisewai-signet} is used as a Gateway, and its role can be substituted from \textit{wisewai-server}, as it possesses all is needed to the nodes. In the schema the ALIX nodes communicate, through the \textit{Ethernet interface}, all the information to the Controller: \textit{wisewai-server} while with each other they use the wifi interfaces.

We should point out the fact that \textit{wisewai-server} as a Controller is able to switchon/off the nodes as they are charged through PoE (Power over Ethernet).
3.4 Multihop Network and OLSR protocol

The testbed is projected to make experiments over a MESH network using multihop protocols such as OLSR (Optimized Link State Routing Protocol).

OLSR is a proactive protocol, i.e., it exchanges information continuously over all the networks and stores the routes in the routing tables, having so the necessary information when data will be transmitted to a node. It is an optimization of the protocol Link State: the central concept of the protocol are the use of Multipoint Relays (MPR), the nodes elected for forwarding packets through flooding process. Using the MPR nodes we reduce the overhead that could be caused in a classic flooding where each node retransmits every packet. The MPR node is responsible for communicating to the network the route toward the nodes from which it has been elected. So it transmits less information than in Link State but sufficient to define the Optimal routes in the network.

The protocol is efficient in wide and dense networks and it is also applicable to networks with dynamic topology over time. It doesn’t need to use a reliable communication for the control packets as they are sent periodically, and is accepted the fact of data loss as usually done in frequent networks. OLSR doesn’t need an ordering process of the packets received as each transmitted packets is furnished of a sequence number in order that the receiver is able to identify recent received packets. So as one can deduce, the packets are send over UDP protocol and no changes is needed to be done on IP packets.

OLSR performs hop by hop routing. MPRs are made in a way that covers all nodes two hop away.

3.5 COGNITIVE NETWORKING PLATFORM

In this section is described the Testbed developed by the Researcher Team. It is composed by static nodes (ALIX) and mobile nodes (Nexus 7 tablets). The experiments are controlled and analyzed by a software (COGNET) developed by the same Researcher Team\textsuperscript{10}.

\textsuperscript{10} The description of this section is done thanks to the paper of the researcher Matteo Danieletto [3]
COGNITIVE NETWORKING PLATFORM [3]

The software developed to create a mobile ad hoc network is composed of three parts: Cognet-Module, CognetNode, and CognetManager, as illustrated in the following figure.

It has been tested in a heterogeneous network composed of 4 Android devices and 50 fixed devices with different Alix versions. CognetModule can observe and modify the values of the TCP parameters by reading and modifying the struct tcp_sock C structure. This data structure contains all the information about the TCP connections, and is refreshed every time a new TCP acknowledge packet is received by the node. CognetModule uses static struct tcp_congestion_ops, a kernel C structure to retrieve the struct tcp_sock and modify, on the fly, some TCP parameters. In particular, the congestion avoidance algorithm is implemented in CognetModule by creating several proc files, stored in /proc/CARMEN, to exchange information between the kernel and user space. Thanks to the proc files it is possible to change, on the fly, the TCP parameters. Furthermore, Cognet-Module can also receive as inputs the IP netmask to select the TCP connections that should be monitored. CognetNode is a user space program, which runs in a node to retrieve and change some MAC/TCP parameters, and is connected to the other nodes in the network. CognetNode is composed of three independent threads: TCP observation/modification (O/M), MAC O/M, and ServerManager. The TCP O/M thread is connected to the CognetModule via an interprocess communication channel (Netlink socket). The thread exploits the blocking behavior of the C function read; thus, it reads the Netlink buffer only when CognetModule is changing such a buffer. The TCP O/M thread can modify in real time some TCP parameters like the TCP congestion window (CWND), retransmission time out.
and maximum allowed value of the CWND (CWND CLAMP) by exploiting the proc files created by CognetModule.

The MAC O/M thread can observe/modify MAC parameters through the NL80211 socket functionality (in the Linux kernel), which communicates directly with the driver. It saves the MAC parameters of all the CognetNodes under its Wi-Fi coverage. CognetManager can remotely control the nodes by sending commands to the ServerManager thread, such as start/stop the experiment, change transmission channel or power, and change the sampling rate of the observed MAC parameters. Two versions of CognetManager (with library in C) were developed, one for desktop PCs and one for Android. It creates a C socket to open a TCP connection for each node in the experiment to control the node. In our testbed, these commands are received via a wired connection (for the Alix nodes) or via a second Wi-Fi interface (for the Android nodes). This second control connection also avoids delays in the control of each node in case of critical events when the main connection may be flooded with data traffic.

An app for Android was also developed by the Researcher Team, for submitting Experiments from the mobile devices. In figure 10, we can see the layout of the application. The user is able to insert information as WIFI IP of the node, the port where to run the experiment, and other parameters that we will see later. In
the application are implemented also functionalities that manage OLSR protocol settings for the node.

3.6 Interacting with nodes

During the experiments we will need to set some parameters to the nodes and ask to execute several actions. For this we will send terminal commands over SSH protocol.

3.6.1 SSH

Secure Shell (SSH)[12] is a cryptographic network protocol for secure data communication. This protocol can be used for logging remotely through command line, or we can use it to execute other commands or scripts. The two computers (server and client) need to be connected in the network, and SSH will send information over a secure channel.

In our case SSH is needed to the Controller of the testbed to send commands to the nodes. All commands will be encapsulated with SSH.

The usual command is : ssh user@server ……(command)

When we run it in terminal, the server asks the password of the user, and it is inputted in encrypted mode.

3.6.2 Running experiments with IPERF

Iperf[11] is a software used to test the network. It can creates TCP and UDP packet streams and then measure performance parameters such as the Throughput in the network that is running. It is written in C language. To start the measuring process, IPERF needs to run in both client and servers side by using the proper commands. It ca measure the throughput in between in both directions. It is open-source software and is a cross-platform software, i.e it runs in Windows, Unix, Linx, etc.

During the measuring process it writes in output the amount of data followed by the throughput measures. On server side it shows the IP of the client and the server connected and by default expects to run in 10 sec.
Iperf can be used for comparison of both wired and wireless networking interfaces.

To put the server in listening mode, is used the command: `iperf -s`.

To transmit data from the client to the server is used the command: `iperf -c [ip server]`.

On our experiments we will use the command parameterized as follows:

```
iperf -c [ip server] -t [duration in sec of the transmission process]
iperf -c [ip server] -n [nr of bytes to send to the server]
```

### 3.6.3 IWCONFIG

`iwconfig[10]` is a terminal command used to display or to change the parameters of the wireless network interfaces of the host such as interface name, channel to communicate, transmission power used when sending data. It can be used also to show wireless statistics as load of data transmitted or received.

Some of the parameters it admits are:

- **channel**: Sets the operating frequency or channel in the device. Channels are usually numbered starting at 1 and at maximum 13 (total nr of WIFI protocol), and we may use iwlist to get the total number of channels, list the available frequencies, and display the current frequency as a channel.

  Example: “iwconfig eth0 channel 3”

  As nodes will communicate with each other through Wifi, we will need to change the channel of their Wifi interface by choosing one of the thirteen channels of the protocol.

- **Txpower**: For cards supporting multiple transmit powers, sets the transmit power in dBm. Other features that can be used are: on and off enable and disable the radio, and auto and fixed enable and disable power control (if those features are available).

  Examples: “iwconfig eth0 txpower 15”

During the experiments will be changed the channel and the power of the nodes.
3.6.4 NTP

Network Time Protocol (NTP) [13] is a networking protocol for clock synchronization between computer systems. NTP was originally designed by David L. Mills of the University of Delaware. It is a client-server protocol where the server listens on UDP port 123. The protocol measures the latency times during packets transmission over the network. It uses the UTC time and is independent of the location. Actually it can synchronize the clocks of computers in internet with an error margin of 10 ms and 200 μs over a LAN.

In the departmental Testbed was decided to create a NTP server on a computer in the local network that is available from all ALIX nodes. The nodes do not have direct access on the internet so they use this server to synchronize their clocks.

As the nodes run a Linux OS, the synchronization could be performed through the daemon “ntpd” implemented in the operating system, with the associated configuration file in the path /etc/ntpd.conf. Ntpd can be used as client and server too. It is able to estimate and correct the errors of the local clock, avoiding time error of the system when it is not connected to internet.

However for the Alix nodes will not use this direct approach as their OS is recharged continuously by the controller “wisewai-server” and the clock is reset to year 2006. Synchronizing from such distant time creates overloading problems to the OS. So it was thought to use a script that modifies periodically the internal file of the OS to load by updating the clock. In this case the clocks of the nodes will have a delay of quarter hour comparing to real time, and when the synchronization will be performed it will not cause big issues.
4. Web Application

The name of the application is “webTestbed”. It will run in the WISEWAI-SERVER. The application has been developed with Eclipse tool using JEE platform and JDK 1.7 but with compliance to version 1.6., as the version of JRE running in WISEWAI-SERVER is 1.6.

4.1 Introduction to Java web applications

JavaServer Pages (JSP)[14] are used to integrate java coding with HTML, XML (or other document types) in order to create dynamic web pages. As it contains java code the files needs to be compiled on server side. The compiled pages will then be executed in the JVM (Java Virtual Machine) that will deliver the information to the web server and finally to the user.

Java servlet is a Java class in Java EE that extend some capabilities of the application server. Quite always they are used to elaborate information over HTTP protocol. For this when we create a servlet on recent developer platforms (such as Eclipse), it inherits by default the two methods of the HttpServletRequest interface: doGet and doPost. So they are used to implement web applications. We can use them in both interaction. When we ask information to the server the doGet method is invoked, else when we want to print a response in our web page, we can invoke the doPost method by writing HTML or XML code.

To deploy and run a servlet, a web container must be used.

Web container[15] (also known as a Servlet container) is that part of the web server or application server (if the web server is integrated in it) that manages the java servlets, their lifecycle and the logic they have inside. Web container is also responsible to map the URLs to the proper servlet, to redirect the output of a servlet to the proper web page by exchanging also information stored on that page. A web container can also create servlet instances using the JSP files or other files that include server-side code. A web container implements also the web component platform of the Java EE architecture, specifying a runtime environment for web components that includes security, concurrency, lifecycle management, transaction, deployment, and other services.
So to summarize, the user makes a request to JSP page. If the data are static, they are sent directly to the runtime and are forwarded to the response. If not, the web container translates it in servlet, compiles and then sends it to the runtime.

Most of the time, there is call to a specific servlet inside the JSP file. How does the Container know which Servlet to compile when the JSP makes the request? In J2EE platform is used a web.xml file that contains all the references to the servlets, and it is used by the container to take the proper Servlet. In Appendix A, is posted the web.xml of the “webTestbed” application.

The web container used in WISEWAI-SERVER is Apache Tomcat v 6.024, an open source product developed by Apache Software Foundation (AFS).

### 4.2 MVC

The application is implemented based in the MVC model.

The Model-View-Controller (MVC) [4] pattern separates the modeling of the domain, the presentation, and the actions based on user input into three separate classes.

---

Model: The model is that part of the web application responsible to interact with the database, the web services etc. It manages the behavior and data of the application domain and responds to instructions to change state (usually from the controller).

View: The view manages the display of information on web pages, reports, templates that is coming from the controller.

Controller: The controller is responsible for interpreting the actions of the user and translating them in request to the model. It is also responsible for forwarding the output of the Model to the View layer.

There is a direct dependency of the View and Controller layer to the Model layer that can be built and tested independently of the other two layers. This give the possibility to the developers to reuse the logic implemented in different cases as in a modular approach. The MVC approach is wide spread and well admitted in all web applications.

4.3 View level and WEBGL

For the View Level have been used the standard languages : HTML and Javascript and also AJAX as was required to make asynchronous calls to the servlets.

AJAX: (asynchronous JavaScript and XML) is a technique of integrating Javascript language and XML annotations used on the client-side to create asynchronous Web applications. Using Ajax, Web

\[12\] Courtesy of [http://code.tutsplus.com/tutorials/](http://code.tutsplus.com/tutorials/)
applications can post data and request data from a server asynchronously (in the background) without refreshing or influencing the behavior of the web page. Despite the name, the use of XML is not mandatory (JSON is often used in the AJAX variant), and the requests do not need to be asynchronous. JQYERY has implemented libraries for AJAX.

The implementation of the layout of the maps has been done using the WEBGL API through the framework X3DOM. It has been developed based on the existing solution of CORNET[7] web application adding further features. In the figure 13 is showed an effect of this technology.

![Figure 13 3D effect with WEBGL](image)

**WebGL[16]** (Web Graphics Library) is a JavaScript API for rendering interactive 3D graphics and 2D graphics within any compatible web browser without the use of plug-ins. This technology is integrated with the most used browsers such as: Chrome, Mozilla, IE, Opera, allowing GPU accelerated usage of physics and image processing and effects as part of the web page canvas. WebGL elements can be integrated with HTML and so JSP pages for exchanging information with the web application.

**X3D** is a standard file format and run-time architecture to represent and communicate 3D scenes and objects using XML. It provides real time graphics content embedded in applications. X3D describes 3D scenes in a similar way as HTML describes multimedia documents. X3D offers a higher level of abstraction than WebGL code, which simplifies development. To integrate X3D format file into web pages, is used X3DOM, a framework for manipulating (X)3D scenes as HTML5 DOM elements that are rendered via WebGL. The system allows defining 3D scene description and runtime behavior declaratively, without any low-level JavaScript coding.

---

13 [http://www.web3d.org/x3d/what-x3d](http://www.web3d.org/x3d/what-x3d)
4.4 DB Level

The application use MYSQL RDBMS (relational database system) for storing the data. It is a free product produced before from SUN Microsystems and now owned by Oracle.

![JDBC Diagram](http://theopentutorials.com/)

Figure 14 JDBC

The application uses the JDBC driver (Java library) to resolve the MYSQL connector (an external library to be integrated into the project). The connector makes possible the communication with the database. The queries are recognized as they are written in standard SQL language.

4.5 Architecture of the Web Application

In figure 15 is described the whole design of the web application. It is divided by three levels of the MVC model and the database layer. We will describe it using the top-down approach.

14 Courtesy of [http://theopentutorials.com/](http://theopentutorials.com/)
The user interacts with the View level as described previously. The main form to submit an Experiment is in the class Buildplane.jsp. We need to submit some information that are in the variable “nodeEParsed”. This variable has been populated previously by calling the javabean Node.java and its methods. The class JavaBean get the information connecting directly with the database. As the information are modelled as a hashmap (key, array<value>), the comfortable way to pass it to a Javascript variable is through JSON annotation. It just stores it in a String variable, and then we parse it in Javascript variable, ready to use in jsp class.

Figure 15 Architecture of the application
When we submit; we call an AJAX function in the file “submit.js”. We use AJAX as we need to make an asynchronous call to the server without refreshing the page. In this case we will call the servlet “ExpermentS”. Tomcat container will be able to identify it through the web.xml file[Appendix A].

The servlet on its turn calls the javabean “IperfJsch”. It will pass the data we need to this class, getting them from the Http request. Then all the business logic is handled in the class “IperfJsch” as it should be. This class has a method that makes some SSH command to the nodes and the output of the information will be passed to the servlet. The Tomcat container will then be able to print the output in our JSP class.

A similar explanation can be done for the other functionalities. The steps are alike but sing other servlets and other javabean.

**Properties files**

In the application are stored two properties files : “config.properties” and “db.properties”.

The “config.properties” file contains the credentials of the root user that will run ssh commands on the nodes.

The “db.properties” file contains the credentials for accessing the database.

Modifying these two properties files we will be able to run the application in different environments.

**4.6 External Libraries**

When a developer wants to implement some functionalities that are common or he needs to use standard technologies, could happen that the communities of developers have already produced a library to use by avoiding writing a lot of code. These libraries need just to be imported in the project and we jneed to know which are the methods we have to use.

The following libraries have been imported in the application as they offer a big help to avoid writing further code.
**OLSRINFO** [5]: is a Java library that provides Java classes for parsing the data from jsoninfo plugin, responsible for delivering all the information about the runtime status and configuration of OLSRD. It is based on the Jackson JSON processing library. The code can be downloaded from the internet and it can be manipulated by the developer to be integrated in web applications.

**JSCH**: is a Java implementation of SSH2. [6] JSch allows connecting to an sshd server and can be used for many operations such as file transfer, executing scripts, etc. We can integrate its functionality into our own Java programs. Main object that we need to declare are the Session we set with the host and the Channel to be used for running the commands.

**Gson**: is a Java library that can be used to convert Java Objects into their JSON representation. It can also do the inverse operations to convert a JSON string to an equivalent Java object like Hashmaps. Gson is an open-source project hosted at [http://code.google.com/p/google-gson](http://code.google.com/p/google-gson).

### 4.7 Functional Specifications

In figure 16 we find the main page of the web application. It is composed of two JSP file. At the left is positioned the “Buildplane.jsp” and at the right “planimetry.jsp”.

![Figure 16 Main page of webTestbed](image-url)
“Buildplane” contains the main form from which we will setup the Testbed and then start the experiment. It is composed of input fields, submit buttons and the field where is printed the output from the server.

“Planimetry” implements the scene of the environment with the position of the nodes. It is composed of the floors that represent the rooms where the mesh are installed in the maps are also integrated clickable objects that represent the nodes.

Submitting an Experiment

In order to start an Experiment with some nodes, we need to know where these nodes are situated in the department. Once we have this information, we can use the two dropdown menus (figure 17), one for the building and the other for the floors to identify the node. The two drop-downs are related with each other as the use Json object is a hashmap (key, value), in this case (building, plane). Once we have selected a building we will see that the dropdown of planes will be populated with the keylist of the building selected.

The same logic is implemented for populating the drop-downs of server nodes and client nodes. Once we select a plane, the two menus are selected with the keylist of that plane.

As we might submit multiple subexperiments in the same experiment (this would fit faithfully the case of MESH network), a table is implemented where its rows will represent the subexperiments. If we need to add a subexperiment we need to click the button “Add”, and a new row will be created. Then we need to select the check box at the left and then we can populate row with nodes by choosing them in the two drop-downs.
For the setup of the testbed and starting an experiment we need to select first the server node and then at least one client node.

To setup the testbed we need to click on the button “Setup”. It will run in background a ssh command which triggers a shell script in all the nodes involved;

```
/root/COGNET_TESTBED/startCOGNET.sh
```

Then it will create a file in the server node file will all the Ethernet ip of the clients:

```
echo " + hostC + " >> /root/MASTER/IP_FILES_WEBAPP/FILE_CLIENT_IP.TXT
```

and the testbed is ready to run the experiments.

Before starting the experiment we can set up the parameters, to use in the IPERF command. We can choose the number of recurrent experiments in the “Repeat” field, and if we want to transmit data in time mode or payload mode (MByte) we need to choose in the “select field”. By default the time is set to 10 sec.

To start the experiment we need to click on the button “Start Experiment”. Fisrt it will reserve the node server by triggering through ssh the command:

```
iperf -s
```
Then it will start sending data from the client nodes, in the mode we set previously:

```java
if (isTime == true)
    commandC = "iperf -c " + hostS + " -t " + time;
else if (isLoad == true)
    commandC = "iperf -c " + hostS + " -n " + load;
else
    commandC = "iperf -c " + hostS;
```

Once the client nodes have finished to transmit to the server, in the field “Status of Experiment” will be printed if the experiment terminated successfully or not.

While the experiment is running, we can stop it by clicking in the button “Stop Experiment”. It will send a kill command over ssh to the nodes selected as servers.

**Synchronize Clocks**: this functionality will synchronize the clocks of all nodes involved in the experiment by using the NTP protocol and will print the result in the field “Status of Synchronization”

**Configuration of WIFI interface**: this functionality will configure the wifi interface “wlan0” of all nodes involved. We can select the transmission power when the nodes will transmit data and also one of the thirteen channels of the wifi protocol.
Data Validation

In the application are implemented some rules for validating the data inputted.

- One node cannot be selected as client if it has been selected as Server in the same sub-experiment. When we try to do it, a popup window will alert us for the wrong action.
- The node Server should be always selected before the node client. If not a popup window will alert us to avoid the action.
5. Test Case and Conclusions

The aim is to setup correctly the testbed and run a simple experiment.

The nodes involved in the test will be DIE1(10.1.129.134) and DIE2(10.1.129.135). Node DIE1 is chosen as the node server while DIE2 as the node client.

At the beginning we need to insert the nodes in the table as described in 4.7. Then we need to click the button “Setup testbed”.

![Figure 19 Setup of the Testbed](image)

Submitting the “Setup” button we can observe at the left of the figure that the output message is “Setup finished successfully”. To verify the correctness, we need to check if the file has been created by the ssh command:

```
echo " + hostC + " >>/root/MANAGER/IP_FILES_WEBAPP/FILE_CLIENT_IP.TXT
```

At the right of the figure we can observe that checking from a terminal, the script shell “startCognet.sh” has been executed in both nodes and in the node server DIE1 has been generated.
the file “FILE_CLIENT_IP.TXT” which contains the Ethernet IP of the clients involved in the testbed and the localhost IP : 127.0.0.1

So this verifies that the testbed has been set up correctly. Now we can start our experiment.

Before clicking on the button “Start Experiment”, we check on the terminals connected to both nodes, with the command “ifconfig” the load of packets node DIE2 has transmitted last time and the load of packets node DIE2 has received last time. Both loads are 150 MB.

After clicking on the button “Start Experiment”, we can observe after some seconds that the output is “Experiment finished Successfully”. Now we have to verify if the client has transmitted any packet to the server, and they have been received correctly. Running again the command “ifconfig” on both terminals (right of figure 21), we can check that now the client DIE2 has transmitted around 173 MB and the server has received around 173 MB, and this verifies that the experiment ran correctly in the Testbed.
5.1 Conclusions and future work

At the beginning of the work, were defined the requirements with the Research Team for implementing a Web Application in order to give support at the team during the Experiment they submit on the Cognitive Network Testbed of the Department. The aim was to create an interactive application that could make more comfortable possible the executing of the experiments.

The decision to implement the application with the Java language was determined by the fact that the application should run in the “wiseai-server” that represents also the Controller of the Testbed.

In this server is installed the Tomcat application server and JRE(java runtime environment) version 6. So I used the same specification also in my Development Environment.
Another important requirement was to implement an interactive 3D object that could contain the maps of the rooms and nodes of the Mesh network. In this way the user would be able to identify the position of the nodes that are involved in the experiment and could extract useful information about that node.

For this functionality was chosen to use a well-known technology such WEBGL. This decision was taken because WEBGL is easy to integrate with web applications and it can run in all browsers.

The web application “webTestbed” was deployed successfully and its functionalities were tested by the team. The results are the same as the ones expected.

There are several functionalities that can be implemented in the next months. One of these would be to improve the interactivity of the 3D maps of the testbed and to add also functionalities to the nodes integrated in the maps.

Another functionality useful would be to integrate the web application with JPERF, a graphical solution of IPerf that gives the possibilities to analyze the data.
Appendix A

This is the code of the web.xml file. In this file are listed all the Servlets used in the application, with their path and the other information useful to Tomcat when they will invoked.

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<web-app xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
         xmlns="http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/javaee"
         id="WebApp_ID" version="2.5">
  <display-name>webTestbed</display-name>
  <welcome-file-list>
    <welcome-file>index.html</welcome-file>
    <welcome-file>index.htm</welcome-file>
    <welcome-file>index.jsp</welcome-file>
    <welcome-file>default.html</welcome-file>
    <welcome-file>default.htm</welcome-file>
    <welcome-file>default.jsp</welcome-file>
  </welcome-file-list>
  <servlet>
    <servlet-name>ExperimentS</servlet-name>
    <servlet-class>com.servlets.pkg.ExperimentS</servlet-class>
  </servlet>
  <servlet-mapping>
    <servlet-name>ExperimentS</servlet-name>
    <url-pattern>/ExperimentS</url-pattern>
  </servlet-mapping>
  <servlet>
    <servlet-name>WconfigS</servlet-name>
    <servlet-class>com.servlets.pkg.WconfigS</servlet-class>
  </servlet>
  <servlet-mapping>
    <servlet-name>WconfigS</servlet-name>
    <url-pattern>/WconfigS</url-pattern>
  </servlet-mapping>
  <servlet>
    <servlet-name>ClockconfigS</servlet-name>
    <servlet-class>com.servlets.pkg.ClockconfigS</servlet-class>
  </servlet>
  <servlet-mapping>
    <servlet-name>ClockconfigS</servlet-name>
    <url-pattern>/ClockconfigS</url-pattern>
  </servlet-mapping>
  <servlet>
    <servlet-name>PingNodeS</servlet-name>
    <servlet-class>com.servlets.pkg.PingNodeS</servlet-class>
  </servlet>
  <servlet-mapping>
    <servlet-name>PingNodeS</servlet-name>
    <url-pattern>/PingNodeS</url-pattern>
  </servlet-mapping>
</web-app>
```
<servlet>
<description></description>
<display-name>StopExperimentS</display-name>
<servlet-name>StopExperimentS</servlet-name>
<servlet-class>com.servlets.pkg.StopExperimentS</servlet-class>
</servlet>
<servlet-mapping>
<servlet-name>StopExperimentS</servlet-name>
<url-pattern>/StopExperimentS</url-pattern>
</servlet-mapping>

<servlet>
<description></description>
<display-name>SetupS</display-name>
<servlet-name>SetupS</servlet-name>
<servlet-class>com.servlets.pkg.SetupS</servlet-class>
</servlet>
<servlet-mapping>
<servlet-name>SetupS</servlet-name>
<url-pattern>/SetupS</url-pattern>
</servlet-mapping>

<servlet>
<description></description>
<display-name>TestbedS</display-name>
<servlet-name>TestbedS</servlet-name>
<servlet-class>com.servlets.pkg.TestbedS</servlet-class>
</servlet>
<servlet-mapping>
<servlet-name>TestbedS</servlet-name>
<url-pattern>/TestbedS</url-pattern>
</servlet-mapping>
</web-app>
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