Unstructured “Peer-to-peer” Systems

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Object Discovery Protocols

- How to design a distributed system that helps members share objects (by exchanging copies of objects between peers)?
  - Objects could be files, music, video, …
    - e.g., distributed file systems, usenet, naming service, etc.
  - Object could be available at one, many, or none of the peers

- How to quickly find (and retrieve) the object?
  - Data is important (location isn’t)
    - Query refers to data (and not location)
    - Data placement unrelated to overlay topology
Structured vs. Unstructured

Unstructured Systems
- Trivial overlay construction and maintenance
- Unreliable and random search
- e.g., gnutella

Structured Systems
- Conform to a particular graph structure
- Complex construction and maintenance
- Allow reliable and efficient object location
- e.g., chord, pastry

In the Beginning .... Napster

Issues?
Gnutella – Discovery & Join Flooding

Self-organizing Overlay Network

Gnutella – Search Flooding

HTTP
Gnutella – Rules for Flooding

- Hop-count in messages limits horizon for forwarding
  - May cause search to fail even if target exists
- Incoming Ping or Query messages are forwarded on all connections except the one that sent it
- Incoming Ping or Query messages that are duplicates should be discarded
- Response messages should be forwarded only on the connection sending the original Ping or Query
- Response messages should be discarded if the node has not received the matching Ping or Query

Alternatives to flooding?

Can Gnutella Be Made Scalable?

Random Walk vs Flooding

Issues:
-- Termination (TTL vs explicit)
-- State maintained
-- Number of walkers

Reduces number of messages by two orders of magnitude!
Can Gnutella Be Made Scalable?

**Degree of Replication**

- Replication should be proportional to square-root of query rate
- Distributed implementation:
  -- # of replicas created should be proportional to length of search

**Topology Adaptation**

- High degree nodes observe high query loads
- Random walks that seek out high-degree nodes lead to superior scaling to large systems
- Bias overlay organization so:
  -- High capacity nodes have high out-degree
  -- Low capacity nodes are “near” high capacity ones
  -- High capacity nodes are likely to answer query
KaZaA (Fasttrack)

Client ⟷ SuperNode
Login ⟷ Login Server
SuperNode address ⟷ Become SuperNode

I have ...

KaZaA

Client ⟷ SuperNode
HTTP request/response
IP address, port ⟷ IP address, port

I have ...
Who has ......?