

HANDS-ON SDN

Introduction to Software-defined Networking
Block Course – 13-17 March 2015

David Koll

Where we are now

You have now learned about:

- Python programming
- SDN basic principles
 - Basic concepts (CP/DP separation etc.)
 - De-facto standard interfaces (OpenFlow)
 - Controllers (NOX, POX, ...)
 - Virtualization (FlowVisor)

Where we want to go

You have now learned about:

- Python programming
- SDN basic principles
 - Basic concepts (CP/DP separation etc.)
 - De-facto standard interfaces (OpenFlow)
 - Controllers (NOX, POX, ...)
 - Virtualization (FlowVisor)

• Put the stuff learned into practice:

- Implement OpenFlow?
- Implement controllers?
- Implement FlowVisor?

- Rather: *learn how to use and program them!*
 - Hands-on work on state-of-the-art tools

How can we get there?

- Luckily, implementations are available.
 - Switches implementing OF
 - Controllers implementing OF
- So, how do we run them?
 - We don't have a hardware testbed at hand
 - We don't have access to a production network
 - We may want to test different things on different network topologies
 - Simulation?

Network ossification: We see this today, main reason for SDN

Emulation of Networks

- Network emulation means to run unmodified code interactively on virtual hardware
- Huge benefit:
 - Can actually port our applications seamlessly to hardware
- Challenges:
 - Scalability: need to model hosts, switches, links, controllers, ...
 - Ease-of-Use: easily allow to create different topologies with varying parameters
 - Accuracy: results have to match results obtained from running same experiment on hardware

Also: innovation in applications far outpacing standardization;

Enter Mininet

“Mininet creates a **realistic virtual network**, running **real kernel, switch and application code**, on a single machine (VM, cloud or native), in seconds, with a single command” [1]

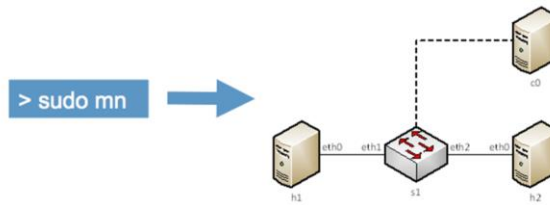


[1] mininet.org

Network ossification: We see this today, main reason for SDN

Enter Mininet

“Mininet creates a **realistic virtual network**, running **real kernel, switch and application code**, on a single machine (VM, cloud or native), in seconds, with a single command” [1]



[1] mininet.org

NET
WORKS

Introduction to SDN: Software-defined Networks – Session 1

7

Network ossification: We see this today, main reason for SDN

Enter Mininet

Mininet offers CLI & API to interact with the network

(see demo)

Sudo mn -> Pingall -> H1 ping h2 -> Iperf -> Nodes -> Xterm h1 -> Ifconfig -a
Complicated MAC addresses -> Sudo mn -c -> Sudo mn -mac ->xterm h1 -> ifconfig -a

Customize Topologies

Mininet is not limited to the very basic setup

(see demo)

`Sudo mn - -topo linear,4 -> dump`

Virtual network -> different namespaces

Everything else: not virtualized -> `h1 ps -a == s1 ps -a`

Can also change link capacities/delays :

`iperf`

`Sudo mn -c`

`sudo mn -link tc,bw=1`

`iperf`

Customize Topologies

```
from mininet.topo import Topo
class MyTopo( Topo ):
    "Simple topology example."

    def __init__( self ):
        "Create custom topo."

        # Initialize topology
        Topo.__init__( self )

        # Add hosts and switches
        leftHost = self.addHost( 'h1' )
        rightHost = self.addHost( 'h2' )
        leftSwitch = self.addSwitch( 's3' )
        rightSwitch = self.addSwitch( 's4' )

        # Add links
        self.addLink( leftHost, leftSwitch )
        self.addLink( leftSwitch, rightSwitch )
        self.addLink( rightSwitch, rightHost )

topos = { 'mytopo': ( lambda: MyTopo() ) }
```

Sudo mn -custom custom_topo.py -topo mytopo -test pingall

Customize Switches and Controllers

You can connect different switches and controllers

(see demo)

Sudo mn –switch ovsk –controller remote
New terminal -> cd pox -> ./pox.py forwarding.hub

Bring Links Up/Down

Change the topology at runtime

(see demo)

Pingall -> link h1 s1 down -> pingall -> link h1 s1 up -> pingall

Python Interpreter

Can access each host, switch and controller with Python

(see demo)

Py „hello“ + „world“
Py h1.IP()

Use of Wireshark

We can use Wireshark to debug our network

(see demo)

Exit -> `sudo mn -c` -> `sudo mn -controller remote`
New terminal -> `sudo wireshark &` -> filter of
New terminal -> `./pox.py forwarding.hub`
See of_hello of_features_request etc in wireshark

Limitations?

Limited by single system resources
Limited to Linux kernel (e.g., portability to Windows?)
Limited to real-time

Network ossification: We see this today, main reason for SDN

Exercise!

Time for Exercise 7 and 8

Network ossification: We see this today, main reason for SDN