Interactive Branched Video Streaming and Cloud Assisted Content Delivery

Niklas Carlsson Linköping University, Sweden

@ Umeå University, October 1, 2015



Much of the work in collaboration ...

- Primary research collaborators (alphabetic):
 - Martin Arlitt (HP Labs, USA)
 - György Dan (KTH, Sweden)
 - Derek Eager (University of Saskatchewan, Canada)
 - Phillipa Gill (Stony Brook University, USA)
 - Emir Halepovic (AT&T research, USA)
 - Anirban Mahanti (NICTA, Australia)
 - Aniket Mahanti (University of Auckland, New Zeeland)
 - Nahid Shahmehri (Linköping University, Sweden)
 - Carey Williamson (University of Calgary, Canada)



... and with students

PhD students at LiU

- Vengatanathan Krishnamoorthi
- Rahul Hiran
- Anna Vapen
- Researchers/postdocs at LiU
 - Cyriac James (now at University of Calgary)
 - Ajay Gopinathan (now at Google)
- Also assisting PhD students elsewhere
 - Raoufehsadat Hashemian (U Calgary, Canada)
 - Benoy Varghese (NICTA, Australia)
 - Youmna Borghol (NICTA, Australia) Graduated!
 - Aniket Mahanti (U Calgary, Canada) Graduated!







Background: Research overview



Design, modeling, and performance evaluation of distributed systems and networks

In this talk I will talk about ...

... innovative new streaming media ...



... cost-efficient delivery ...



... and determine who should serve who.





Quality-adaptive Prefetching for Interactive Branched Video using HTTP-based Adaptive Streaming

Proc. ACM Multimedia 2014.

Empowering the Creative User: Personalized HTTP-based Adaptive Streaming of Multi-path Nonlinear Video *Proc. ACM FhMN@SIGCOMM 2013.* (Also in *ACM CCR*). **Best paper award**

Bandwidth-aware Prefetching for Proactive Multi-video Preloading and Improved HAS Performance *Proc. ACM Multimedia 2015.*



too sad too violent

too sad too violent too scary

• • •

too sad too violent too scary

• • •

... or where we may have wanted our favorite character to make a different choice...

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		Weekday	•	Shower Eat	0	Work	0	Lunch	0	Backhome	0			
Beginday	0			Dressup	0			Skiplunch	0					
				Moresteep	0			Watch TV	0			Dinner	Sleep	•
		Holiday	0			Cooklunch	0	Visitfriend	0	Goout	0			
				Wakeup	0				•					

Allow user to selects between multiple storylines or alternative endings

	Weekday	Shower + Eat +	Work 🔶	Lunch	Backhome 🔶	
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We have solved ...

The problem of providing seamless playback in the presence of multiple branch options

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- HTTP-based Adaptive Streaming
- Path and quality-aware prefetching





- HTTP-based streaming
 - Video is split into chunks
 - •
 - - •
 - •



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 - •
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 - Easy firewall traversal and caching

•



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 - Easy support for interactive VoD


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- HTTP-based adaptive streaming



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 - Multiple encodings of each chunk (defined in manifest file)

1300 Kb/s	Chunk1	Chunk2	Chunk3	Chunk4	Chunk5
850 Kb/s	Chunk1	Chunk2	Chunk3	Chunk4	Chunk5
500 Kb/s	Chunk1	Chunk2	Chunk3	Chunk4	Chunk5
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- We develop a simple analytic model which allows us to define the prefetching problem as an optimization problem
 - Maximizes expected playback quality while avoiding stalls
- Based on our findings, we design optimized policies that determine:
 - 1. When different chunks should be downloaded
 - 2. What quality level should be selected for each of these chunks
 - 3. How to manage playback buffers and (multiple) TCP connections such as to ensure smooth playback experience without excessive workahead (buffering)
- The design and implementation of the framework
- Experimental evaluation of our policies, which provide insights into the importance of careful adaptive policies

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Problem: Maximize quality, given playback deadlines and bandwidth conditions



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Objective function





Objective function

maximize
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n_e} q_i l_i + \sum_{i=n_e+1}^{n_e+|\mathcal{E}^b|} q_i l_i$$





Beginning of next segment



















































• Once branch point has been traversed, move on to next segment ...








































- Playback deadlines
 - for seamless playback without stalls



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- Playback deadlines
 - for seamless playback without stalls
 - Current segment: e.g., 2 and 3



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 Download completion time



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 - First chunks next segment: e.g., 4, 7, and 10



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$$t_i^c \leq t_i^d = \tau + \sum_{j=1}^{n_e} l_j$$
, if $n_e < i \leq n_e + |\mathcal{E}^b|$
Time at which branch point is reached



$$t_i^c \leq t_i^d = \tau + \sum_{j=1}^{n_e} l_j, \quad \text{if } n_e < i \leq n_e + |\mathcal{E}^b|$$

- Download times t_i^c , rate estimations, and parallel connections
 - - •

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 - Assume that an additional TCP connection will not increase the total download rate
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Summary part 1 ...

- Designed and implemented branched video player that achieve seamless streaming without playback interruptions
- Designed optimized policies that maximize playback quality while ensuring sufficient workahead to avoid stalls
- Evaluation shows that solution effectively adapt quality levels and number of parallel connections so as to provide best possible video quality, given current conditions

 Note: Extensions, generalizations, and variations include "multi-file prefetching for impatient users" [*Proc. ACM Multimedia 2015*]



The Untold Story of the Clones: Content-agnostic Factors that Impact YouTube Video Popularity

Proc. ACM SIGKDD 2012.

Characterizing and Modeling Popularity of User-generated Videos *Proc. IFIP PERFORMANCE* 2011.



- Streaming services responsible for majority of traffic
- Video dissemination (e.g., YouTube) can have widespread impacts on opinions, thoughts, and cultures





 Not all videos will reach the same popularity and have the same impact



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Aside ... Popularity distribution



Rank (r)









IFIP Performance '11

























E.g., ACM TWEB, PAM '11 IFIP Performance '11, IPTPS '10



- Popularity distribution statistics and models
 - Across services (impact on system design)
 - Lifetime vs current
 - Over different time period (churn)
 - Different sampling methods

E.g., ACM TWEB, PAM '11,

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Total views thus far [log]

E.g., IFIP Performance '11



The more views a video has, the more views it is likely to get in the future



Views during week [log]

- The more views a video has, the more views it is likely to get in the future
- The relative popularity of the individual videos are highly non-stationary

Rich-gets-richer and churn



Young videos

Old videos

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E.g., IFIP Performance '11

Rich-gets-richer and churn



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Old videos

- The more views a video has, the more views it is likely to get in the future
- The relative popularity of the individual videos are highly non-stationary
- Some long-term popularity

E.g., IFIP Performance '11





• Some popularity differences due to content differences

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- Some popularity differences due to content differences
- But also because of other "content-agnostic" factors
 - The latter factors are of considerable interest but it has been difficult to accurately study them

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- But also because of other "content-agnostic" factors
 - The latter factors are of considerable interest but it has been difficult to accurately study them

In general, existing works **do not** take content differences into account ... (e.g., large number of rich-gets-richer studies)

Methodology

 Develop and apply a methodology that is able to accurately assess, both qualitatively and quantitatively, the impacts of various content-agnostic factors on video popularity

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- Clones
 - Videos that have "identical" content (e.g., same audio and video track)



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- Clones
 - Videos that have "identical" content
- Clone set
 - Set of videos that have "identical" content •

You Tube



Clone set 1

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Some factor of interest



Some factor of interest

Focus on clone sets

Methodology: Aggregate model



Methodology: Content-based model





Dynamic Content Allocation for Cloud-assisted Service of Periodic Workloads

Proc. IEEE INFOCOM 2014



- Large amounts of data with varying popularity
- Multi-billion market (\$8B to \$20B, 2012-2015)
 - Goal: Minimize content delivery costs
- Migration to cloud data centers



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Motivation

- Goal: Minimize content delivery costs
 - Capped servers: fixed bandwidth (and storage) cap
 - Elastic cloud bandwidth: flexible, but pays premium
- Dynamic content allocation: Want to utilize capped bandwidth (and storage) as much as possible



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- Traffic of files only in cloud $\Gamma_c^{\pi}(i) = E \left[\int_{t_i^{\pi}}^{t_{i+1}^{\pi}} \sum_{f \notin \mathcal{X}_i^{\pi}} B_f(t) \right]$
- Spillover traffic $\Gamma_s^{\pi}(i) = E \left[\int_{t_i^{\pi}}^{t_{i+1}^{\pi}} \left(\sum_{f \in \mathcal{X}_i^{\pi}} B_f(t) - U \right)^+ dt \right]$
- Traffic due to allocation $\Gamma_d^{\pi}(A_i^{\pi}) = \sum_{f \in A_i^{\pi}} L_f$
- Total expected cost $J^{\pi}(T, \mathcal{X}_0) = \gamma \times \sum_{i=0}^{I^{\pi}} \left\{ \Gamma^{\pi}_d(A^{\pi}_i) + \Gamma^{\pi}_c(i) + \Gamma^{\pi}_s(i) \right\}$
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- Traffic due to allocation $\Gamma_d^{\pi}(A_i^{\pi}) = \sum_{f \in A_i^{\pi}} L_f$
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- Optimal policy
 - $\pi^* = \arg\min_{\pi \in \Pi} J^{\pi}(T, \mathcal{X}_0)$
Cost minimization formulation



- Traffic of files only in cloud $\Gamma_{c}^{\pi}(i) = E \left[\int_{t_{i}^{\pi}}^{t_{i+1}^{\pi}} \sum_{f \notin \mathcal{X}_{i}^{\pi}} B_{f}(t) \right]$
- Spillover traffic $\Gamma_s^{\pi}(i) = E \left[\int_{t_i^{\pi}}^{t_{i+1}^{\pi}} \left(\sum_{f \in \mathcal{X}_i^{\pi}} B_f(t) - U \right)^+ dt \right]$
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Utilization maximization Cost minimization formulation



• Equivalent formulation $\overline{\Gamma}_{s}^{\pi}(i) = E\left[\int_{t_{i}^{\pi}}^{t_{i+1}^{\pi}} \min\left(U, \sum_{f \in \mathcal{X}_{i}^{\pi}} B_{f}(t)\right) dt\right]$ $U^{\pi}(T, \mathcal{X}_{0}) = \gamma \times \sum_{i=0}^{I^{\pi}} \left\{\overline{\Gamma}_{s}^{\pi}(i) - \Gamma_{d}^{\pi}(A_{i}^{\pi})\right\}$ Optimal policy $\pi^{*} = \arg \max_{\pi \in \Pi} U^{\pi}(T, \mathcal{X}_{0})$

- Traffic of files only in cloud $\Gamma_c^{\pi}(i) = E \left[\int_{t_i^{\pi}}^{t_{i+1}^{\pi}} \sum_{f \notin \mathcal{X}_i^{\pi}} B_f(t) \right]$
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 - Optimal policy $\pi^* = \arg \min_{\pi \in \Pi} J^{\pi}(T, \mathcal{X}_0)$

Dynamic content allocation problem



- Formulate as a finite horizon dynamic decision process problem
- Show discrete time decision process is good approximation
- Exact solution as MILP
- Provide computationally feasible approximations (and prove properties about approximation ratios)
- Validate model and algorithms using traces from Spotify



Caching and Optimized Request Routing in Cloud-based Content Delivery Systems

Proc. IFIP PERFORMANCE 2014.



- Migration to geographically distributed cloud data centers
 - Goal: Minimize content delivery costs

- Geographically distributed cloud
 - Elastic cloud bandwidth and storage
 - When sufficiently expensive storage costs, not all contents should be cached at all locations





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 - Elastic cloud bandwidth and storage
 - When sufficiently expensive storage costs, not all contents should be cached at all locations
- Two policy questions arise
 - What content should be cached where?
 - How should requests be routed?





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- Elastic cloud bandwidth and storage
 - TTL T_i used at each server location
- Optimized request routing determines content replication





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Request routing optimization

Minimize

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} \left(\gamma_i e^{-\gamma_i T} + L(1 - e^{-\gamma_i T}) + R \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}: i^*(c) \neq i} \lambda_{c,i} \right), \quad \text{where } \gamma_i = \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}} \lambda_{c,i}$$

- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
 - Cache storage cost
 - Remote routing cost



Request routing optimization

Minimize

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} \left(\gamma_i e^{-\gamma_i T} + L(1 - e^{-\gamma_i T}) + R \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}: i^*(c) \neq i} \lambda_{c,i} \right),$$

where
$$\gamma_i = \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}} \lambda_{c,i}$$

Aggregate request rate at server location i

- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
 - Cache storage cost
 - Remote routing cost





- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
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Minimize

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Cache miss cost

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Minimize $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} \left(\gamma_i e^{-\gamma_i T} + \underbrace{L(1 - e^{-\gamma_i T})}_{\mathsf{Cache storage cost}} + R \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}: i^*(c) \neq i} \lambda_{c,i} \right), \quad \text{where } \gamma_i = \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}} \lambda_{c,i}$

- Minimize content delivery costs
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Request routing optimization

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$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} \left(\gamma_i e^{-\gamma_i T} + L(1 - e^{-\gamma_i T}) + \left[R \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}: i^*(c) \neq i} \lambda_{c,i} \right] \right), \quad \text{where } \gamma_i = \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}} \lambda_{c,i}$$

$$\uparrow$$
Remote routing cost

- Minimize content delivery costs
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- Minimize content delivery costs
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Request routing optimization

Minimize

Subject to

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$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} \lambda_{c,i} = \lambda_c, \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{M}$$

$$\lambda_{c,i} \ge 0, \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{N}, \forall c \in \mathcal{M}$$

Conservation constraints

- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
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Request routing optimization

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- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
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 - Remote routing cost





For Theorem 5 [sets and properties], first ... Order server location based on request rate

Rank of location



Rank of location



Request rate at location

Rank of location

Servers in set S_2 and S_4 serves only local request

Servers in set S_3 serve both local and remote Servers in set S_3 serve the same request rates

Servers in set S_1 inactive





Rank of location



Rank of location



Rank of location

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Finding the optimal request routing



Request rate at location

Rank of location

Finding the optimal request routing



Rank of location

- Compare optimal dynamic policy with baselines
 - Always "local" server
 - Always "single" server
- As well as with optimal "static" placement (any T_i)

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- Significantly outperform baselines ("local" and "single")
 - Difference can be unbounded
- Even with static load, costs typically close to those with static optimal placement (but much more flexible)





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10

0.01

0.1

Average request rate (\lambda)

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0

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Contributions

- Propose new delivery approach using distributed clouds
 - Request routing periodically updated
 - Cache content updated dynamically
- Formulate optimization problem
 - Non-convex, so standard techniques not directly applicable
- Identify and prove properties of optimal solution
 - Leverage properties to find optimal solution
- Comparison with optimal static placement and routing, as well as with baseline policies
- Present a lower-cost approximation solution that achieve within 2.5% of optimum

Summary and thank you!



Scalable content delivery

Traffic measurements, analysis, and modeling

Efficient and sustainable ICT

Security and emerging services





Niklas Carlsson (niklas.carlsson@liu.se) Research overview and pubs: www.ida.liu.se/~nikca/