The Performance Evaluation of Qos in Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN) on Impact of Bluetooth Worms

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Abstract The Bluetooth technology is the convergence of Mobile Communication and Computing Applications. The set of Mobile Devices ”Laptops, Notebook Computers, PDA’s, Mobile Smart Phones etc” connected by Bluetooth protocol forms a Bluetooth Network or Bluetooth Piconet or WPAN. Even through the devices have numerous benefits its open nature increases the threats and risks being posed on them. The wired network faces challenging problems because of internet worms, similarly the Bluetooth Network or WPAN faces serious problems because of Bluetooth Worms. This paper gives a comparative study of WPAN performance on impact of Bluetooth Worms in Bluetooth Piconet (symmetric) and Bluetooth Piconet (asymmetric) and derives the result how the degree of homogeneity increases the infection rate.

Keywords Bluetooth, Bluetooth Security, Scheduling, Polling, Piconet, Symmetric, Asymmetric, Worms

1. Introduction

1.1. Bluetooth Technology

Bluetooth technology is the low power, low cost technology used in short range radiofrequency (RF) communication. It is a protocol used for connecting a set of wireless devices, ranging from PDAs, Smart phones, Notebook computers, Laptops etc., Bluetooth radio operates in the 2.4 GHz unlicensed ISM band (Industrial, Scientific and Medical). Bluetooth supports both point to point and point to multipoint connections. In point to multipoint connection, the channel is shared among several Bluetooth devices. The channel is divided into time slots each 625µs in length, where each slot corresponds to RF hop frequency. Two or more devices sharing the same channel forms a piconet[Figure 1] and multiple piconets with overlapping coverage area forms a scatternet. A device which is a member in more that one Piconet is called bridge. Bluetooth protocol uses asynchronous connectionless link for (ACL) for data transfer and synchronous connection oriented link (SCO) for voice or combination of voice and data transfer[1][7].

Speed, storage capacity and hence the uploading and downloading rates are increasing rapidly. [1][9]

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 focuses on Bluetooth Security issues. Section 3 discuss on traffic scheduling algorithm to evaluate QOS in the piconet and shows the graphical results. We conclude the results in Section 4.

![Figure 1. Bluetooth Network(Piconet)](image)

2. Background Study

2.1. Bluetooth Security and Security Issues

Bluetooth is designed to run in a peer to peer short range wireless network. All Bluetooth enabled devices implements the Generic Access Profile. The profile defines a security model that includes three security modes. Security Mode1, is an in secured mode. Security Mode2, enforces security at service level after the channel has been established. Security Mode3, enforces security at link level before the channel establishment. If the in-built security of the Bluetooth is compromised, one or more devices in the network (Piconet / PAN (Personal Area Network)) is infected. Even though the mobile devices have numerous benefits, the open nature increases the threats.
and risks being posed on them. Every day new viruses and worms are posed to attack the Bluetooth enabled devices as well as the WPAN (Wireless Personal Area Network).

The earliest versions of worms are harmless and they didn’t spread from device to device. The recent worms are capable of spreading to nearby device via Bluetooth and pose serious threats on Enterprise networks. The Bluetooth worm uses proximity scanning process to infect the nearby device. The worm infection cycle has three phases-inquiry, paging and probing. In the inquiry phase it identifies and collects the list of neighboring devices which is within its vicinity area. In the paging process it establishes connection and in the probing phase it probes for infection. Once probing is completed it disconnects from the victim device and move back to the inquiry list to select the next victim.

Now a days all business transactions, banking transactions, accessing web resources are made ease through mobile phones. Additional security concerns are for Bluetooth mobile phones. Mobile phone worms take advantage of the Bluetooth technology to propagate to other Bluetooth devices. The attack becomes more severe in fore coming Bluetooth and non-similar devices are called asymmetric Piconet. Piconet having similar devices are called symmetric Piconet.

A complete perform ance study is simulated in NS-2. The performance of the entire network gets affected. A Master communicates with a slave in a fixed cyclic order. Each node is assumed to have infinite buffers and the packets generated at the uplink queues and downlink queues is assumed to be an independent Poisson arrival processes. The arrival rate in symmetric Picocnet is same all the time and the arrival rate is not same at all the time in asymmetric Picocnet, it may be zero sometimes.

The Queuing Model forms the base for service distribution in Picocnet or WPAN. Table 1 shows the distribution parameters

| No of slaves | N |
|------------|---|
| Arrival Rate in uplink | \( \lambda_u, \lambda_d \) |
| Total number of slots (uplink / downlink) | \( 2N \) |
| Total arrival rate | \( 2N \lambda \) |
| Mean waiting time (uplink / downlink) | \( N/1 - 2N \lambda \) |
| Switchover time | Zero |

The service providers and mobile phone vendors currently do not have any mechanism to integrate in the Bluetooth stack to detect a worm infection in mobile hand sets. However the antivirus software for mobile handsets partially helps to defend against such exploits. These tools do not identify or detect exploits in the mobile OS or in Bluetooth stack, they try only to heal the infected files or directories from the handsets. So antivirus software is not a complete solution.[3][4][5][6][8][9]

**3. Analysis of QOS in WPAN**

When the devices are infected in the WPAN, the performance of the entire network gets affected. A complete performance study is simulated in NS-2. The simulation environment is set for 8 devices connected by Bluetooth technology, which otherwise called as Picocnet. Picocnet having similar devices are called symmetric Picocnet and non-similar devices are called asymmetric Picocnet.

A Master and slave send and receive packets alternatively, slave is allowed to communicate only when it is polled by the master. At most a single packet is sent in each direction (uplink / downlink). Whenever a master, slave queue pair is served. If the master has nothing to send to a specific slave, one slot called POLL has to be send during downlink communication. If the slave has nothing to send, one slot called NULL has to be sent during uplink communication.

Always the master is subject to higher traffic compared with slaves. The master uses intra scheduling algorithm to schedule the traffic in downlink. Limited or Pure Round Robin algorithm is implemented Master communicates with a slave in a fixed cyclic order. Each node is assumed to have infinite buffers and the packets generated at the uplink queues and downlink queues is assumed to be an independent Poisson arrival processes. The arrival rate in symmetric Picocnet is same all the time and the arrival rate is not same at all the time in asymmetric Picocnet, it may be zero some times.

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| Parameter | Unit | Description |
|-----------|------|-------------|
| Node | Number | Bluetooth enabled devices |
| Infected node (initial) | Number | No of worm source |
| Sq.Area | m² | Simulation area |
| Density | Node/ sq.area | No of nodes in simulated area |
| Speed | Meter/sec | Speed of the Bluetooth enabled device |
| Operating range | Meter | Communicating range between two Bluetooth enabled device |
| Contact degree | No of slave/ master | Slaves per master nodes |
| Propagation time | Second | Bluetooth worm spreading time |
| Inquiry time | Second | Time of scanning neighbor + establishing connection + time of transferring infected file |
| Infected rate | % | Infected nodes x total nodes |
| Delay time | Seconds | Received time – sending time |
| Throughput | % | Arrival rate x packet size |

Normal flow of transmission in the uplink and the downlink in the Picocnet is monitored first and then the node is infected in the Picocnet and then the uplink and downlink transmission is monitored. The impact of worm affects the QOS in any WPAN.

The QOS of any network can be measured by the standard
parameters. Table 2 shows the standard UMTS parameters defined for Mobile Wireless Network for evaluating QOS in WPAN.[2][7][10][11][12][13][14][15]

4. Graphical Results and Discussions

The graphs (Fig 2, Fig 3, Fig 4, Fig 5, Fig 6, Fig 7, Fig 8, Fig 9) given below compares initial infection, infection in symmetric Piconet, asymmetric Piconet. In all the cases the infection rate is higher for symmetric Piconets (homogeneous devices). The above results derive that WPAN having similar devices are prone to have higher degree of attack as well as degradation of QOS.

![CDF vs Link duration](image1)

**Figure 2.** CDF vs Link duration

![Contact vs % of contacts](image2)

**Figure 3.** Contact vs % of contacts
Figure 4. Throughput vs Infected devices

Figure 5. Packet loss vs simulation time

Figure 6. Time vs Drop rate
Figure 7. Time vs End to End delay

Figure 8. Devices vs Attack Rate

Figure 9. Simulation time vs Received bytes
5. Conclusions & Future Work

The devices of WPAN or Bluetooth Network are vulnerable to worm attack. It's a serious problem faced by the wireless network. Enhanced security model for worm detection and prevention is required. To meet the security risks and to improve the QoS in WPAN a new model called Pattern Dependent Model is proposed and it's discussed in future work.

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