The SIGTRAN RFCs mention different traffic-modes (broadcast, loadshare, roundrobin), which affect how messages received by the STP are distributed across multiple ASPs within one AS.

osmo-stp currently doesn't support those traffic modes yet. We require the "load-share" traffic mode to be implemented. A simple implementation using a round-robin method of distributing inbound signaling messages across all currently active ASPs within the AS is sufficient.

**Related issues:**
- Related to libosmo-sccp + libosmo-sigtran - Feature #2002: Implement xUA traffic
  - Resolved 04/10/2017
- Precedes OsmoSTP - Feature #4218: dynamic IPA ASPs
  - Closed 10/09/2019 10/09/2019

**Associated revisions**
- Revision 3eae8ec9 - 10/24/2019 11:23 AM - pespin
  - ss7: Implement AS traffic mode loadshare using round robin ASP selection
  - Related: OS#4220
  - Change-Id: l98144d7e237672d2e78cc92923e6f4cb77a271
- Revision b775d634 - 10/24/2019 11:23 AM - pespin
  - ss7: Set configured AS traffic mode when sending Routing Key Register msg
  - Otherwise default OSMO_SS7_AS_TMOD_OVERRIDE=0 value is always set regardless of the VTY config "traffic-mode" under AS node.
  - Related: OS#4220
  - Change-Id: 5d24772f07e77cc3ba6edfa819bb9bc0266a1064
- Revision 2b139a65 - 10/24/2019 11:23 AM - pespin
  - ss7: Only override traffic mode from recv REG REQ if not set by VTY
  - RFC 4666 (SS7/MTP3/M3UA) states in section 4.3.4.3 ASP Active Procedures:
    "If the traffic handling mode of the Application Server is not already known via configuration data, then the traffic handling mode indicated in the first ASP Active message causing the transition of the Application Server state to AS-ACTIVE MAY be used to set the mode."
  - Related: OS#4220
  - Change-Id: laebe3a3a8d8d84ae01e41b02674f8ece9dfc95
- Revision d70d82bd - 10/24/2019 03:56 PM - pespin
  - ss7: Set Traffic mode and Route Ctx in ASPAC ACK msg if known
  - Change-Id: lc99131489efaef87f82312a042f5eb6a60bb86
  - Related: OS#4220
Revision 1e45b4d9 - 10/30/2019 10:55 AM - laforge
osmo-stp-test: Ensure we build the laforge/stp branch
Change-Id: I2cf300eb37b327450da0f8b20ee209a6109bf8fe
Related: OS#4220

Revision c71fb719 - 11/06/2019 03:53 PM - pespin
xua: Reset AS traffic mode set by peer during shutdown

This way the AS can be configured to use different traffic modes over
time as long as they don't overlap in time. That is in this case where
no specific traffic mode is specified in AS local configuration (VTY).

Some RFC4666 state similar behavior of deleting data set by ASPs during AS
shutdown. For instance:

"Other ASPs may continue to be associated with the Application Server,
in which case the Routing Key data SHOULD NOT be deleted. If a
Deregistration results in no more ASPs in an Application Server, an
SG MAY delete the Routing Key data."

This allows for tests to easily re-use same AS to test different traffic
modes as long as they wait for the recovery timeout (2 secs by default,
configurable via VTY).

Related: OS#4220
Change-Id: I370aa3b5ddfc456c1be5b25sf470d5aa8d289

History

#1 - 10/09/2019 03:54 PM - pespin

Following osmo-stp user manual section needs to be updated when this is implemented:

4.5.1.2 Application Server (AS) An Application Server is basically a logical entity representing one particu-
lar external application (from the SS7 point of view) which is interfaced with the SS7 network by means of one
of the SIGTRAN protocols. An Application Server can have one or more Application Server Processes associated wi-
th it. This functionality (currently not implemented in Osmocom) can be used for load-balancing or fail-over s-
cenarios.

#2 - 10/16/2019 10:31 AM - pespin

Seems the expected place for this to happen is in libosmo-sccp.git xua_as_transmit_msg().

#3 - 10/16/2019 11:12 AM - pespin

- Status changed from New to In Progress


4.3.4.3. ASP Active Procedures

There are three modes of Application Server traffic handling in the
SGP M3UA layer: Override, Loadshare and Broadcast. When included,
the Traffic Mode Type parameter in the ASP Active message indicates
the traffic handling mode to be used in a particular Application
Server. If the SGP determines that the mode indicated in an ASP
Active message is unsupported or incompatible with the mode currently
configured for the AS, the SGP responds with an Error message
("Unsupported / Invalid Traffic Handling Mode"). If the traffic
handling mode of the Application Server is not already known via
configuration data, then the traffic handling mode indicated in the
first ASP Active message causing the transition of the Application
Server state to AS-ACTIVE MAY be used to set the mode.

3.6.1. Registration Request (REG REQ):

Traffic Mode Type: 32-bit (unsigned integer)

The optional Traffic Mode Type parameter identifies the traffic mode
of operation of the ASP(s) within an Application Server. The format
of the Traffic Mode Type Identifier is as follows:

```
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
| Tag = 0x000b | Length = 8 |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
| Traffic Mode Type |
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
```

The valid values for Traffic Mode Type are shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Override</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Loadshare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Broadcast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.7.1. ASP Active:

Traffic Mode Type: 32-bit (unsigned integer)

The Traffic Mode Type parameter identifies the traffic mode of operation of the ASP within an AS. The valid values for Traffic Mode Type are shown in the following table:

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Override</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Loadshare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Broadcast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within a particular Routing Context, Override, Loadshare, and Broadcast SHOULD NOT be mixed. The Override value indicates that the ASP is operating in Override mode, in which the ASP takes over all traffic in an Application Server (i.e., primary/backup operation), overriding any currently active ASPs in the AS. In Loadshare mode, the ASP will share in the traffic distribution.

Similar information can be found in RFC for SUA:


Found also some references in code:

```c
enum m3ua_traffic_mode {
    M3UA_TMOD_OVERRIDE = 1,
    M3UA_TMOD_LOADSHARE = 2,
    M3UA_TMOD_BCAST = 3,
};

enum osmo_ss7_as_traffic_mode {
    OSMO_SS7_AS_TMOD_OVERRIDE = 0, /* default */
    OSMO_SS7_AS_TMOD_LOADSHARE,
    OSMO_SS7_AS_TMOD_BCAST,
    OSMO_SS7_AS_TMOD_ROUNDROBIN,
    _NUM_OSMO_SS7_TMOD
};
```

And function osmo_ss7_tmode_to_xua() and osmo_ss7_tmode_from_xua() provides a way to translate between them.

Traffic mode is already parsed into "as->cfg.mode" in "as_traf_mode_cmd". It is set by default to OSMO_SS7_AS_TMOD_LOADSHARE in osmo_ss7_as_find_or_create().

So far it seems out client code is submitting traffic mode = override in REG REQ messages, which probably changes the mode. That traffic mode is parsed and stored into as->cfg.mode in handle_rkey_reg().

#4 - 10/16/2019 03:02 PM - pespin

Related patches:
remote: https://gerrit.osmocom.org/c/libosmo-sccp/+/15800 ss7: Fix trailing whitespace
remote: https://gerrit.osmocom.org/c/libosmo-sccp/+/15801 vty: Print traffic mode during show cs7 instance as
remote: https://gerrit.osmocom.org/c/libosmo-sccp/+/15802 ss7: Implement AS traffic mode loadshare using round robin ASP selection

I'm now working on the config/VTY part in order to test it properly (I did some previous tests with loadshare and the sending part looks fine i think). I have a commit fixing several related things in libosmo-sccp, but still some stuff seems to be lacking:
STP uses the "listen" node and I'm not sure if it can use the "as" node where the traffic-mode can be configured. I need to check if "as" can be used or I need to add the traffic-mode command to the "listen" node, so a preferred method can be forced.

In general, the traffic mode is requested by ASPs towards the STP. Currently, if I set "traffic-mode loadshare" in "as" node of osmo-bsc.cfg, it still seems to be sending "override" during REG REQ (and nothing during AS ACT?). Once this is fixed if ASPs require "loadshare" then STP should be able to provide it.

#5 - 10/16/2019 03:04 PM - roch
Hi Pau,

Will that apply to IPA nodes?

Best regards
Roch.
Roch-Alexandre Nominé | Principal Telecommunications Architect

#6 - 10/16/2019 07:44 PM - laforge
Hi Pau,

On Wed, Oct 16, 2019 at 11:12:59AM +0000, pespin [REDMINE] wrote:

Traffic mode is already parsed into "as->cfg.mode" in "as_traf_mode_cmd". It is set by default to OSMO_SS7_AS_TMOD_LOADSHARE in osmo_ss7_as_find_or_create().
So far it seems out client code is submitting traffic mode = override in REG REQ messages, which probably changes the mode. That traffic mode is parsed and stored into as->cfg.mode in handle_rkey_reg().

Correct. It's just that nothing ever happens with that information, so we're in compliant to the spec in that you can configure different traffic-modes, rather than rejecting what is not supported.

Feel free to focus on the actual implementation of the load-sharing. I will try to find time today or tomorrow to work on a test case.

The normal case in the world out there is without RKM, i.e. the traffic mode is configured by the VTY / config file. RKM is specified by IETF but I haven't seen it in use anywhere outside of Osmocom. In either way, both methods provide a means to set the desired traffic-mode, the implementation of the related behavior is identical irrespective of the method of configuration.

#7 - 10/17/2019 11:47 AM - pespin
- % Done changed from 0 to 20

Hi Roch,

I didn't start with the IPA-side implementation yet, it's in the TODO list.
So far I have been implementing the round robin loadshare part in M3UA and making sure I can configure through VTY and use it with RKM in an osmocom setup with BSC<->STP<->MSC, which was the quickest way to have something to start with.
I'll now focus on statically-configured AS/ASP in osmo-stp for both M3UA and IPA.

Using RKM traffic mode configured in VTY fixed here:
https://gerrit.osmocom.org/c/libosmo-sccp/+/15803 ss7: Set configured AS traffic mode when sending Routing Key Register msg

Kind regards,
Pau

#8 - 10/18/2019 08:00 PM - laforge

Hi Pau,

I just force-pushed an update to STP_Tests.ttcn in the laforge/stp branch of osmo-ttcn3-hacks.git. It contains a test like TC_tmt_loadshare which should test functionality with traffic-mode load-share. I haven't tested the test yet, but I'll see if I can test it with a proprietary STP (Cisco ITP).

#9 - 10/18/2019 09:12 PM - laforge
- Precedes Feature #4218: dynamic IPA ASPs added

#10 - 10/29/2019 08:21 AM - laforge
- File loadshare.pcap added
I just re-tested with current laforge/stp. I tested two configurations:

- with traffic-mode loadshare set in the vty
- without any traffic-mode set in the VTY

The outcome is the same: The first of the two ASPs always gets all the traffic, despite "show" in the VTY showing two ASP_ACTIVE ASPs within an AS that has loadshare:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AS Name</th>
<th>Routing Context</th>
<th>Routing Key</th>
<th>Cic</th>
<th>Opc</th>
<th>Traffic Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>as-sender</td>
<td>1023</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>override</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as-receiver</td>
<td>1042</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>loadshare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

pcap file attached

#11 - 11/05/2019 04:40 PM - laforge
- Checklist item [x] load-share in m3ua added
- Checklist item [x] tests for m3ua added
- Checklist item [ ] load-share in ipa added
- Checklist item [ ] tests for ipa added
- % Done changed from 20 to 50

#12 - 11/05/2019 04:48 PM - laforge
- Priority changed from Normal to Urgent

#13 - 11/07/2019 04:18 PM - pespin
- Checklist item [x] load-share in ipa set to Done
- Checklist item [x] tests for ipa set to Done
- % Done changed from 50 to 90

current osmo-stp master has been tested with TTCN3 STP_Tests_IPA.ttcn from osmo-ttcn3-hacks.git branch laforge/stp and seems to support loadsharing fine on IPA ASs.

Only missing thing is to fix the TTCN3 hack required to have tests working in order to be able to merge the TTCN3 tests branch into master: https://gerrit.osmocom.org/c/osmo-ttcn3-hacks/+/15821

#14 - 11/07/2019 06:57 PM - pespin
- Status changed from In Progress to Feedback

libosmo-sccp.git fix to have TTCN3 tests working without the HACK patch available here:

Once all commit are merged and related TTCN3 tests are green (should be after everything’s merged) we can probably close this ticket.

#15 - 11/13/2019 04:48 PM - laforge
- Status changed from Feedback to Closed
- % Done changed from 90 to 100

all commits merged. tests passing. closed.

#16 - 08/27/2020 07:51 AM - laforge
- Related to Feature #2002: Implement xUA traffic modes for load-balance and broadcast added

Files
loadshare.pcap 7.99 KB 10/29/2019 laforge

03/08/2022 5/5