# Network Address Translation (NAT)



## Why should we know this?

- Because you are using it
  - $\frac{\text{http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_jxoczN}}{\text{Wc}} (40:00 \rightarrow)$



# It all started with IPv4 address depletion fears

Two-pronged attack
 – IPv6 (long-term solution)

- NAT (short-term solution)
  - But became permanent
  - "NAT is IPv4ever"

#### NAT

- What's good about it
   Obviates the need for long-term solution
  - If address shortage is the issue
- What's bad about it
  - Can't translate IP addresses and port numbers in the payload of application protocols unless taught so
    - Internet telophony, FTP, ICMP (error), etc.
  - Breaks the end-to-end principle: "middlebox" problem

#### Traditional NAT

• Basic NAT

– m:n address mapping (m>>n)

- NAPT
  - Can share the same global address
  - Distinction is made by port numbers

#### Servers behind NAT

- Clients are okay behind NAT
- Servers need globally known address
  - NAT address can be used
  - Port mapping/forwarding
    - Based on the destination port number, NAT forwards the requests from global Internet to an internal server
    - E.g. TCP port 80  $\rightarrow$  Web server behind NAT

#### NAT traversal

- Pinholes
  - Mapping made at NAT is called "pinhole"
    - Lives during application execution, which created the pinhole
- Hole punching
  - Method that allows two or more systems behind NAT to communicate directly using pinholes
    - E.g. Skype peer-to-peer app

## STUN

- Session Traversal Utilities for NAT
- Two objectives
  - Ascertain the "external" IP and port used on a NAT for an application behind it
  - Keep the NAT binding alive
- STUN servers on the global Internet are necessary

#### STUN

• STUN server echoes back STUN requests

- Uses port 3478 with TCP/UDP
- STUN message format: Fig. 7-8

## STUN

Mapped address is the external address being used

- "reflexive transport address"

 XOR-MAPPED-ADDRESS exclusive-OR's the mapped address w/ magic cookie
 – To avoid ALG's unwanted intervention

## TURN

- STUN is asking, and getting an answer from, the STUN server
  - STUN server does not do anything more than that
- Traversal Using Relays around NAT extends STUN
- TURN provides a way for two systems behind uncooperative NATs to communicate

## TURN

- TURN client uses the "relayed transport address" at the TURN server
  - The client uses the address to communicate with its peer
- Fig. 7-11
- Allocation is made at the TURN server

   Requires authentication, as TURN service involves costly traffic relaying operation

# ICE

- Interactive Connectivity Establishment

   A generic facility
- Developed to help UDP-based applications behind a NAT establish connectivity

Uses STUN and TURN

# ICE

- Prefers more direction communication
- Priority

– Host transport > server-reflexive > relayed