Client Operation for RELOAD

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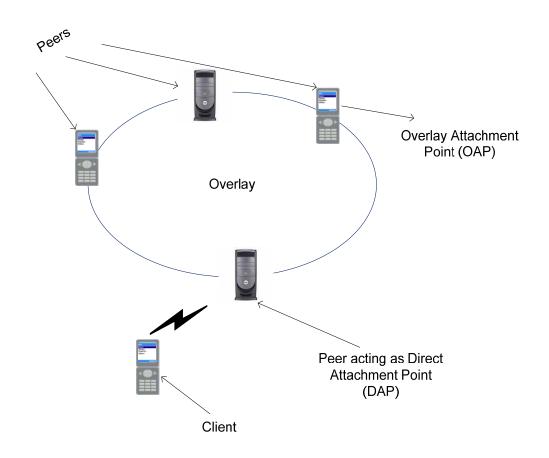
Background

- RELOAD supports the notion of clients that may participate in p2p overlays without taking part in routing or storage aspects of the overlay
 - A client may provide and receive services to/from the overlay
- The current design allows the client to attach to the overlay through the peer that owns the identity of the client in the identity space of the overlay
 - Even this basic operation requires more clarity in the base draft
- However, the client may not always be able to connect to the peer that owns its identity
 - NATs may prevent such connectivity
- Further, a proximity based connection may be more advantageous to a client
- RELOAD talks about attaching to an arbitrary peer, but requires the client to handle reachability using a destination list

Using Destination List

- A destination list may be used for any unsolicited requests to be routed to the client
 - Note that all responses can be routed properly using symmetric routing
- Applications that need to include reachability information now should specify a destination list as part of the service contact information
- Potential issues
 - A node id or a destination list needs to be provided depending on the current state of attachment
 - Any time the client changes point of attachment or status (say, becomes a peer), the service information must be updated to indicate change of contact information
 - Depending on the volume of data stored in the overlay by the client, this can be bad
 - In general, an overlay level change affecting service level information is undesirable

Client, DAP and OAP



eClient Operation

- It is desirable to allow the client to use a node that is topologically close to it to reach the overlay (we call this node a Direct Attachment Point or DAP)
 - E.g., a phone may use a laptop connected over Bluetooth as its DAP
 - This also allows a client to use the same node as DAP for multiple overlays it is attached to, where possible
- The node that owns the identity of the client in the overlay is termed the OAP
- Packets sent from the client can be directly routed on the overlay from the DAP without any extra hops
- Requests sent to the client will end up at the OAP by default
 - Indirection based approach allows OAP to route to the client's DAP

Join Process

- Client discovers the DAP via out-of-band means
- Client sends a Join Request message to the DAP
- DAP routes the join to the OAP (regular join routing)
- OAP notices DAP ID and creates state corresponding to the client's ID with the DAP as the next hop
- OAP sends Join Response back to the client through the DAP
- OAP sets up a direct connection to the DAP
 - Routing via the overlay is an option if a direct connection is not possible
- Optionally, authorization may be needed to use a node as a DAP

Message Routing

- Client is always reachable natively on the overlay
- All messages meant for the client will reach the OAP
- OAP will find DAP as the next hop in its DAP table
- OAP should send the message to the DAP
- DAP delivers message to client
- OAP does not incur an additional cost due to the connection with DAP
 - It is in lieu of the direct connection with the client itself

Failures, Handoffs

- When the client attaches to a different DAP or OAP itself or becomes a peer on the overlay:
 - The client must re-join the overlay
 - No impact to any service level data stored on the overlay
- DAP or OAP leaves/failures need to be handled
 - Procedures defined in the draft some scenarios result in client having to re-join; some other scenarios are more seamless