

Note: The referenced websites and publications do not have to be read from begin to the end. You are only required to read enough to answer the questions and to get a general understanding of the topics.

1. Self-Clocking

- (a) Explain the self-clocking property of TCP.
- (b) How can the self-clocking be disturbed?

2. Selective Acknowledgements

Read RFC 2018 that specifies the *Selective Acknowledgement* (SACK) option for TCP.

- (a) What problem is addressed by SACKs and how are they used in a TCP connection?
- (b) Give an example for a TCP connection using the SACK option where some segments are lost and explain which values are contained in the SACK options in the TCP headers.

3. Forward Acknowledgements

Have a look at the publication *Forward acknowledgement: refining TCP congestion control*.

- (a) Discuss the *Forward Acknowledgment* (FACK) congestion control algorithm.
- (b) What problem is addressed by FACK and how is it used in a TCP connection?

4. Proactive Congestion Control

TCP congestion control algorithms as implemented in TCP Vegas or TCP-LP are considered to be proactive in contrast to the common reactive algorithms.

- (a) Discuss the difference of the approaches.
- (b) What does the term *TCP fairness* mean?

5. Explicit Congestion Control

RFC 3168 defines an *Explicit Congestion Control* (ECN) approach for IP and transport layer protocols.

- (a) Explain how ECN works.
- (b) Why is the principle of a layered network architecture violated?

6. Alternative Transport Layer Protocols

Although TCP and UDP are the dominating transport layer protocols, there are alternatives.

- (a) Give examples and name the basic features that differentiate these alternative protocols from TCP and UDP.
- (b) Discuss which problems they try to solve.

7. RIOT: Completing a simplistic network stack

Extend your implementation of the previous RIOT task (ID Addressing, Neighbor Discovery).

- (a) Implement a simple Distance Vector Protocol to allow for routing over multiple hops.
- (b) Indicate the successful transmission of ID packets by acknowledgements.
- (c) Add a simple flow control mechanism to your implementation.
- (d) Take a look at the DES-Virt tool (<https://github.com/des-testbed/desvirt>). Follow the instructions to set up a virtual test environment with 5 nodes connected in a *ring* topology:

```
$ ./topology_creator -s 5 -t ring -n riot_native -e <binary>
```

- (e) Test your implementation by sending chat messages between the nodes.

Note: If you have problems, e.g. setting up the test environment, feel free to ask for help on Piazza.