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Adaptive Middleware For Challenged Networks

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Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE 01 DEC 2007		2. REPORT TYPE N/A		3. DATES COVERED	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Adaptive Middleware for Challenged Networks				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Fraunhofer FOKUS Germany				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release, distribution unlimited.					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UU	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 15	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

Agenda

- Issues of classical network layering
- Needed: secure component middleware
- Secure Distributed Middleware Project
 - ◆ Enhanced CORBA Component Model (CCM)
 - ◆ OpenPMF Policy Management Framework implementation
 - ◆ Qedo CCM implementation
- Conclusion

Classical Layering Issues

In real-world systems, layered protocol stacks have many issues:

- Functionality mixed up in different layers
- Loss of functionality
- Too tight coupling for replaceability
- Too loose coupling for adaptivity
- Security issues
- This leads to messy protocol stacks and obscure protocols (WAP, TCP/IP over ATM)

What do we *really* need?

- Consider networking from an application point of view
- Programmers mainly need some standard high level communications patterns:
 - ◆ Synchronous invocations (Request/Replay)
 - ◆ Asynchronous events
 - ◆ Streams
- QoS requirements need to be defined and fulfilled
- Low level “plumbing” is of little interest to application programmer

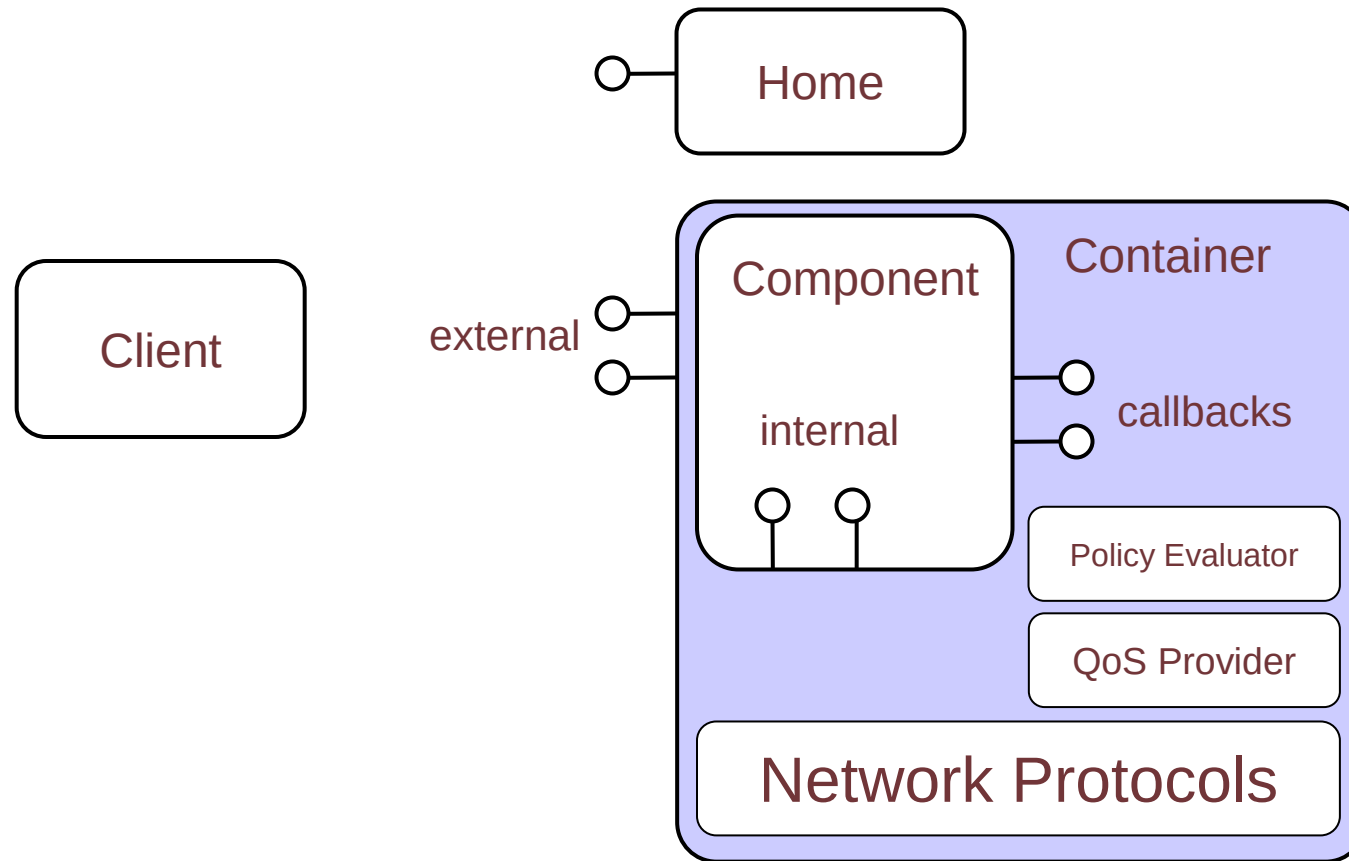
Component Middleware

- Component-based middleware offers a solution based on two layers:
 - ◆ *Component* implements business functionality
 - ◆ *Container* provides adaptive infrastructure transparent to component
 - Communications
 - Services
- Issue: COTS middleware does not meet all requirements of complex (military) systems
- Goal: Development of a secure, flexible and adaptive middleware based on the CORBA Components Model (CCM)

Secure Distributed Middleware Project

- Based on CORBA Components Model (CCM)
 - ◆ Improves object-oriented programming model
 - ◆ Development of independent modules: Components
 - ◆ Application development by assembling components
 - ◆ Supports asynchronous and synchronous communications
- Adapting CCM to the requirements of complex C4I applications
- Main extensions
 - ◆ Flexible container to implement services
 - ◆ Support for Quality of Service
 - ◆ Streams
 - ◆ Policy management framework esp. for security
- Future: Additional low level protocols

CCM Containermodell



Container Provides Network Abstraction

- Container handles all communications and abstracts from low level protocols:
 - ◆ Protocols transparently replaceable
- Container provides high level API to components for:
 - ◆ Addressing
 - ◆ Connections
 - ◆ Synchronous invocations (request, reply)
 - ◆ Asynchronous communications (events)
 - ◆ Streams

Container Provides Adaptivity

- Container manages and implements all non-functional aspects (QoS, security)
- Adaptivity by
 - ◆ Policies (QoS, security)
 - ◆ Scripts (automatic reconfiguration)
 - ◆ Environment-specific containers possible
- Enforcement/implementation using “Flexible Container”
 - ◆ Context interfaces
 - ◆ Interception points
 - ◆ Future: Pluggable protocols
 - Integration of SPREAD (multicast protocol) ongoing
 - Changing communication protocols online

OpenPMF Policy Management Framework

- Generic framework for policy specification, storage, enforcement:
 - ◆ Policy model defined using MOF
 - ◆ Policy Repository
 - ◆ Policy Definition Language (mechanism and platform independent)
 - ◆ Mappings to specific platforms
- Clear separation of functional and non functional aspects
- Currently used for CCM and CORBA security
 - ◆ Supports different security models (DAC, RBAC, MAC), information filtering and delegation
- Future: Support for other policy types, e.g. QoS, and automatic reconfiguration

Container as Runtime Environment

Container as flexible runtime environment also provides:

- Life cycle management
- Connection topology
- Well-defined interfaces for component implementation
- Flexible services (naming, events, transaction, persistence...)
- Standardized and uniform service configuration

Qedo CCM Implementation

- Based on MICO CORBA ORB with enhanced security support
 - ◆ CSlv2 protocol & SL3 API
 - ◆ ATLAS authorisation token server
- Enhanced CCM implementation in C++
- Extensions:
 - ◆ Component level interceptors
 - ◆ Streams support
- OpenPMF integration
- Currently used for prototypes of C4I applications

Qedo CCM Tool Chain

Qedo contains an extended CCM tool chain:

- Based on Meta Object Facilities (MOF)
- Model Driven Architecture (MDA) integration
- IDL/CIDL generators
- Assembly and packaging
- Testing (component based and application based)
- Deployment (even in large and heterogeneous environments)
- Administration and monitoring

Conclusion

- CCM abstracts from network infrastructure
- Two layer architecture
 - ◆ Container provides infrastructure and adaptivity
 - ◆ Component implements business logic
- Enhanced CCM provides an advanced framework for developing and operating of complex distributed applications on top of a wide range of (wireless) protocols
- OpenPMF as sophisticated security architecture
- Most promising middleware for C4I applications

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