IEEE 802.15.4 based Investigation and Simulation Evaluation of ZigBee Tree and Mesh Topology using Different QoS

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ABSTRACT- The IEEE 802.15.4 and ZigBee protocol stack offers a practical application solution for low cost, low data rate, and low energy consumption characteristics for Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN). The ZigBee networks facilitate many applications, such as Commercial Building and Home Automation, Security, Healthcare Medical Monitoring, Vehicle Monitoring, Agriculture and Environmental Monitoring and so on. Energy consumption, latency and reliability are critical performance measurements in most monitoring systems. This project focuses on simulation an IEEE 802.15.4 and ZigBee protocol using the OPNET simulator.

KEYWORDS- IEEE 8015.4, OPNET, ZigBee, Tree Topology, Mesh Topology
I. INTRODUCTION

Philips, Motorola, Honeywell, Invensys and Mitsubishi Electric started promoting ZigBee when they formed the ZigBee Alliance in October 2002. This was once they had secured the physical layer (PHY) and media access control (MAC) under the IEEE 802.15.4 WPAN (Wireless Personal Area Network) standard [10]. The technology has been living under various guises at Philips for four years. It started life as HomeRF Lite (a sub-spec of the defunct HomeRF, which has now been ousted by Wi-Fi). Since then, it’s had name changes to RF Lite, Firefly, RF EasyLink and finally, it became ZigBee [10]. The name comes from the zig-zag dancing of bees to tell the other bees in the colony of the location of a new food source. ZigBee is a worldwide open standard for wireless radio networks in the monitoring and control fields. The standard was developed by the ZigBee Alliance to meet the following principal needs [9]:

- Low cost
- Ultra-low power consumption
- Low data rate (less than 250 Kbps)
- Use of unlicensed radio bands
- Cheap and easy installation
- Flexible and easy installation
- Integrated intelligence for network set-up and message routing

II. Architecture

ZigBee has three layers. The top layer is called the application layer (APL). This layer gives the device its functionality. Basically, this layer converts the input into digital data, and/or converts

Figure 1: A typical example of ZigBee in Home Automation [9]

The ZigBee standard can operate in the 2.4GHz band or the 868MHz and 915MHz ISM (industrial, scientific, and medical) bands used in Europe and the US respectively [10].
Digital data into output. A single device may run multiple applications to perform different tasks (i.e. reading temperature and humidity). The application layer is on top of another layer called the network layer (NWK). The network layer provides ZigBee functionality and acts as a buffer between application layer and data link layer (DLL). The network layer is responsible for network structure, routing, and security such as encryption, key management, and authentication. The data link layer is provided by IEEE 802.15.4 standard. This layer consists of two sub-layers – medium access control layer (MAC) and the physical layer (PHY).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application layer (APL)</th>
<th>Network layer (NWK)</th>
<th>Medium access control layer (MAC)</th>
<th>Physical layer (PHY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Table 1: ZigBee protocol layers**

2.1. Device types

There are three different types of ZigBee devices:

- **ZigBee coordinator (ZC):**
  The most capable device, the coordinator forms the root of the network tree and might bridge to other networks. There is exactly one ZigBee coordinator in each network since it is the device that started the network originally. It is able to store information about the network, including acting as the Trust Centre & repository for security keys.

- **ZigBee Router (ZR):**
  As well as running an application function a router can act as an intermediate router, passing data from other devices.

- **ZigBee End Device (ZED):**
  Contains just enough functionality to talk to the parent node (either the coordinator or a router); it cannot relay data from other devices. This relationship allows the node to be asleep a significant amount of the time thereby giving long battery life. A ZED requires the least amount of memory, and therefore can be less expensive to manufacture than a ZR or ZC [7].

2.2. Addressing

IEEE 802.15.4 uses two methods of addressing:
- 16-bit short addressing
- 64-bit extended addressing
A network can choose to use either 16-bit or 64-bit addressing. Using the short addressing mechanism reduces the packet length and thereafter the space to store the addresses. This
mechanism allows addressing within a single network; however, the combination of a unique PAN ID (personal area network identifier) and 16-bit addressing can be used to address independent networks. Alternatively, 64-bit addressing in IEEE 802.15.4 has not limitation on the number of devices in a single network.

The network layer (NWK) of ZigBee protocol uses a 16-bit address in addition to the IEEE address. The network layer data transactions require an NWK address. A lookup table is used to map each IEEE 802.15.4 64-bit address to a unique network layer address [11].

III. Simulation Scenarios

There are two scenarios studied in this project. First, the three possible topologies (Star, Tree, and Mesh) are compared with each other. There is just one ZigBee coordinator in each topology, therefore it just forms a single personal area network (PAN). The comparison includes the statistics: end-to-end delay, number of hops, ZC throughput, and global throughput. Second, the Tree topology with a single ZC is chosen and compared with a similar network that has an additional ZC. The network with two ZCs forms two PANs. The comparison includes the statistics: end-to-end delay and ZC throughput. End-to-end delay and global throughput use OPNET global statistic values. The method of gathering the global statistics in OPNET is described as: Global statistics provide information that relates to the overall system. Many separate objects may contribute to one global statistic during a simulation. For example, every node in a network model may use the same global statistic to record the end-to-end delay experienced by the packets it receives. The result is one statistic for the network's end-to-end delay performance. Global statistics are declared by process models and are supported by the global statistic probe object. Of course, no objects are referenced in a global statistic probe; only the name of the statistic is specified.

IV. Tree, and Mesh topologies

In this scenario, Tree, and Mesh topologies in a ZigBee network are studied. The type and the number of ZigBee nodes in all three topologies are the same. There is just one ZigBee coordinator (ZC) in each setup. There are six ZigBee routers (ZR) and six ZigBee end devices (ZED). Except one mobile ZR and one mobile ZED, the rest of the devices are stationary. These are the parameters used in the simulation:

The ZigBee parameters for the two topologies are slightly different. Table 4 compares the parameters.

V. PARAMETER SETUP

The network designed consists of basic network entities with the simulation parameters summarized in table 1, 2 and 3.
Table 1: Simulation Parameters of ZigBee n/w

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>Random</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulation speed (m/sec)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulation area (sq. meter)</td>
<td>10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN ID</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmit Power (W)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulation time (sec)</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory used (Mbps)</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coordinators Parameters:

- **ACK Mechanism**: (...)  
- **Status**: Disabled  
- **ACK Wait Duration (seconds)**: 0.05  
- **Number of Retransmissions**: 5  
- **CSMA-CA Parameters**: (...)  
  - **Minimum Backoff Exponent**: 3  
  - **Maximum Number of Backoffs**: 4  
- **Channel Sensing Duration**: 0.1  
- **Physical Layer Parameters**:  
  - **Data Rate**: Auto Calculate  
  - **Packet Reception-Power Threshold**: -85  
- **Transmission Bands**: (...)  
  - **2450 MHz Band**: Enabled  
  - **815 MHz Band**: Disabled  
  - **868 MHz Band**: Disabled  
- **Transmit Power**: 0.05  
- **Network Parameters**: (...)  
  - **Beacon Order**: 6  
  - **Superframe Order**: 0  
  - **Maximum Children**: 7  
  - **Maximum Routers**: 5  
  - **Maximum Depth**: 5  
  - **Beacon Enabled Network**: Disabled  
  - **Mesh Routing**: Enabled  
  - **Route Discovery Timeout**: 10  
- **PAN ID**: 2

- **Application Traffic**:  
  - **Destination**: Random  
  - **Packet Interarrival Time**: constant (1.0)  
  - **Packet Size**: constant (1024)  
  - **Start Time**: uniform (20, 21)  
  - **Stop Time**: Infinity
Router parameters:

Fig 2 Scenario 1 Network model of mesh routing
VI. SIMULATION RESULTS

While comparing the performance of ZigBee in Two scenarios, we focus on six performance measures Load, Delay, Media Access Delay, Throughput, Total traffic sent and received.
From figures 4 and 5 we can see that WLAN end to end delay and MAC delay are higher for Mesh an minimum for Tree topology and end to end delay higher for tree and low for mesh topology in IEEE standard 802.15.4

Fig 5 delay

Fig 6 WLAN throughput
From figure 6 and 7 it is clear that Wireless LAN throughput and total traffic received is maximum with Tree Topology network and IEEE standard 802.15.4 and minimum with small network and IEEE standard 802.15.4.
Fig 9 WLAN network load

As from figure 8 and 9 total traffic sent and network load increases with the increase in Tree Topology.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we briefly describe an OPNET simulation model of the IEEE 802.15.4 ZIGBEE mechanism that we have added into a previously existing model of the protocol. This extended OPNET simulation model is made variable publicly in open source. We particularly focus on the performance evaluation of the Tree and Star Topology mechanism, comparing the obtained simulation results with the ones that were previously obtained using analytical model based on Network Calculus. The behaviors of both models are roughly identical in terms of the ZigBee Tree and Star Topology data throughput and the delay. The simulation results shows Tree and Star Topology has better performance in the term of delay, total traffic sent and received, routing traffic sent and received in packet and bit form, Throughput, MAC Delay, load. The same result also holds good for other networking applications. On the basis of this simulation we can deploy the network in all over the world with efficiently and provide the platform for location based security because security is the primary concern for any ad-hoc network.
REFERENCES