Embedded systems' transport protocol choosing for modelling over the SpaceWire model

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Task

To implement simultaneous operation of multiple applications over SpaceWire Network with streaming data transfer (sensors, ADCs, video streams and etc)

Common features:

- continuous generation of data streams
- data chunks has the fixed length
- periodicity of data generation
- corrupted and lost data aren't retransmitted (in most cases it's impossible)
- receiver can't stop generation of data by the source instantaneously
- support of multiple coherent data streams

Review of existing protocols 1/5

Remote Memory Access Protocol is to support reading from and writing to memory in a remote SpaceWire node Using: system administration, gathering of information, setting/checking device parameters, casual data transmissions

Packet Transfer Protocol is designed to packet transfer over SpaceWire Network

- packets have a variable or fixed length
- unidirectional data transfer without acknowledgments
- in case data were lost doesn't repeat them
- no periodicity of data sending
- no data verification

Review of existing protocols 2/5

Real-Time Transport Protocol is aimed for end-to-end, realtime, transfer of stream data (interactive audio and video) over IP networks

- end-to-end delivery of real-time data
- doesn't provide any mechanism to ensure timely delivery
- no data flow control
- support multiple data transfer at the cost of multicast
- no handshake for connection setup and teardown

Real-Time Streaming Protocol is a client-server application protocol to enable controlled delivery of streamed multimedia data over IP networks and to control audio-video streams

- requests have text format, like HTTP PLAY rtsp://server/test.mpg RTSP/1.0
- server and client can issue requests
- server has to maintain methods SETUP, TEARDOWN.
- doesn't provide data transfer (it's a server's functionality)

Review of existing protocols 3/5

Stream Control Transmission Protocol is a reliable universal transport protocol for use on IP networks

- stable delivery of data (acknowledgments, retransmission, flow control)
- multi-homing (some network interfaces)
- multi-streaming
- reliable connection (4-way handshake)
- configurable unordered delivery

Structured Stream Transport Protocol is a new transport protocol designed to combine asynchronous multiple data transfer (downloading web pages and playing audio-video streams at once)

- no 3-way handshake on startup or TIME-WAIT on close
- multiplexes many application streams onto one network connection
- supports messages/datagrames of any size
- dynamic prioritization of streams
- optional cryptographic security (comparable to SSL)

Review of existing protocols 4/5

Resource Reservation Protocol is a transport protocol, provides a special end-to-end quality of service (QoS) for data flows: RSVP reserves necessary resources along the transmission paths so that the requested bandwidth can be available when the transmission actually takes place

- multi-streaming
- unidirectional reservation of resources
- support special QoS to multicast and unicast
- data flow control

Datagram Congestion Protocol – a transport protocol, provides bidirectional unicast connections to transfer large amounts of data (streamed media)

- flow of datagrams, with acknowledgments, no retransmission
- congestion control
- reliable handshake for connection setup and teardown
- reliable negotiation of connection parameters

Review of existing protocols 5/5

Streaming Transport Protocol – a new transport protocol to process streaming data over SpaceWire networks. STP is in progress.

- reliable handshake for connection setup and teardown (3way handshake)
- multiple coherent data streams
- fixed length of transmitted data
- periodical continuous data transfer
- data delivery without acknowledgements, no retransmission
- flow control
- STP is efficient for continuous transmission of large amounts of data

Comparison of protocols

Protoco I	Periodicity of data generation	Multi- streaming coherent data	Flow control	Handshake for connection setup	Small overheads with data delivery
RMAP	-	—	-	—	-
PTP	-	—	_	—	+
RTP	_	+	_	_	-
RTSP	+	+	+	+	-
SCTP	_	+	+	+	-
SSTP	-	+	+	_	-
RSVP	_	+	+	+	-
DCCP	_	+	+	—	-
STP	+	+	+	+	+

Results

- Review of existing streaming transport protocols
- STP is chosen, because it covers most of all requirements of SpaceWire applications
- STP model (according to the specification) The model is used for testing ability of STP work with SpaceWire protocol stack
- 2 critical cases were found (not described in specification)
- The found bugs were shared with STP workgroup

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