"Characteristics of HTTP/TCP Traffic"

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Abstract

The characteristic of interactive HTTP traffic is a well investigated topic nowadays. Also, the influence of the internet transport protocol TCP is widely known. Nevertheless, it is mostly discussed for non-interactive application data. This paper investigates the combination of both: interactive HTTP traffic over TCP with its Slow Start mechanism. We show that the resulting offered load seen by the network depends very much on the page style (e.g. number of embedded objects and its size) and the actual HTTP version. Depending on the network load we derive page download durations and extract the application layer throughput taking the interactive nature of HTTP into account.