This paper presents a new tool for automatically analyzing TCP traces to identify packet losses and classify them according to their causes. The proposed techniques build heavily on prior work but are significantly more accurate than previously published techniques. The tool works for a variety of TCP stacks including Linux, FreeBSD, and Windows. The authors validate their tool using lab experiments and apply it to many internet traces.

The strength of this paper arises from the huge effort taken to provide an accurate and widely-applicable tool for analyzing TCP losses. The authors have thought and addressed many special cases and subtleties that impact the overall performance of such tool. On the other hand, many of the techniques in the paper are tweaks on prior techniques. Despite the existence of a few TCP analysis tools, the community will benefit from an accurate and robust tool for TCP loss detection and classification.

Public review written by

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