Abstract
The concept of “Small-World” paradigm has been used by many peer-to-peer (P2P) systems to achieve high clustering and low number of hops to arrive to its desired target. This approach intends to improve performance of P2P systems. The Small world concept requires that the architecture of a P2P system to achieve high cluster coefficient and low average hop between any two randomly chosen peers. In this research, we propose an enhanced hierarchical overlay network by incorporating the concept of Small world into the base hierarchical architecture. This research adopts the Query Routing Protocol (QRP) data structure of a hierarchical P2P network by storing the interest information of files in the leaf peers in the network. The QRP in the leaf peers will be aggregated and propagated to the SuperPeer so that interest information could be used to form short-range, medium-range and long-range links with other SuperPeers to achieve low average hop. As peers join and leave the network, a proposed rewiring protocol is used to ensure peers are clustered by interest to form high clustering coefficient so that search activities are yielding higher relevance results in a more predictable fashion. We simulated the proposed small world P2P using test scenarios to evaluate recall rate of the small world P2P system. Our simulated results evaluate and benchmark our proposed Small-World Bee (SWB) overlay network with iCluster [3], Firework Query Model [3] and Limewire [1] to assess performance obtained and goals achieved in the research work so that future research directions could be planned.

Key Words: QRP, Small-Wrold paradigm, Cluster, Peer-to-Peer System

1. Introduction
Information sharing in multi-user distributed systems is dynamic and this is a more challenging problem for peers in P2P systems. To retrieve data accurately and speedily from peers in an overlay network has always been a challenging one. P2P systems are categorized into two (2) main groups: structured and un-structured systems. Structured P2P systems or Distributed Hash Tables (DHTs) systems such as Chord [10], CAN [9], Pastry [11], and Tapestry [15] are common solutions. They use efficient key-based data retrieval technique. Peers on structured P2P systems connect to other peers using DHT information that directs the search to specific peers that hold the desired data. However, structured P2P systems suffer from high maintenance overhead due to frequent change of membership/contents [12] and heavy peer dependency.

To overcome high peers’ dependency issue, unstructured P2P systems such as LimeWire [1], Gnutella [13], and Freenet [14] were designed to allow peers to self-organize to form overlay networks automatically to reduce maintenance overhead. However, unstructured P2P systems need to broadcast query messages to all peers to search for a desired piece of data, which ultimately cause network message flooding. The “Small-World paradigm” [3, 4, 6, 7, 8] was introduced to improve the search efficiency while maintaining highly peer clustering. In this paper, one of the two “Small-World” paradigm properties will be discussed and presented: high cluster coefficient, while the other property: low average hop between any two randomly chosen peers; will be presented in the next stage of research work. In the small world P2P system, peers in the network must maintain high cluster coefficient by similar interest [4, 14]. In a highly clustered environment, a random shortcut path is created to achieve low average hops [4, 8, and 14]. Each peer in a small world network will maintain short-range and long-range links, where short-range links can be represented as intra-cluster links that connect to peers of similar interest whereas long-range links are used as inter-cluster links as shortcut paths to other remotely related clusters.

Peers will self-organize by periodically executing rewiring protocol to achieve “Small-World paradigm” in unstructured P2P systems [3, 6, and 8]. This protocol will maintain intra-cluster interest by discarding outdated peers or dissimilar peers. The protocol will also connect to similar peers that are new to the cluster. The goal of the rewiring protocol is
to maintain high cluster in the P2P network so that query can route efficiently.

In this paper, we introduce algorithm that allows peers to join and leave the P2P network effectively so that the network can retain its highly clustered characteristics. By introducing “Small-world paradigm” to hierarchical P2P systems such as Limewire[1], our algorithms are able to improve the join and leave protocols for better routing path between peers. Future work will look into query search utilizing the high cluster peers in the overlay network for better search and routing performance. This will allow us to show that our search algorithms reduce the message flooding and improve the accuracy of recall rate for query search request.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews related works, Section 3 describes an overview of our P2P systems protocol and finally, Section 4 provides a set of test scenarios. The detail of the next research directions and expected research outcomes are discussed.

2. Related Works

Several research works were reviewed on the application of Small-World paradigm for unstructured P2P networks [3, 6, 7, and 8] in this paper. Peers in small world networks are not always “neighbour” to each other. However, they are able to reach each other by using a small numbers of hops. The “Small-World paradigm” was originally introduced by Watts and Strogatz [4] in 1998. Our research work utilizes the concept of “Small-World paradigm” proposed by [4] by implementing the rewiring technique in order to achieve high cluster coefficient with low average hops. High cluster coefficient is achieved by peers though self-organization of peers by clustering using similar interest. This is achieved by using rewiring technique with light randomness. The peer’s routing index in our design also allows our algorithm to achieve the low average hops criteria.

Works implemented by Zhang, Goel and Govindan [7] using the Small-World paradigm to improve Freenet’s performance by distancing peers with dissimilar interest and updating new peers’ information in routing tables achieved some good performance. However, there is a small possibility of evicting a peer from the list and adding a dissimilar peer as a shortcut to other cluster. Schmitz [6] clustered peers by topic based on common ontology to achieve Small-World paradigm. In his work, each peer maintains short-range and long-range links. The short-range links are for peers of similar topic while long-range links are shortcut path to other clusters. At the same time, peer will periodically check for the similarity between neighbours. If neighbours’ similarity is less than a threshold value then the rewiring technique will be executed; they will look for new connections and discard outdated links or dissimilar peers on the routing index table.

Ng, Sia, Chan and King [5] proposed to form a cluster using the fireworks routing strategy. Peers periodically broadcast messages to retrieve other peers’ information to update its short-range links and this allows the clusters to maintain their similarity information regularly. Long-range links are selected and maintained by the user. As soon as clusters are formed, query messages can be routed through different clusters. As soon as the query message arrives at the targeted cluster, search messages will be broadcasted to its neighbours to produce the effect of fireworks exploding.

Raftopoulou and Petrakis [3, 8] used the similar rewiring technique to maintain short-range and long-range links among peers. They extended the idea of Schmitz by using document concept as the interest instead of the ontology concept.

However, the research works reviewed had surfaced two problems: 1) peers are always connected randomly once they join the network for the very first time. And this has made the network difficult to achieve high cluster coefficient when the peers join and leave too frequently; and 2) long-range links are randomly selected. As a result, query messages will be randomly routed to different clusters in the network. This produces unpredictable search outcomes. In our research work, we propose techniques that show how peers select cluster(s) to join the network correctly at the very first time. And we will also demonstrate how peer maintains medium-range and long-range links to overcome random long-range links which will improve the query messages to route more accurately. This lays a desirable small-world P2P architecture for the next phase of research work that focuses on high recall-rate by minimizing search messages in small-world P2P hierarchical networks.

3. An Overview Of The Proposed Design

In this section, we will describe the proposed Small-World Bee (SWB) network design of our research work, aiming to improve the peers clustering of the SWB network. SWB adopts the QRP table [1] as the basic information container to capture the interests of peers. The Small-World clustering technique proposed by our research will periodically perform rewiring to cluster peers who have the similar interests [3, 4, 6, 8].

3.1 The SWB Architecture

In our proposed SWB design, peers in an overlay network are categorized as LeafPeers and SuperPeers to form a two-level hierarchical P2P system. The LeafPeers are located at the second level connected to few SuperPeers in an overlay network. When a LeafPeer performs a search, the SuperPeer(s) act as a proxy for the LeafPeers to send out query messages to others SuperPeers to perform the search task. SuperPeers are
more stable peers in terms of longer online time and better communication bandwidth. These SuperPeers must not be blocked by firewall [1]. On the other hand, LeafPeers are peers that are not-so-stable. They have short or less online time and lower communication bandwidth. To identify peers’ interests, a peer hashed its files’ name and metadata into a QRP table. Since SuperPeers are more stable peers, they have the responsibility to periodically run the peer re-wiring protocol so that clusters formed are based on their likelihood to contain similar content. Aggregation of LeafPeers’ QRP will be reconciled at the SuperPeers. The interest information could then be used by the SuperPeers to construct short-range, medium-range and long-range links. Short-range links are connections in the routing table that connects to other similar interest peers. Medium-range and long-range links are connections in a routing table that connects to not-so-similar interest peers. These query messages will route through different type of links based on the interest similarity values to look for a target cluster.

3.2 Basic Protocols

The main idea behind the Small-World [4] network is to let peers self-organize into clusters of similar contents with some light randomness. The peers of similar contents are clustered into group. Links are formed randomly as shortcuts to other cluster. This has enabled query request to be sent to search at the targeted clusters. In this section, the basic protocols will be explained to show how peers maintain their interest using QRP table. The proposed mechanism allows peers to join and leave a P2P network, to self-organize themselves into different clusters and to query data by interest to reduce message flooding and to improve recall rate.

1) Query Routing Protocol (QRP)

Every peer in a P2P network holds a QRP table. Figure 1 shows the QRP table. A QRP table is an array of 65536 bits that consists of values 0 and 1. A QRP table will be initialized to ‘0’, which means that the peer initially does not have any interest. When a query message reaches a SuperPeer, it will examine the QRP table. If the QRP tables contain ‘0’, this indicates that files desired don’t exist in that peer, and then the search will be terminated. The value ‘0’ in a QRP table shows that the files don’t exist. LeafPeers’ QRP table will be aggregated to the SuperPeers’ QRP table so that the SuperPeers can use the aggregated QRP to filter irrelevant queries that want to reach to their LeafPeers. At the same time, SuperPeers will periodically exchange QRP table with other SuperPeers to update their routing indexes. This will enable last hop savings when searching the desired item by visiting all the linked SuperPeers. Last hop saving will happen when a SuperPeer receives a search message with Time-To-Live (TTL) value of one (1) before it will start checking on its neighbours’ QRP. If the query message did not hit ‘1’ in the neighbours’ QRP tables then the SuperPeer that hold the query message will not send over to its neighbours. The benefit of exchanging QRP tables among SuperPeers has greatly reduced message flooding in the network.

Figure 2: Peer’s interest.

In Figure 2, it shows that the files’ title and metadata are used to form the interest of peers in a network. For example, a file with the title of “One step at a time.mp3” will be hashed into a series of hashed QRP location. The hash function will not hash the file content. Since the query function of the search uses word(s), of the files’ title, these word(s) must be separated into individual unit of word. For example, “One”, “step”, “at”, “a” and “time”.. The hash function will change all the words to lower case and the function uses locale-neutral conversion based on the UTF-16 representation [1]. The hashed values will be used to update the QRP table’s entries so that the QRP table will hold the interest of the peer.

Figure 3: Two-Tier Bitwise Interest Oriented QRP.

The Two-Tier Bitwise Interest(s) Oriented QRP (Figure 3) is a technique where peers $p_i$ and $p_j$ store their interest(s) in their QRP tables where $QRP(p_i)$ and $QRP(p_j)$ are containers that hold their interest(s) values, given that $i=1...X$ and $X$ is the total number of peers in an P2P overlay network. The Two-Tier Bitwise Interest(s) Oriented QRP technique then measures the interest value by computing the interest similarity value of any two peers. The proposed technique allows peer $p_i$ and peer $p_j$ to execute the similarity function, $sim(QRP(p_i),QRP(p_j))$ and the function is computed as $N/Const(Size of QRP table)$, where $N$ is $XNOR$ of $QRP(p_i)$ and $QRP(p_j)$. In Figure 3, the QRP tables...
for peer \( p_i \) and \( p_j \) with an array of size 10 are illustrated. In this example, the \( XOR \) operation for both peers has produced 7 matches \((N = 7)\). Since the \( Const(\text{Size of QRP table}) \) is 10, the similarity value computed is 0.7. This means that the similarity interest between peers \( p_i \) and \( p_j \) is 70%. When QRP table produces a hit for words of files’ title then there is a high possibility that the file exists in this peer. Clustering peers by using similar interest can archive high clustering coefficient, so that peers in the network are close to each other. Therefore, network with high clustering coefficient can produce more hits for relevant queries.

2) Joining Protocol

As peer \( p_i \) joins the P2P network, the Joining protocol will manage the join operation for the joining peer. First of all, the Joining Protocol needs the peer \( p_i \) to execute the \( \text{hash(file)}_i \) function of all its shared files \((\text{FILES}_i)\) into its QRP table as the interests \( QRP(p_i) \). Then \( p_i \) will send \( \text{Bootstrap} \) message to UDP Host Cache \((\text{UHC})\) \([1]\) to retrieve IP addresses and port numbers of the available SuperPeers \((\text{SP})\). From the list of SuperPeers, \( p_i \) will request for their QRP tables to perform \( \text{sim}(QRP(p_j), \text{QRP}(p_i)) \) using bitwase operation. The max(\( \text{sim}(QRP(p_j), \text{QRP}(p_i)) \)) will be chosen as the most similar SuperPeers for \( p_i \). The \( p_i \) will immediately connect to the selected SuperPeers and join as its LeafPeer. Since all LeafPeers’ QRP table will be aggregated to the SuperPeer’s QRP table, and all the LeafPeers have very similar interest with their SuperPeer, a small change in their interest would be required when new peers join the cluster. After a \( p_i \) stays in a P2P network for a sufficiently long uptimes, and if a peer has sufficient bandwidth and no firewall blockage, then the peer \( p_i \) will be upgraded to be a SuperPeer else it will remain as a LeafPeer. To achieve efficient routing, the SuperPeer \( p_i \) will maintain a separate routing index \( RI_i \), which contains short-range, medium-range and long-range links. The SuperPeers in the P2P network will exchange their QRP tables with each other in order to obtain the benefit of last hop savings when searching the network \([1]\). Each entry in the routing index \( RI_i \) is formed by \((ip(p_j), QRP(p_j))\), where \( ip(p_j) \) is the IP address of \( p_j \) and \( QRP(p_j) \) is the QRP table of \( p_j \). Algorithm 1 exhibits the Joining Protocol describes above.

Algorithm 1: Algorithm for Joining protocol

```
for all \( \text{files}_i \in \text{FILES}_i \) do
    \( QRP(p_i) = QRP(p_i) \cup \text{hash(file)}_i \)
end for
forward Bootstrap message to request SP
for all \( QRP(p_j) \in SP \) do
    compute \( sim(QRP(p_j), QRP(p_i)) \)
end for
attempt to connect to \( 3 \text{max}(\text{sim}(QRP(p_j), QRP(p_i))) \) where \( QRP(p_j) \in SP \)
```

3) Rewiring Protocol

The Rewiring protocol will be executed periodically for each SuperPeer to maintain its short-range, medium-range and long-range links. The short-range links are intra-cluster links that connect to similar interest peers and long-range links are inter-cluster links that are shortcut paths to other clusters. In the Rewiring protocol, a SuperPeer \( p_i \) will periodically compute \( AS_i = (1/s) \sum_{p_j \in RI_i} \text{sim}(QRP(p_j), QRP(p_i)) \) as the average similarity among its neighbours in its routing index \((RI_i)\), where \( s \) is the number of short-range links. If \( AS_i \) is greater or equal to threshold \( \theta \) then \( p_i \) will not continue the rewiring activity; otherwise, \( p_i \) will create a \( \text{FindPeers} \) message with parameters \((ip(p_i), QRP(p_i), p_i, t_r)\), where \( P \) is an empty list to collect all it’s peers info and \( t_r \) is the time-to-live \((\text{TTL})\) of the message.

A peer \( p_j \) that receives the \( \text{FindPeers} \) message will append its IP address and QRP table into \( p_j \) by reducing \( t_r \) by one. Peer \( p_j \) then forward the message to \( m \) selected neighbours peers. Random walk \([3, 4]\) will be applied in the rewiring protocol where messages will be randomly sent to \( m \) selected neighbours peers in Routing Index for peer \( j \) \((RI_j)\) so that messages have the chance to explore to different peers.

When \( t_r = 0 \), the \( \text{FindPeers} \) message will return to the message creator \( p_i \). Peer \( p_i \) will categorize the peer information from the list \( P \) to update its \( RI_i \). Peer \( p_i \) with similarity value greater and equal to 0.7 \([why \ 0.7?]\) will be used as short-range links. Outdated links or dissimilar interest links will be discarded. Peers with similarities within \( 0.5 \leq sim(p_i) < 0.7 \) will be used as medium-range links and \( sim(p_i) \leq 0.5 \) will be used as long-range links. The different types of link allow shortcut paths for a peer to get connected to peers in other clusters.

The rationale for the rewiring protocol to maintain short-, medium- and long-range links is to archive the property of “six-degrees of separation” of the “Small-World” paradigm. The protocol will periodically rewire the links in the routing indexes so that links are always up-to-date. By refining the short-range links to maintain highest similarity interest intra-cluster-ly will archive the high cluster coefficient requirement of the “Small-World” paradigm. The effort to maintain medium-range and long-range links is to provide several alternative paths so that future work on query search where search messages can route to the nearest cluster based on the interest similarity of peers to archive the low average hops between peers. Algorithm 2 exhibits the Rewiring Protocol describes above.

Algorithm 2: Algorithm for rewiring protocol
compute \[ A_S_i = \left(1/s\right) \sum_{y \varepsilon \text{ERI}_l} \text{sim}(QRP(p_j), QRP(p_i)) \]

if \[ A_S_i < \theta \] then

\[ P = \{ \} \]

create \text{FindPeers} message = \((\text{ip}(p_i), QRP(p_i), P, \tau_r)\)

//forward \text{FindPeers} message to \(m\) selected peers

forward \text{FindPeers} message to \(p_j\) where \(p_j \in RI_l\) and \(j = 1, \ldots, m\)

\[ P = P \cup (\text{ip}(p_j), QRP(p_j)) \]

end if

repeat the above procedure for \(p_j\)‘s neighbours

until \(\tau_r = 0\)

\-----------------------------

4. Testing And Evaluation

The results from the simulated Small-World Bee (SWB) P2P network include tests on all our proposed protocols as discussed above. The SWB is tested based on the objectives of the research: high clustering coefficient which attempting to maintain the level of accuracy of the recall rate through high clustering coefficient. Small-World Bee or SWB P2P will be compared with iCluster [3], Firework Query Model [5] and Limewire [1] in the experiments carried out in our research work.

A. Experiment Set-up

PeerSim is a cycle-based simulator which is used to simulate hybrid P2P with undirected links of different network sizes and configurations. For the purpose of our experiments, the initial size of the network was designed to start with 4,000 peers and peers are assigned to two (2) SuperPeers with eight (8) LeavePeers each. For each cycle (of a specific duration), the simulated network will be reconfigured with a different set of values with a set of parameters of some specific values. In each cycle, there will be one (1) SuperPeer and two (2) LeavePeers to be removed from the network. At the same time, two (2) LeavePeers will be promoted to be SuperPeers and five (5) new peers join the network. At the end of every cycle, the network size will increase progressively to a maximum of 20,000 peers. Due to the changes of the network, SuperPeers check the average similarity among its neighbors and decide whether to execute the rewiring protocol to maintain all its relevant neighbors.

SWB network was measured by using a real-world dataset from [17]. The dataset contains over 50,000 of characters that form a series of song title and simple metadata such as singer and the song type. Each peer will be randomly assigned zero (0) to four (4) song title(s) from the dataset to be stored in the Query Routing Protocol (QRP) tables. Each QRP table will store the peer’s interest and based on the similarity interest, clusters will be formed.

In this evaluation, five (5) peers will be selected to collect data in the network and get the average value. The setup is designed in such a way so that the simulation doesn’t depend on one (1) peer that may give bias result. The size of the QRP table and similarity threshold \(\theta\) among neighbor will also be experimented in our simulation.

B. Performance Measure

Local clustering coefficient has been introduced by [4] and used to measure the closeness of the \(p_j\) with its neighbors. The clustering coefficient \(C_i\) for a peer \(p_i\) is the number of links that exist between \(p_j\)‘s neighbors (routing index \(RI_l\)) over the number of links to form a complete graph between \(p_j\) and its neighbors. If \(p_j\) has size of \(k_j\) with neighbors of \(|RI_l|\), then \(k_i(k_i - 1)/2\) will be the number of links for an undirected graph to form a complete graph. When \(p_j\) and \(p_k\) are neighbors then link of \(l_{jk}\) will exist between these two peers with the link of \(l_{ij}\) equal to \(l_{ji}\) in an undirected graph. The local clustering coefficient is defined as:

\[ C_i = \frac{2|\{ l_{jk} \}|}{k_i(k_i - 1)} : p_j, p_k \in RI_l, p_k \in RI_j \] (1)

The average local clustering coefficient is the clustering coefficient of the whole network [4]; it is the summation of the local clustering coefficient of all peers over the number \(n\) of peers in the network:

\[ \bar{C} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} C_i \] (2)

In this research, the Local similarity was introduced to measure the similarity interest \(LS_i\) between \(p_j\) and its neighbors. Since short-range links are used to group similar neighbors, so short-range links \(S_i\) will take into the consideration for the measurement of local similarity and \(S_i\) is the subset or equal \(RI_l\) \((S_i \subseteq RI_l)\). The Local similarity is defined as follows:

\[ LS_i = \frac{\sum_{p_j \in S_i} \text{sim}(p_j, p_i)}{k_i} \] (3)

Local clustering coefficient is used to show the closeness of the peers. And the local similarity is designed to show the peer similarity interest with its neighbors. Therefore, the peers in the network can be self-organized with highly cluster coefficient and surrounded by similar interest peers. In order to measure the average local similarity for the network, it is the summation of the local similarity of all peers over the number \(n\) peers in the network:

\[ \bar{LS} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} LS_i \] (4)
C. Peer Organization

In order to ensure quality peer organization in a P2P network, local clustering coefficient and local similarity are tested with different size of QRP table and similarity threshold \( \theta \) values in our experiments.

When different size of QRP table is used, it will affect the local clustering coefficient and the local similarity. When peer has QRP size of 80, the network achieves high local similarity (an average of 0.708527). Peers with small QRP table will increase the probability of sharing the same slots which will increase the hashed words. This will lead the network to have a lower local clustering coefficient because every peer contains a QRP table of general interest. Large QRP table for a peer will make the interest more specific, so it will be more accurate for any query activities. The reason is slots for hashed words to be shared is much low, so each of the hashed words will have a specific slot to store it.

The higher the similarity threshold \( \theta \) will achieve higher local clustering coefficient and higher local similarity. If the similarity threshold is too high, it will cause the recall rate to decrease and the chances for peers to perform rewiring will increase. Query message will always get discarded when it sends to the same peers in a network that has very high local clustering coefficient; it will also lead to lower recall rate. Network with \( \theta \) value of 0.6 is chosen for our setting in our experiments, because it will achieve high cluster coefficient (0.033054) and high local similarity with (0.80994). The \( \theta \) value of 0.6 having higher recall rate (0.810834) compare to \( \theta = 0.5 \) (average recall rate = 0.785884) and \( \theta = 0.7 \) (average recall rate = 0.748451). SWB can archive significantly higher clustering coefficient compare to a random graph such as Limewire. The clustering coefficient for SWB is approximately 200% higher than Limewire.

D. Comparison of Different Methods

In the quest to reduce message flooding and improve recall rate, our proposed Small-World Bee (SWB), Firework Query Model [5], iCluster [3], and Limewire [1] are compared and implemented using the following configurations:

- SWB: short-range links = 9, medium-range links = 3, long-range links = 3, \( \theta = 0.6 \), \( t_f = 4 \) and \( t_b = 1 \).
- Firework Query Model: short-range links = 9, long-range links = 6, \( \theta = 0.6 \), \( t_f = 4 \) and \( t_b = 1 \).
- iCluster: short-range links = 9, long-range links = 6, \( \theta = 0.6 \), \( t_f = 4 \) and \( t_b = 1 \).
- Limewire: short-range links (Routing-Index) = 15 and \( t_b = 3 \).

5. Conclusion

This paper proposes to enhance the join protocol by selecting peers of similar interest so that the proposed P2P system always maintains high cluster coefficient in the network. We also proposed medium-range and long-range links so that the next phase of our research work is able to improve the query route intelligently by selecting suitable path. The implemented “Small-World paradigm” in the Limewire has achieved high cluster coefficient among peers with similar interest. The experiment result shows that SWB will maintain low communication overhead and achieve high recall rate. The next phase of the research work will focus on the technique to query search with routing path planning for high recall rate and minimum query messages. Other areas of future works include
enhancing the rewiring protocol for much reduced message overhead to maintain the neighbours list.

6. References