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► To cite this version:

Hubin Deng, Guiyuan Liu, Lei Zhang. Analysis and Implementation of Embedded SNMP Agent. 4th Conference on Computer and Computing Technologies in Agriculture (CCTA), Oct 2010, Nanchang, China. pp.96-102, 10.1007/978-3-642-18369-0_11 . hal-01564851

HAL Id: hal-01564851

<https://inria.hal.science/hal-01564851>

Submitted on 19 Jul 2017

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Analysis and Implementation of Embedded SNMP Agent

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Abstract

With the extensive application of network devices and the rapid development of embedded technology, network management of embedded devices becomes increasingly complicated. SNMP management is the most widely used network management system(NMS). Most of the network components used in enterprise network have built-in network agents that can respond to an SNMP network management system. By analyzing the SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) and base on NET-SNMP development kit, discuss the construction of MIB modules and code conversion and complete embedded SNMP Agent extension. Through network management tools to verify the SNMP agent on the network management functions of the embedded device.

Keywords

Embedded technology, Network management, SNMP Agent, MIB modules, NET-SNMP development kit.

1. Introduction

Along with the popularization of the network application and the network equipment, it is also gradually increasing to the network management demand. Because Simple Network Management Protocol(SNMP) has obtained the widespread application in the industrial world by its simplicity. The TCP/IP major part router and the switchboard all support SNMP in the protocol standard certain main management information database (MIB). In addition, in other private network equipment management domain, the SNMP network management has also obtained the widespread application. In the SNMP management model, the management station is carries on the management and the monitoring center to AGENT, Agent is managed to the equipment to carry on the monitoring and front end the operation network management. Therefore, in the network equipment, to increase SNMP the network management to act AGENT adapts the network supervising and managing

development essential work. This article takes SNMP and the existing system resources as a foundation, analyzes the embedded SNMP proxy software with emphasis of the function module, with the aid of opens source tool development package NET-SNMP, has constructed the MIB storehouse module, and has developed the embedded equipment SNMP agent software.

2. Simple Network Management Model

Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) is a UDP-based network protocol. It is used mostly in network management systems to monitor network-attached devices for conditions that warrant administrative attention. SNMP management is also referred to as Internet management. It's called SNMP management because it has matured to the level that it manages more than the Internet, for example, intranet and telecommunication networks. Any network that uses the TCP/IP protocol suite is an ideal candidate for SNMP management. SNMP network management system can manage even non-TCP/IP network elements through proxy agents.

The SNMP management consist four elements: Network Management System (NMS), Agent, Management Information Base (MIB), and Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP). It uses the concept of Client/Server application. A network management system (NMS) executes applications that monitor and control managed devices. On each manageable equipment, a SNMP Agent is running. This agent manages information relating to the equipment which is stored in a local database called the MIB. And the SNMP Protocol is used to connect the NMS and the Agents. SNMP is a protocol built on the top of UDP/IP:

The architecture specifies the management messages between the management system and the management agents. 5 types of SNMP messages or SNMP requests can be exchanged (SNMPv1) between a SNMP agent and a SNMP manager:

1. Obtaining the current value of a MIB object managed by an agent: request get-request (GET).
2. Obtaining the current value of the next MIB object managed by an agent: request get-next-request (GETNEXT).
3. Updating of the current value of a MIB object managed by an agent: request set-request (SET).
4. Sending back the value of a MIB object managed by an agent: request get-response . It's the answer to a GET, GETNEXT or SET request. One can see that SNMP is a command/response protocol without state.
5. Signal/alarm emitted by an agent to a manager: message trap (TRAP).

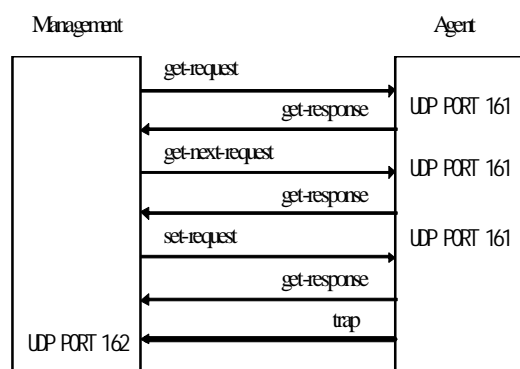


Figure 1. Five types of SNMP Operation

3. MIB module design and code conversion

SNMP itself does not define which information a managed system should offer. Instead, SNMP uses an extensible design, where the available information is defined by management information bases (MIB). MIB describes the structure of the management data of a device subsystem; they use a hierarchical namespace containing object identifiers (OID). Each OID identifies a variable that can be read or set via SNMP. MIB uses the notation defined by ASN.1.

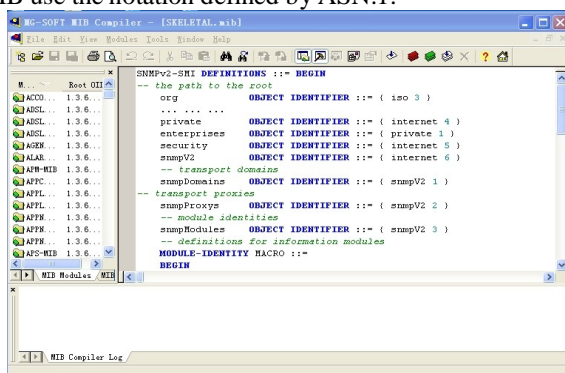


Figure 2. Definition (skeletal) of SMI for SNMP v2

In telecommunications and computer networking, Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) is a standard and flexible notation that describes data structures for representing, encoding, transmitting, and decoding data. It provides a set of formal rules for describing the structure of objects that are independent of machine-specific encoding techniques and is a precise, formal notation that removes ambiguities.

ASN.1 is defined as a set of rules used to specify data types and structures for storage of information. Basic Encoding Rules (BER) is defined for the transfer syntax by the ASN.1 syntax. The syntax to create a SMIB module is referred to the description section in SMI (Structure of Management Information).

In this paper, MG-SOFT is used to define a MIB document in ASN.1. MG-SOFT's MIB tools are quite mature and widely used for SNMP development and testing. Its MIB Browser can not only read and write MIB, but also receive the Trap sent by SNMP agents; MIB Compiler can be used to check the legality of MIB, which is useful for the compose of MIB. This MIB document is then transformed into the C language source file by MIB2C. MIB2C is a useful software tool in NET-SNMP. Follow these steps to convert:

First of all copy the MIB module definition files to the mibs directory:

```
cp./modulename /usr/local/share/snmp/mibs;
```

Then, run MIB2C command: /usr/local/bin/mib2c modulename to translate;

Finally, MIB2C generated in the current directory two C source files: modulename.h and modulename.c. These two documents are made under the MIB library module conversion, and also need to be added to the NET-SNMP SNMP Agent Software to extensions of the source code.

4. SNMP Entity and AGENT Extension

The SNMP Agent consists of a dispatcher, a message processing subsystem, and a security subsystem.

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The SNMP message processing subsystem of an SNMP engine interacts with the dispatcher to handle version-specific SNMP message. It contains one or more message processing models. The version is identified by the version field in the header.

The security and access control subsystem provides authentication and privacy protection at the message

level. The access control subsystem provides access authorization security.

There is only one dispatcher in an SNMP engine, but it can handle multiple versions of SNMP message. It performs three sets of functions. First, it sends message to and receives message from the network. Second, it determines the version of the message and interacts with the corresponding message processing model. Third, it provides an abstract interface to SNMP applications to deliver an incoming PDU to the local application and to send a PDU from the local application to a remote entity.

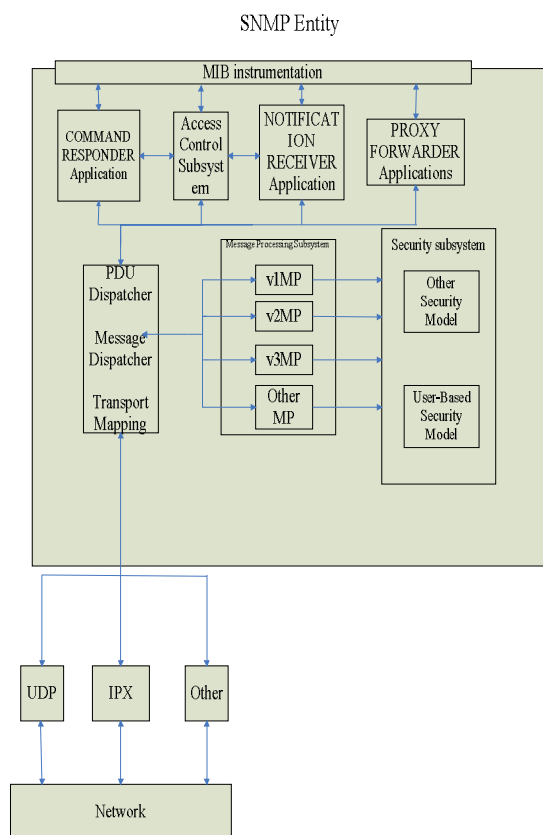


Figure 3. SNMP Agent Entity

To complete the SNMP Agent to a embedded device takes the steps as follows:

In the net-snmp-5.4.2.1 directory configure:

```
./Configure - host = arm-linux target = arm --With-cc = /armv4l-unknownlinux-gcc - -with-ar = arm-linux-ar --disable-shared - with-endianness = little -With-mib-modules = "moudlename"
```

In the net-snmp-5.4.2.1 directory, compile: make.

In net-snmp-5.4.2.1/agent directory, you can see the generated snmpd process, as shown below:

Copy the snmpd program to the development board "/usr/bin" directory and start with the following command: /usr/bin/snmpd -V -c /etc/snmpd.conf

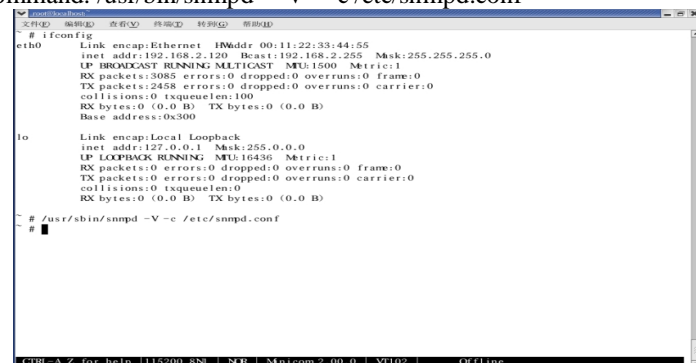


Figure 4. Run the snmpd programe

5. Conclusion

The SNMP protocol was developed to facilitate the network management. In this paper the free software package, NET-SNMP is used to extend the NET-SNMP agent to an embedded system under the ARM-LINUX OS in order that the embedded can be controlled remotely by SNMP NMS. NET-SNMP makes it possible to integrate an embedded system into a network and to manage it with SNMP managers like MG-SOFT. The Management station's IP is 192.168.2.4, and the embedded equipment's IP is 192.168.2.120. The testing result of verifying the embedded SNMP agent shows as in Figure 5.

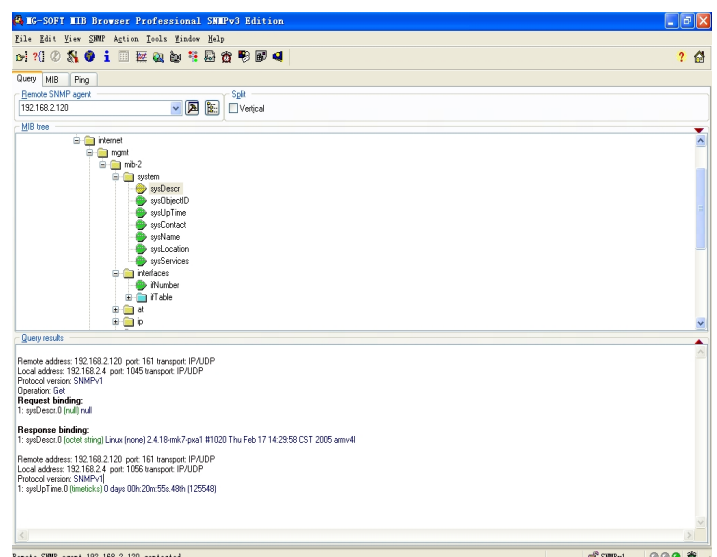


Figure 5. Verify the SNMP agent

6.Acknowledement

This work was sponsored by the technology proliferation plan item of Nanchang city (Caiqi[2008], NO.68), science and research foundation of East China Jiaotong University(09XX05).

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