

Software-defined networking (SDN) is a popular technology to increase the flexibility and efficiency of communication networks that caught a lot of attention and support from academia and industry (e.g., Google, Microsoft, NEC, Cisco, VMWare).

SDN increases flexibility and efficiency by out-sourcing network control (e.g., routing) from network elements (switches) to a network controller running on standard servers. The network controller has a global view onto the network (logical centralization) and facilitates the implementation of network control logic “in software” using standard languages like Python and Java.

With OpenFlow, a first standard protocol for SDN is available that is implemented by hardware switches from several vendors and also software switches like Open vSwitch as typically used in data centers to connect virtual machines on hosts. Moreover, several open source controller implementations exist.

In this lab course, we will introduce the basic principles of SDN, and students will gain practical knowledge and experience in programming software-defined networks using realistic examples. In detail, this course covers the following aspects:

- Introduction to the OpenFlow standard
- SDN controller concepts and interfaces using the Floodlight controller (Java-based implementation; REST interface)
- Topology discovery and statistics (counters)
- Implementation of centralized static and dynamic routing protocols
- Control plane distribution for increased availability and scalability
- Testing and performance evaluation using software switches (Open vSwitch), hardware switches, and network emulation (Mininet)

Pre-requisites:

- Basic knowledge of computer networks (Internet protocols like IP, TCP/UDP, ARP)
- Programming language: Java

Language: English

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