Creating Network Applications without using Controller

Mobile: 93563-10379

Using reference/OVS Controller/Remote Controller

```
root@mininet-vm:~# mn --controller ref
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
*** Adding hosts:
h1 h2
*** Adding switches:
s1
*** Adding links:
(h1, s1) (h2, s1)
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2
*** Starting controller
c0
*** Starting 1 switches
s1 ...
*** Starting CLI:
mininet>
mininet> pingall
*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 \rightarrow h2
h2 \rightarrow h1
*** Results: 0% dropped (2/2 received)
mininet>
```

Openflow switches are of two types, physical and virtual switches. By default, Mininet creates virtual switch in OpenFlow mode. We need OpenFlow controller to manage and control OpenFlow switch. Mininet supports many controllers, such as OpenFlow reference controller, OVS controller and less used NOX Classic. You can choose OpenFlow controller simply by using the mn command.

mn --controller ref

Using reference/OVS Controller/Remote Controller

```
root@mininet-vm:~# mn --controller ovsc
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
*** Adding hosts:
h1 h2
*** Adding switches:
Տ1
*** Adding links:
(h1, s1) (h2, s1)
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2
*** Starting controller
c0
*** Starting 1 switches
s1 ...
*** Starting CLI:
mininet>
mininet> pingall
*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 \rightarrow h2
h2 \rightarrow h1
*** Results: 0% dropped (2/2 received)
mininet>
```

```
# mn --controller ovsc
```

Default Controller

```
root@mininet-vm:~# mn
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
*** Adding hosts:
h1 h2
*** Adding switches:
s1
*** Adding links:
(h1, s1) (h2, s1)
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2
*** Starting controller
c0
*** Starting 1 switches
s1 ...
*** Starting CLI:
mininet>
mininet> pingall
*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 \rightarrow h2
h2 \rightarrow h1
*** Results: 0% dropped (2/2 received)
mininet>
```

```
# mn
root@mininet-vm:~# ps -ax | grep controller
                       0:00 controller -v ptcp:6653
 1793 pts/2 S+
       # ovs-vsctl show
       (gives information about the open vswitch s1)
       root@mininet-um:~# ous-usctl show
       918037ec-b307-45d7-a75a-f1ac4337d135
           Bridge "s1"
               Controller "tcp:127.0.0.1:6653"
                   is_connected: true
               Controller "ptcp:6654"
               fail_mode: secure
               Port "s1-eth2"
                    Interface "s1-eth2"
               Port "s1-eth1"
                   Interface "s1-eth1"
               Port "s1"
                   Interface "s1"
                       type: internal
           ovs_version: "2.0.2"
       root@mininet-vm:~#
```

Default Controller

```
mininet> h1 ping -c2 h2
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl show s1
OFPT_FEATURES_REPLY (xid=0x2): dpid:0000000000000001
n_tables:254, n_buffers:256
capabilities: FLOW_STATS TABLE_STATS PORT_STATS QUEU.
actions: OUTPUT SET_VLAN_VID SET_VLAN_PCP STRIP_VLAN
_NW_TOS SET_TP_SRC SET_TP_DST ENQUEUE
 1(s1-eth1): addr:fa:a4:90:bf:1e:f4
                                                             # ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
     config:
     state:
                  10GB-FD COPPER
     current:
     speed: 10000 Mbps now, 0 Mbps max
 2(s1-eth2): addr:b6:98:29:d7:61:68
     config:
                                                         root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
     state:
                                                         NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
     current:
                 10GB-FD COPPER
     speed: 10000 Mbps now, 0 Mbps max
 LOCAL(s1): addr:da:af:0b:30:e2:40
     config:
                                                         .0.2,arp_tpa=10.0.0.1,arp_op=1 actions=output:1
     state:
     speed: 0 Mbps now, 0 Mbps max
OFPT_GET_CONFIG_REPLY (xid=0x4): frags=normal miss_s
root@mininet-vm:~#
                                                         .0.1,arp_tpa=10.0.0.2,arp_op=2 actions=output:2
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
root@mininet-vm:~#
# ovs-ofctl show s1
(shows information about flow tables and ports)
```

PING 10.0.0.2 (10.0.0.2) 56(84) bytes of data. 64 bytes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=2.00 ms 64 bytes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=1.67 ms (gives information about flow table entries) cookie=0x0, duration=1.416s, table=0, n_packets=1, n_bytes=42, idle_timeout=60, idle_age=1, priorit y=65535,arp,in_port=2,vlan_tci=0x0000,dl_src=b2:f7:37:66:7b:18,dl_dst=56:e2:23:79:ae:db,arp_spa=10.0 cookie=0x0, duration=1.415s, table=0, n_packets=1, n_bytes=42, idle_timeout=60, idle_age=1, priorit y=65535,arp,in_port=1,vlan_tci=0x0000,dl_src=56:e2:23:79:ae:db,dl_dst=b2:f7:37:66:7b:18,arp_spa=10.0 cookie=0x0, duration=6.43s, table=0, n_packets=2, n_bytes=196, idle_timeout=60, idle_age=5, priorit y=65535,icmp,in_port=2,vlan_tci=0x0000,dl_src=b2:f7:37:66:7b:18,dl_dst=56:e2:23:79:ae:db,nw_src=10.0 .0.2,nw_dst=10.0.0.1,nw_tos=0,icmp_type=0,icmp_code=0 actions=output:1 cookie=0x0, duration=5.417s, table=0, n_packets=1, n_bytes=98, idle_timeout=60, idle_age=5, priorit y=65535,icmp,in_port=1,vlan_tci=0x0000,dl_src=56:e2:23:79:ae:db,dl_dst=b2:f7:37:66:7b:18,nw_src=10.0 .0.1,nw_dst=10.0.0.2,nw_tos=0,icmp_type=8,icmp_code=0 actions=output:2 root@mininet-vm:~#

Using Remote Controller

```
root@mininet-vm:~# mn --controller remote
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
Unable to contact the remote controller at 127.0.0.1:6653
Unable to contact the remote controller at 127.0.0.1:6633
Setting remote controller to 127.0.0.1:6653
*** Adding hosts:
h1 h2
*** Adding switches:
ร1
*** Adding links:
(h1, s1) (h2, s1)
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2
*** Starting controller
c_0
*** Starting 1 switches
s1 ...
*** Starting CLI:
mininet>
mininet> pingall
*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 \rightarrow X
h2 \rightarrow X
*** Results: 100% dropped (0/2 received)
mininet>
```

Since we are not running any controller, hosts will not be able to ping with each other.

In Mininet network, switches can be connected to a remote controller. The syntax is

mn --controller=remote, ip=[controller IP]
port=[controller listening port]

#mn --controller remote

(This command creates a topology that contains 2 hosts, single open vswitch & point to the remote controller running on localhost)

Without Controller

```
root@mininet-vm:~# mn --controller none
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
*** Adding hosts:
h1 h2
*** Adding switches:
s1
*** Adding links:
(h1, s1) (h2, s1)
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2
*** Starting controller
*** Starting 1 switches
s1 ...
*** Starting CLI:
mininet>
mininet> pingall
*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 \rightarrow X
h2 \rightarrow X
*** Results: 100% dropped (0/2 received)
mininet>
```

Here we are creating topology without specifying any controller, hosts will not be able to ping with each other.

Using ovs-ofctl

```
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows tcp:127.0.0.1:6634
ovs-ofctl: connecting to tcp:127.0.0.1:6634 (Connection refused)
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows tcp:127.0.0.1:6654
NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
root@mininet-vm:~#
```

ovs-ofctl is a command-line utility that sends basic OpenFlow messages to a switch. It communicates directly with a switch and does not need a controller. It is especially useful for debugging, viewing flow state and flow counters.

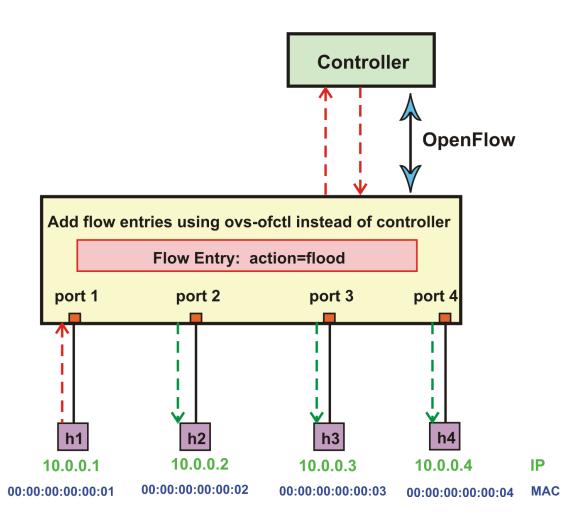
To obtain this information you can query the switch on port 6654. In the beginning, the port used was 6634, but now it has been allocated 6654 port. It gives error when you try to connect on port 6634. You can also add/delete flow table entries using this utility.

```
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl show tcp:127.0.0.1:6654
OFPT FEATURES REPLY (xid=0x2): dpid:0000000000000001
n tables:254, n buffers:256
capabilities: FLOW_STATS TABLE_STATS PORT_STATS QUEUE_STATS ARP_MATCH_IP
actions: OUTPUT SET_VLAN_VID SET_VLAN_PCP STRIP_VLAN SET_DL_SRC SET_DL_DS
NW TOS SET TP SRC SET TP DST ENQUEUE
1(s1-eth1): addr:1e:96:0a:d4:fc:ad
     config:
     state:
                 10GB-FD COPPER
     current:
     speed: 10000 Mbps now, 0 Mbps max
 2(s1-eth2): addr:ba:92:49:6e:af:b9
     config:
     state:
                 10GB-FD COPPER
     current:
     speed: 10000 Mbps now, 0 Mbps max
 LOCAL(s1): addr:fe:12:46:2e:36:45
     config:
                 0
     state:
     speed: 0 Mbps now, 0 Mbps max
OFPT GET CONFIG REPLY (xid=0x4): frags=normal miss send len=0
root@mininet-um:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl show tcp:127.0.0.1:6634
ovs-ofctl: connecting to tcp:127.0.0.1:6634 (Connection refused)
root@mininet-um:~#
```

Hub Application using ovs-ofctl

www.linuxexpert.in

Adding flow entries for hub



Network applications such as hub, switch, router can be created using mininet & ovs-ofctl. The ovs-ofctl can be used to create more complex applications like firewall and load balancer. Now we are going to use "ovs-ofctl" for converting our dump simple ovs datapath into useful devices such as hub, switch and firewall.

If flow table contains a flow entry which contains the action to flood the packet that arrives at specific port of forwarding device, then that forwarding device behaves like a hub.

Figure shows all hosts belongs to the same network. when host h1 wants to send a packet to host h4, then it first sends a packet to forwarding device at port 1. When a packet arrives at port 1, then it is matched against flow entry. When match is found, then it is flooded to all ports except the incoming port according to action specified in flow entry.

Step 1: Create Topology

```
root@mininet-vm:~# mn --mac --topo single,4 --controller none
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
*** Adding hosts:
h1 h2 h3 h4
*** Adding switches:
Տ1
*** Adding links:
(h1, s1) (h2, s1) (h3, s1) (h4, s1)
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2 h3 h4
*** Starting controller
*** Starting 1 switches
s1 ...
*** Starting CLI:
mininet>
mininet> h1 ping h2
PING 10.0.0.2 (10.0.0.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
From 10.0.0.1 icmp_seq=1 Destination Host Unreachable
From 10.0.0.1 icmp_seq=2 Destination Host Unreachable
```

Create mininet topology consisting of 1 switch & 4 hosts. We do not want to use any controller so we have specified the option "--controller none".

You can use the following command for creating required topology.

mn --mac --topo single,4 --controller none

on mininet prompt, try to ping *h2 from h1*. As can be seen, we are not able to ping.

Step 2: Add Flow

```
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-um:~# ous-ofctl add-flow s1 actions=flood
root@mininet-um:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
 cookie=0x0, duration=6.031s, table=0, n_packets=0, n_bytes=0, idle_age=6, actions=FLOOD
root@mininet-vm:~#
 Before adding flow, check the flow by using command
 # ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
 (it is not showing any rules)
 # ovs-ofctl add-flow s1 actions=flood
 (Now add flow entry by using the "ovs-ofctl" utility. Add flow entry by specifying action as "flood")
 now rules are visible on using "ovs-ofctl" with option "dump-flows".
```

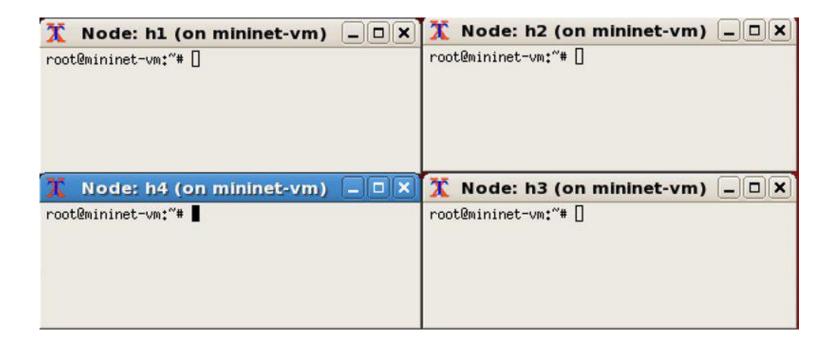
Step 3: Checking Connectivity

```
mininet> h1 ping -c2 h2
PING 10.0.0.2 (10.0.0.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 butes from 10.0.0.2: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.851 ms
64 butes from 10.0.0.2: icmp seg=2 ttl=64 time=0.071 ms
--- 10.0.0.2 ping statistics ---
2 packets transmitted, 2 received, 0% packet loss, time 1004ms
rtt min/aug/max/mdev = 0.071/0.461/0.851/0.390 ms
mininet>
mininet>
mininet> pingall
*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 -> h2 h3 h4
h2 -> h1 h3 h4
h3 -> h1 h2 h4
h4 \rightarrow h1 h2 h3
*** Results: 0% dropped (12/12 received)
mininet>
mininet>
```

As can be seen, now h1 is able to ping to h2 & h3 is able to ping h4. The option "-c2" specified with the ping commands tell it to send only 2 packets. You can also use pingall command to test the connectivity.

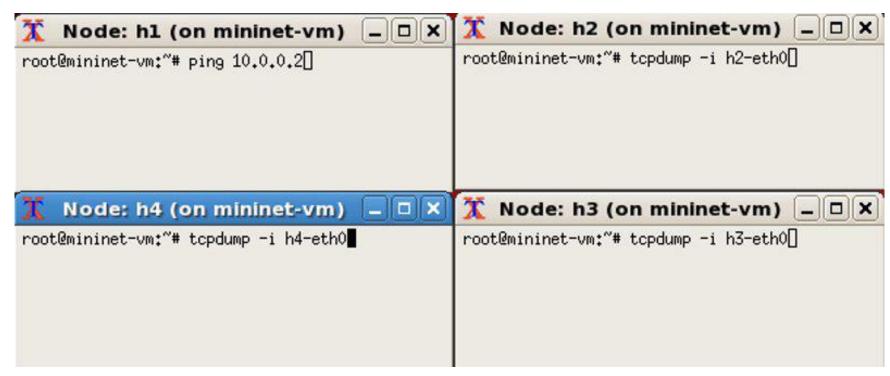
Step 4: Verify Hub Behavior

mininet> xterm h1 h2 h3 h4 mininet>



There is another way by which you can check the functionality. Spawn x terminals by running the command "xterm h1 h2 h3 h4" on mininet prompt. It will open x terminals as shown in screenshot.

Step 5: Verify Hub Behavior

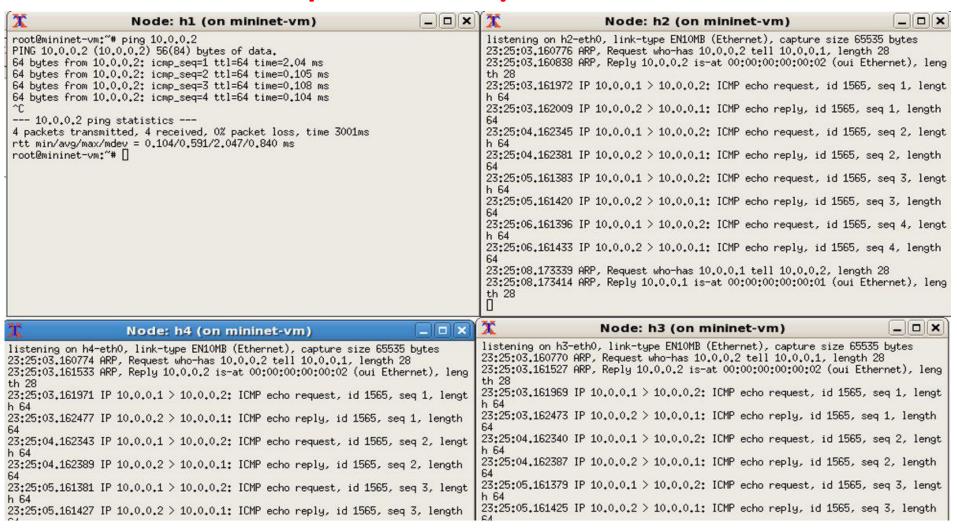


We will use "tcpdump" utility for capturing the traffic on hosts h2, h3 & h4. We will ping from host h1 to host h2 (10.0.0.2).

Type the following command on different hosts.

<u>host</u>	<u>command</u>
h2	tcpdump -i h2-eth0
h3	tcpdump -i h3-eth0
h4	tcpdump -i h4-eth0
h1	ping 10.0.0.2

Step 6: Verify Hub Behavior



ping from host h1 to host h2 (10.0.0.2). As can be seen, traffic is also received by h3 & h4 hosts although the packet was destined for h2 host.

Deleting Flow Entries

```
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl del-flows s1
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
root@mininet-vm:~#
```

```
mininet> pingall
*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 \rightarrow X X X
h2 \rightarrow X X X
h3 \rightarrow X X X
h4 \rightarrow X X X
*** Results: 100% dropped (0/12 received)
mininet> exit
*** Stopping 0 controllers
*** Stopping 4 links
*** Stopping 1 switches
*** Stopping 4 hosts
h1 h2 h3 h4
*** Done
completed in 7719.143 seconds
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# mn -c
```

```
# ovs-ofctl del-flows s1
(delete all flow entries in device s1)
# ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
(show all flow entries)
mininet> pingall
(testing ping reachability. Not pinging
because we deleted the rules.)
mininet> exit
(destroy topology)
```

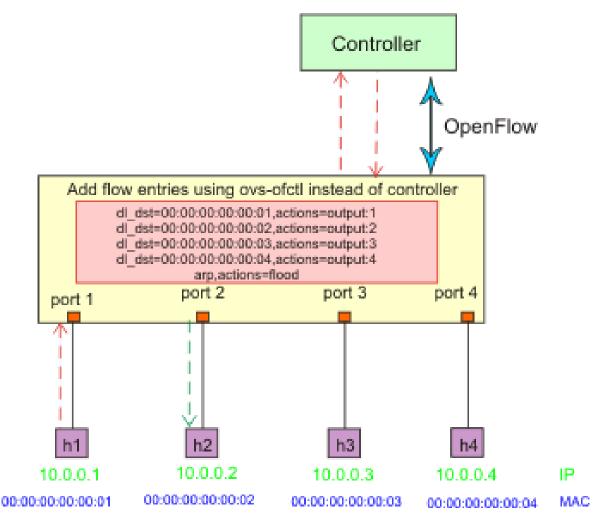
mn –c

(clean topology leftovers)

Switch Application using ovs-ofctl

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Adding Flow Entries for Switch



If flow table contains entry with action to forward the packet to specific port in same network, then forwarding device acts as switch. Figure shows that host h1 and h2 belongs to the same network. When host h1 wants to send a packet to host h2, then it first sends the packet to forwarding device at port 1. When a packet arrives at port 1, then it is matched against flow entry. When match is found, then it is forwarded to port 2 according to action specified in flow entry

Step 1: Create Topology

```
root@mininet-vm:~# mn --mac --topo single,4 --controller none
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
*** Adding hosts:
h1 h2 h3 h4
*** Adding switches:
*** Adding links:
(h1, s1) (h2, s1) (h3, s1) (h4, s1)
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2 h3 h4
*** Starting controller
*** Starting 1 switches
s1 ...
*** Starting CLI:
mininet>
mininet> pingall
*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 -> X X X
h2 -> X X X
h3 -> X X X
h4 -> X X X
*** Results: 100% dropped (0/12 received)
mininet>
```

Create mininet topology consisting of 1 switch & 4 hosts. We do not want to use any controller so we have specified the option "--controller none".

You can use the following command for creating required topology.

mn --mac --topo single,4 --controller none

on mininet prompt, run pingall. As can be seen, none of the hosts are able to ping each other.

Step 2: Add Flows

```
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl add-flow s1 dl_dst=00:00:00:00:00:00:01,actions=output:1
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl add-flow s1 dl_dst=00:00:00:00:00:00:02,actions=output:2
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl add-flow s1 dl_dst=00:00:00:00:00:03,actions=output:3
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~#
ovs-ofctl add-flow s1 dl_dst=00:00:00:00:00:04,actions=output:4
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~#
```

Before adding flow, check the flows # ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1 (it is not showing any rules)

(The first flow table entry specifies that if destination mac address is 00:00:00:00:00:01 then send the packet out through port 1. 2nd, 3rd, 4rth rules are of same variety. Fifth entry specifies that if the packet is of arp type then flood the packet. By adding the above 5 flow entries into device s1, we are simulating the behavior of the switch.)

now rules are visible on using "ovs-ofctl" with option "dump-flows".

```
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1

NXST_FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
cookie=0x0, duration=199.828s, table=0, n_packets=0, n_bytes=0, idle_age=199, dl_dst=00:00:00:00:00:00:00:02 actions=output:2
cookie=0x0, duration=189.007s, table=0, n_packets=0, n_bytes=0, idle_age=189, dl_dst=00:00:00:00:00:00:03 actions=output:3
cookie=0x0, duration=217.49s, table=0, n_packets=0, n_bytes=0, idle_age=217, dl_dst=00:00:00:00:00:00:01 actions=output:1
cookie=0x0, duration=178.401s, table=0, n_packets=0, n_bytes=0, idle_age=178, dl_dst=00:00:00:00:00:00:04 actions=output:4
cookie=0x0, duration=133.228s, table=0, n_packets=0, n_bytes=0, idle_age=133, arp actions=FLOOD
root@mininet-vm:~#
```

Step 3: Checking Connectivity

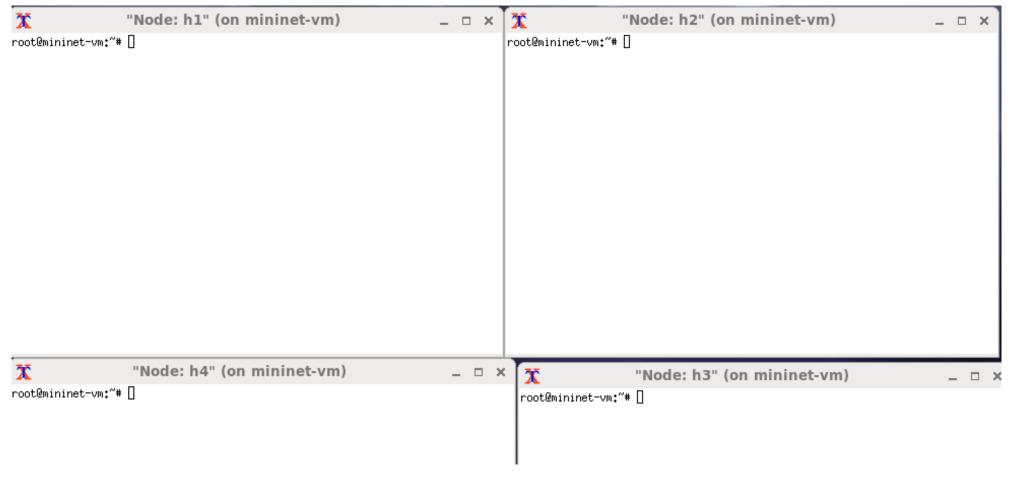
```
mininet> pingall

*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 -> h2 h3 h4
h2 -> h1 h3 h4
h3 -> h1 h2 h4
h4 -> h1 h2 h3

*** Results: 0% dropped (12/12 received)
mininet>
```

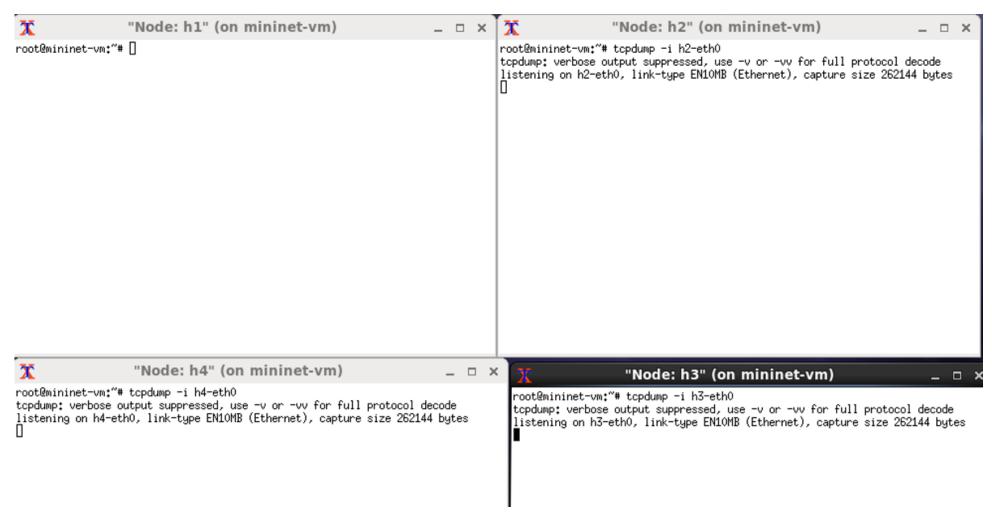
As can be seen, each host is able to ping to each other

Step 4: Verify Switch Behavior



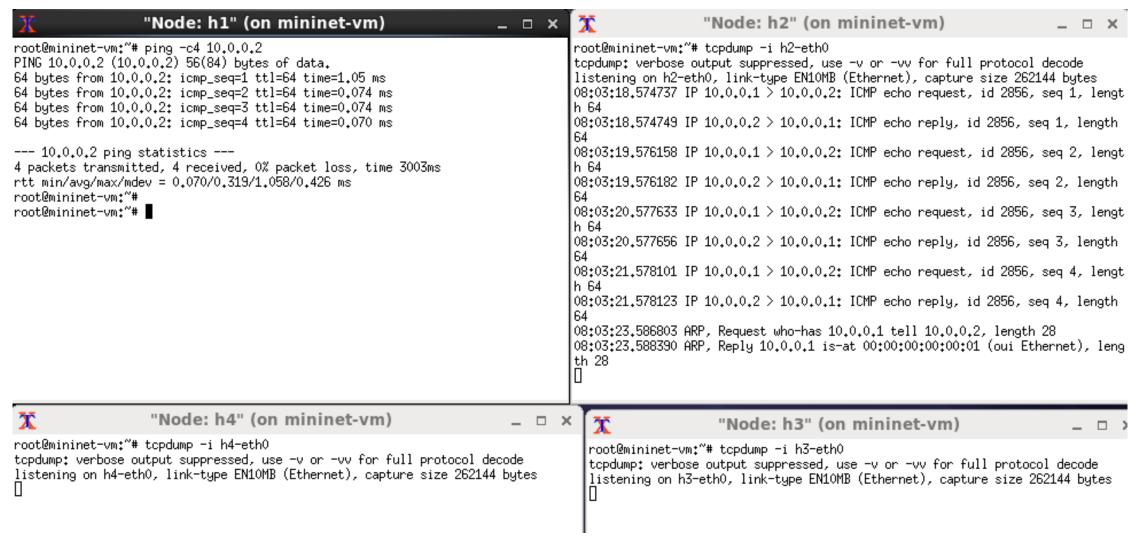
There is another way by which you can check the functionality. Spawn x terminals by running the command "xterm h1 h2 h3 h4" on mininet prompt. It will open x terminals as shown in screenshot.

Step 5: Verify Switch Behavior



We will use "tcpdump" utility for capturing the traffic on hosts h2, h3 & h4. We will ping from host h1 to host h2 (10.0.0.2).

Step 6: Verify Switch Behavior



ping from host h1 to host h2 (10.0.0.2). Also our device s1 is not flooding the traffic to hosts h3 & h4. Our device is sending the traffic to only specific ports.

Deleting Flow Entries

```
mininet> pingall
*** Ping: testing ping reachability
h1 -> X X X
h2 -> X X X
h3 -> X X X
h4 -> X X X
*** Results: 100% dropped (0/12 received)
mininet> exit
*** Stopping 0 controllers
*** Stopping 8 terms
*** Stopping 4 links
*** Stopping 1 switches
s1
*** Stopping 4 hosts
h1 h2 h3 h4
*** Done
completed in 2668.497 seconds
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# mn -c
```

```
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl del-flows s1
root@mininet-vm:~#
root@mininet-vm:~# ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
NXST FLOW reply (xid=0x4):
root@mininet-vm:~#
   # ovs-ofctl del-flows s1
   (delete all flow entries in device s1)
   # ovs-ofctl dump-flows s1
   (show all flow entries)
   mininet> pingall
   (testing ping reachability. Not pinging
   because we deleted the rules.)
   mininet> exit
   (destroy topology)
   # mn –c
   (clean topology leftovers)
```