

sFlow®

Data Network visibility and control



“You can’t control what you can’t measure”
Tom DeMarco



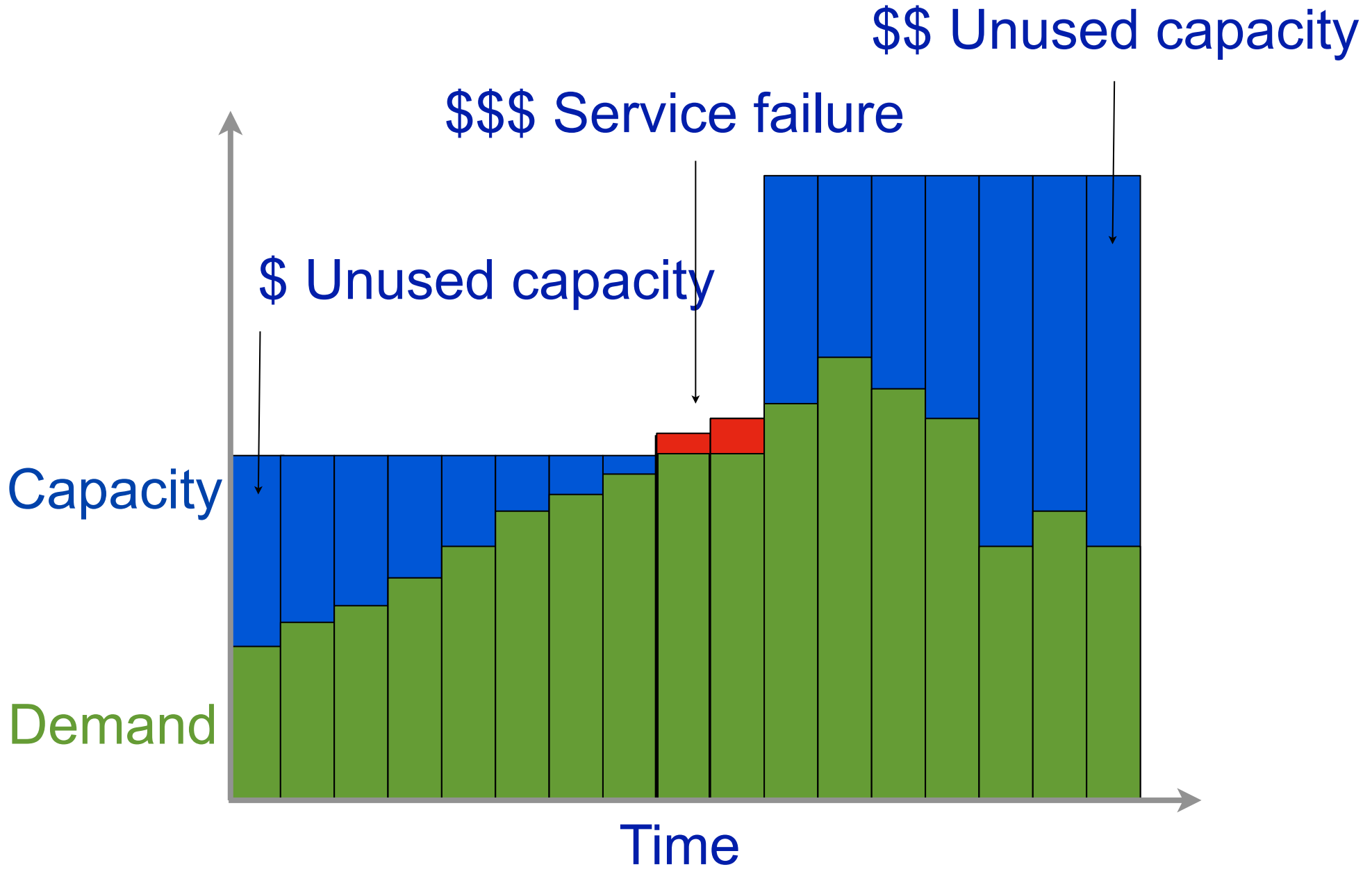
InMon Corp.

- Inventors of sFlow
- Leading supplier of software solutions that take advantage of embedded traffic monitoring
- Partner with switch and router vendors to deliver effective traffic management solutions
- Based in San Francisco, California
- Worldwide customer deployments
 - Enterprise, Education, Government, Media, ISP
 - Global presence through reseller network

Example customers



Not Monitoring is Expensive



Measurement Saves Money





<http://www.sflow.org>

Always on

Continuous monitoring of every port

Robust under all conditions

Complete visibility

All devices = L2-L7 flows end-end

Detailed real-time and historical data

Cost effective

Embedded in every port

Scalable

Measures traffic flows on all ports

Effective even at 100Gbs speeds

Does not impact network performance

inMon
sflow



BROCADE



H3C
IToIP Solutions Expert



BLADE
NETWORK TECHNOLOGIES


3COM

ARISTA

FORCE10

HITACHI
Inspire the Next



NEC Empowered by Innovation

Alaxala



Alcatel-Lucent

D-Link
Building Networks for People

 **Allied Telesis**

 **enterasys**
Secure Networks™

FORTINET

 **VYATTA**
Open Networking

CITRIX | XenServer™

 **Xen** Cloud Platform

Standard-export: many collectors...

More than 30
commercial sFlow
collector implementations

<http://sflow.org/products/collectors.php>

[Home](#) • [About sFlow](#) • [Using sFlow](#) • [Products](#) • [Developer Information](#)

[Products](#)
[Network Equipment](#)
[sFlow Collectors](#)

[Home](#) > [Products](#) > [sFlow Collectors](#)

The following products support sFlow and can collect data from [sFlow capable devices](#). sFlow specifies the data export format. sFlow Collector vendors may choose to process and display a subset of the available data. The vendors can provide more detail on their handling of sFlow data.

Arbor Networks

- [Peakflow X](#)
- [Peakflow SP](#)

Brocade

- [IronView](#)

Dartware, Inc.

- [InterMapper Flows](#)

eIQnetworks, Inc.

- [SecureVue](#)

Fluke Networks

- [NetFlow Tracker](#)

Ganglia

- [Ganglia](#)

Genie Network Resource Management Inc.

- [GenieNTG 2100](#)

Hewlett-Packard

- [HP Intelligent Management Center \(IMC\) Network Traffic Analyzer \(NTA\)](#)
- [HP Internet Usage Manager](#)
- [HP iSPI Performance for Traffic](#)
- [HP Performance Insight](#)
- [HP ProCurve Manager Plus](#)

Infosim Networking Solutions AG

- [StableNet PME](#)

InMon Corp.

- [InMon Traffic Sentinel](#)
- [sFlowTrend](#)
- [sFlowTrend-Pro](#)
- [sflowtool](#)

Ipswitch, Inc.

- [WhatsUpGold: Flow Monitor](#)

Klir Technologies

- [Klir Flow](#)

Lancop

- [StealthWatch Xe](#)

MRV

- [MegaVision Pro](#)

NetScout

- [nGenius Performance Manager](#)
- [nGenius Probes](#)

NetUP

- [NetUP UTM](#)

Network Instruments

- [Observer@](#)

NitroSecurity

- [NitroView](#)

ntop.org

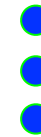
- [nProbe](#)
- [ntop](#)

PacketTrap

- [Perspective](#)

Paessler AG

- [PRTG Network Monitor](#)



sFlow replaces counter polling

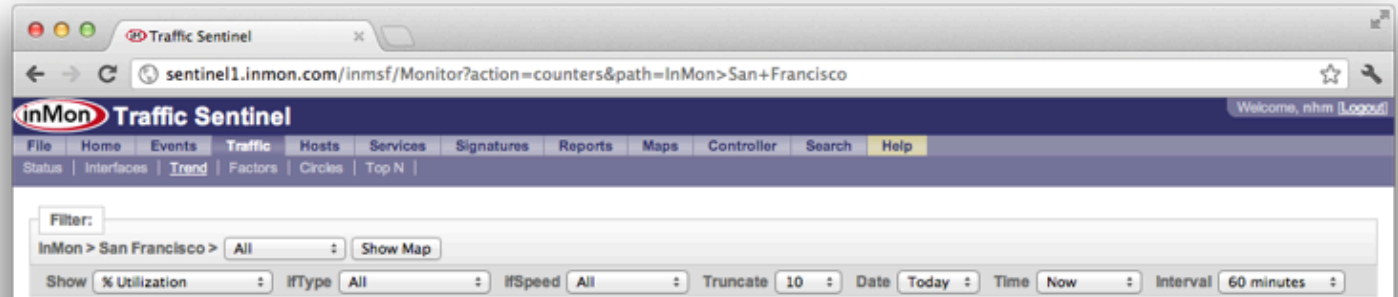
- sFlow agent automatically pushes full set of SNMP ifTable counters¹
- Compared to SNMP polling, counter push results in 10-20x fewer packets on network, reduces CPU load on switch and on network management software (XDR is easier to encode/decode than SNMP)
- Single sFlow collector can easily monitor 200,000 switch ports with 1 minute granularity. SNMP polling with 5 minute granularity requires 5-10 collectors.

1. ifIndex, ifType, ifSpeed, ifDirection, ifAdminStatus, ifOperStatus, ifInOctets, ifInUcastPkts, ifInMulticastPkts, ifInBroadcastPkts, ifInDiscards, ifInErrors, ifInUnknownProtos, ifOutOctets, ifOutUcastPkts, ifOutMulticastPkts, ifOutBroadcastPkts, ifOutDiscards, ifOutErrors, ifPromiscuousMode



Traffic Sentinel: Interface counters

- 200,000+ ports
- 1-minute granularity
- Thresholds/alerts
- Compare all interfaces



inMon Traffic Sentinel

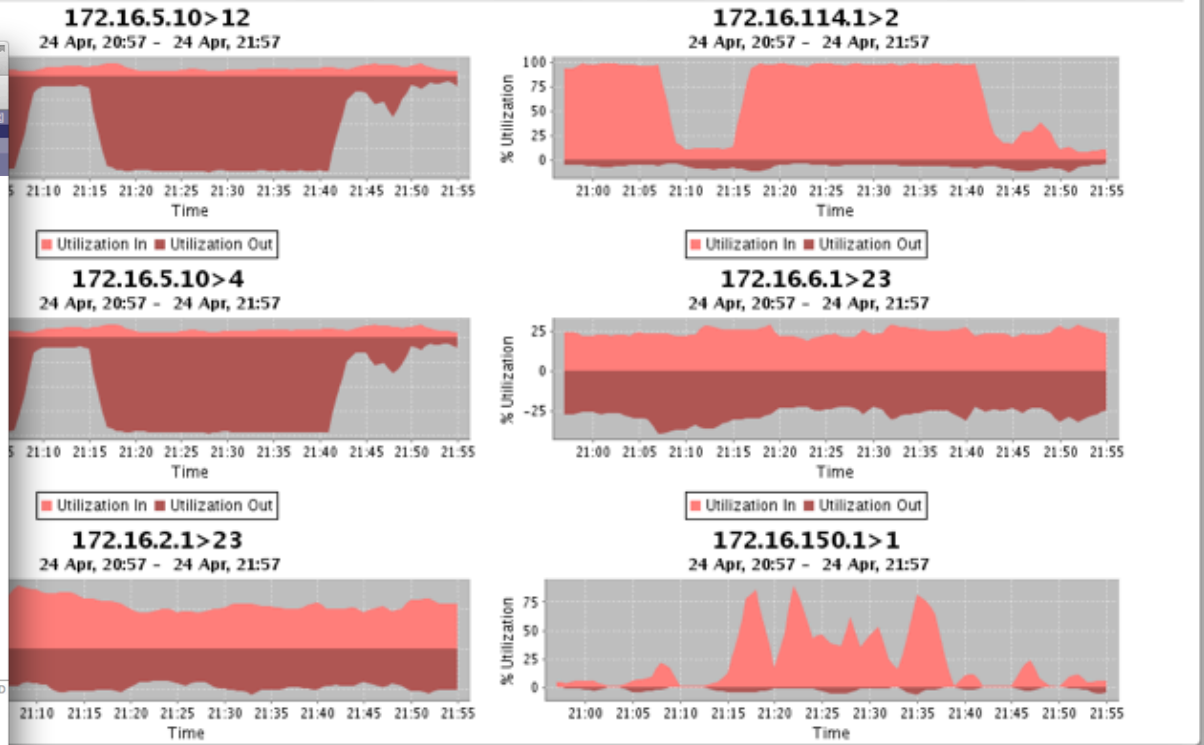
Filter: InMon > San Francisco > All Show Map

Show Counters Sort Utilization Truncate 20 Factors

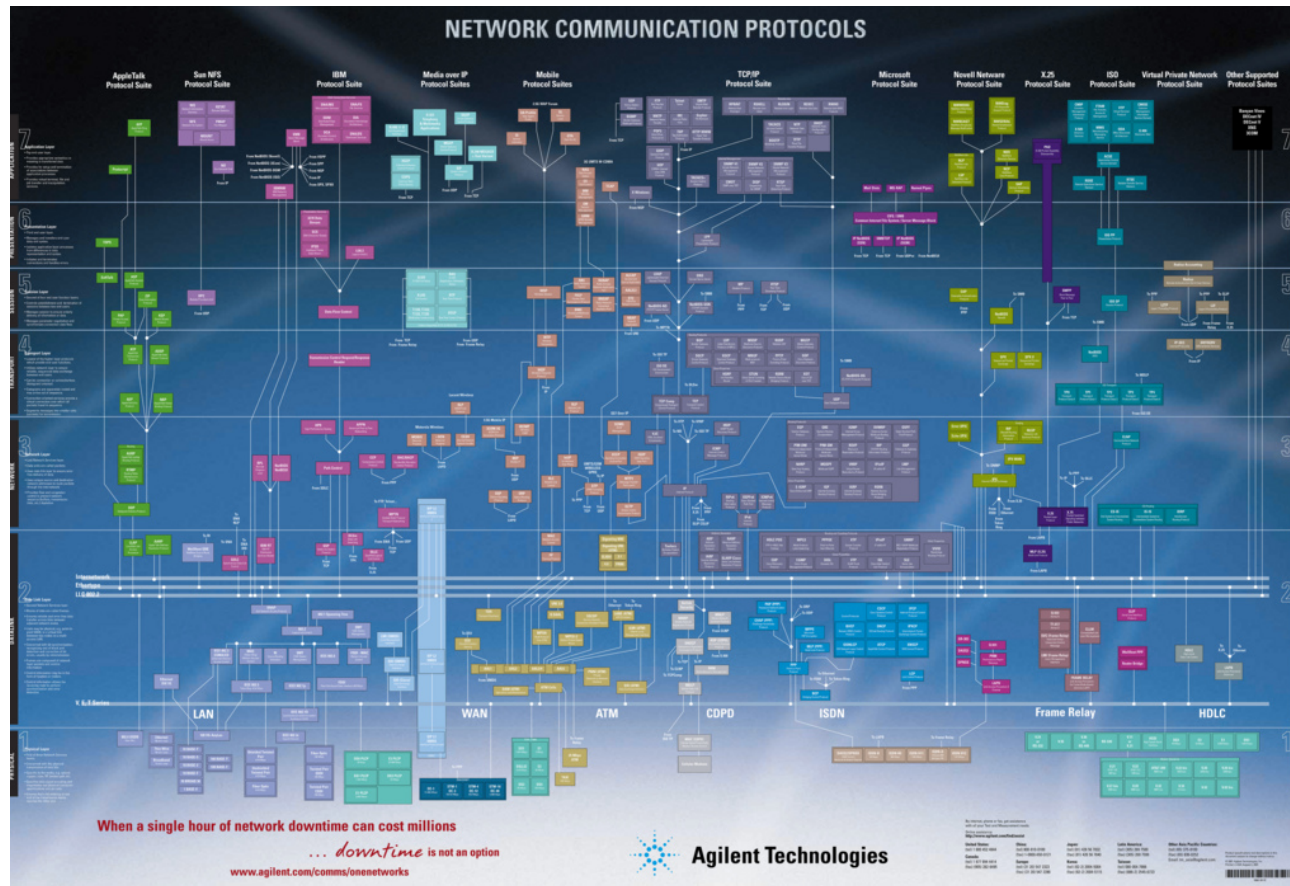
Counters						Interface		
Frames/sec	% Utilization	Broadcasts/sec	Multicasts/sec	Errors/sec	Discards/sec	Agent	Interface	IfSpeed
45.54 K	26.15	231.5	82.07	0	0	172.16.2.1	23	1Gb/sec
45.09 K	25.21	236.3	86.37	0	12.9	172.16.6.1	23	1Gb/sec
18.74 K	15.88	79.73	36.73	0	0	172.16.6.1	25	1Gb/sec
15.35 K	15.44	733.3 m	5.9	0	0	172.16.99.248	23	1Gb/sec
18.3 K	15.35	80.13	36.9	0	0	172.16.99.248	1	1Gb/sec
15.03 K	14.94	700 m	3.217	0	0	172.16.98.12	1	1Gb/sec
13.25 K	13.28	133.3 m	3.25	0	0	172.16.98.12	4	1Gb/sec
1.335 K	11.53	533.3 m	516.7 m	0	0	172.16.99.223	74	100Mb/sec
30.78 K	9.957	52.15	41.5	0	0	172.16.2.1	301	2Gb/sec
29.9 K	9.59	48.95	40.67	0	0	172.16.98.12	290	2Gb/sec
52.37	9.311	0	0	0	0	172.16.5.10	12	1.54Mb/sec
0	9.199	0	0	0	0	172.16.5.10	4	1.54Mb/sec
51.83	8.155	0	0	0	0	172.16.114.1	2	1.54Mb/sec
57.48	7.84	0	0	0	0	172.16.5.10	16	1.54Mb/sec
0	7.8	0	0	0	0	172.16.5.10	8	1.54Mb/sec
76.3	7.595	883.3 m	2.017	0	0	172.16.147.2	48	10Mb/sec
55.73	7.193	0	0	0	0	172.16.150.1	1	1.54Mb/sec
97.18	5.589	0	47.8	0	0	172.16.99.243	32021	11Mb/sec
103.3	5.509	0	47.8	0	0	172.16.99.243	32011	11Mb/sec
104	5.301	0	47.8	0	0	172.16.99.243	32014	11Mb/sec

24 Apr, 21:34 - 24 Apr, 21:39

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sFlow monitors all protocols

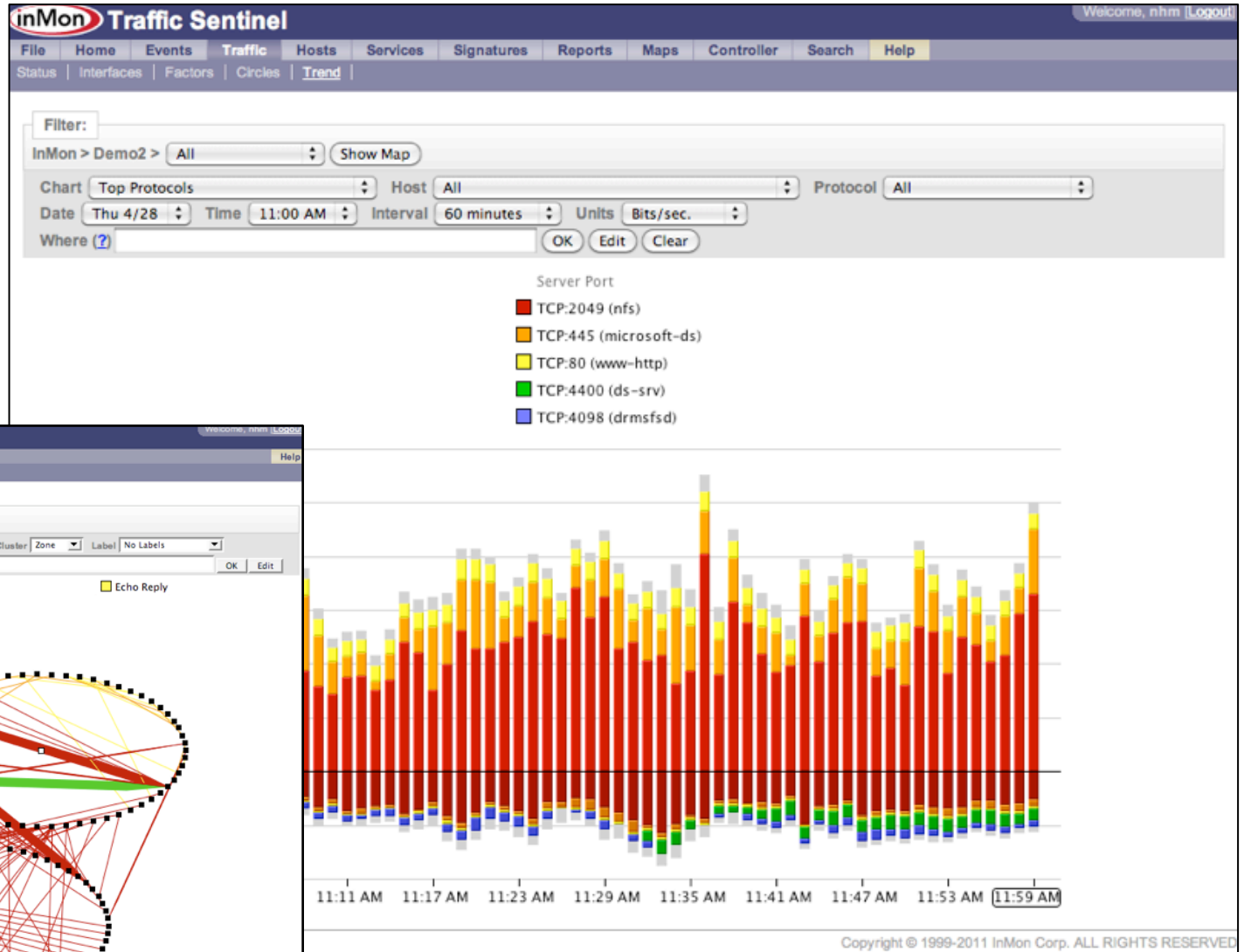


- Simple agents: packet headers sent to sFlow collector for decoding.
- Easier to add decodes to central collector than to every device in a multi-vendor network (e.g. IPv6, FCoE etc.)
- Captures complex layering (e.g. MAC/VLAN/MPLS/IPv4/IPv6): critical for tracing packet paths through network.

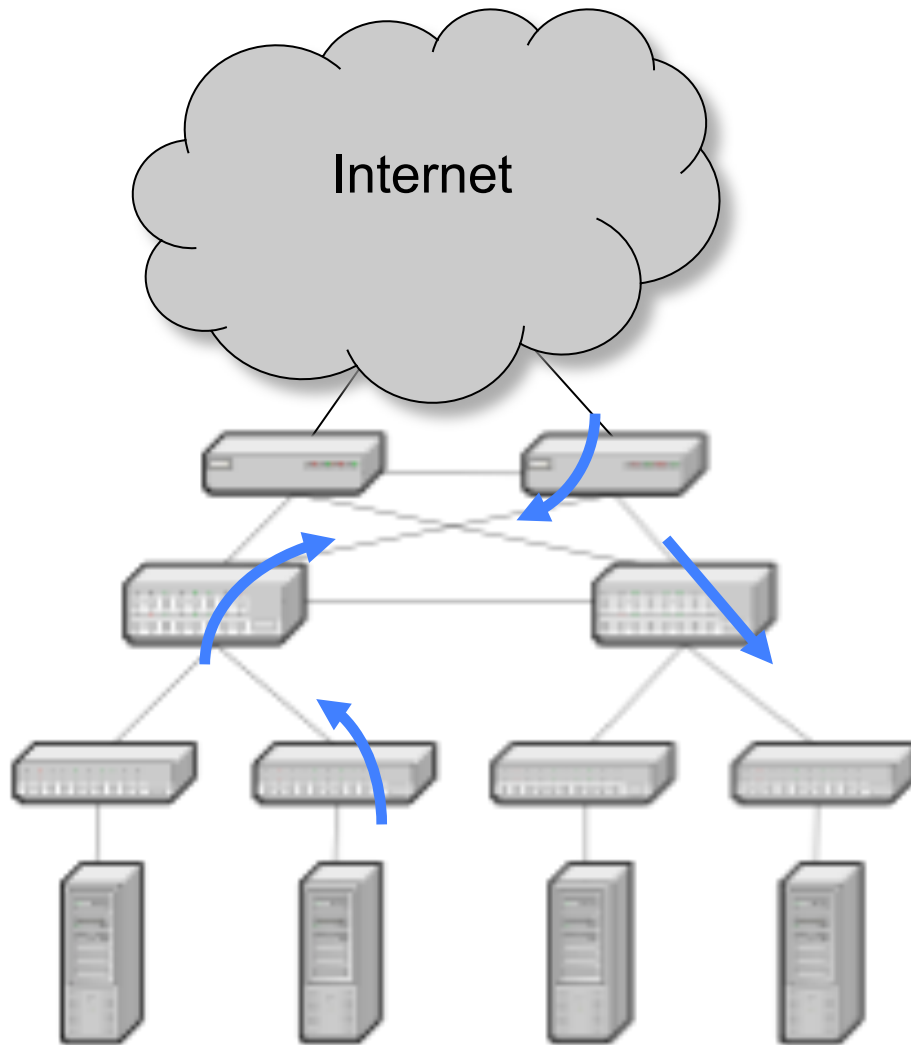


Traffic Sentinel: Traffic Breakdown

- MAC, VLAN, IP, IPv6, TCP, UDP, MPLS, TRILL, RTP etc. (over 100 fields)
- 1-minute granularity
- Thresholds/alerts
- Automatic de-duplication
- Subnet rollups



sFlow captures packet path



- Each packet sample captures the forwarding path for the packet
- Threading together the paths provides a constantly updating picture of network topology and host locations
- The combination of forwarding table data and packet headers provides an integrated view of traffic. E.g. you can filter on forwarding attributes (VLAN, MPLS, route) and see traffic, or filter on traffic and identify forwarding paths.

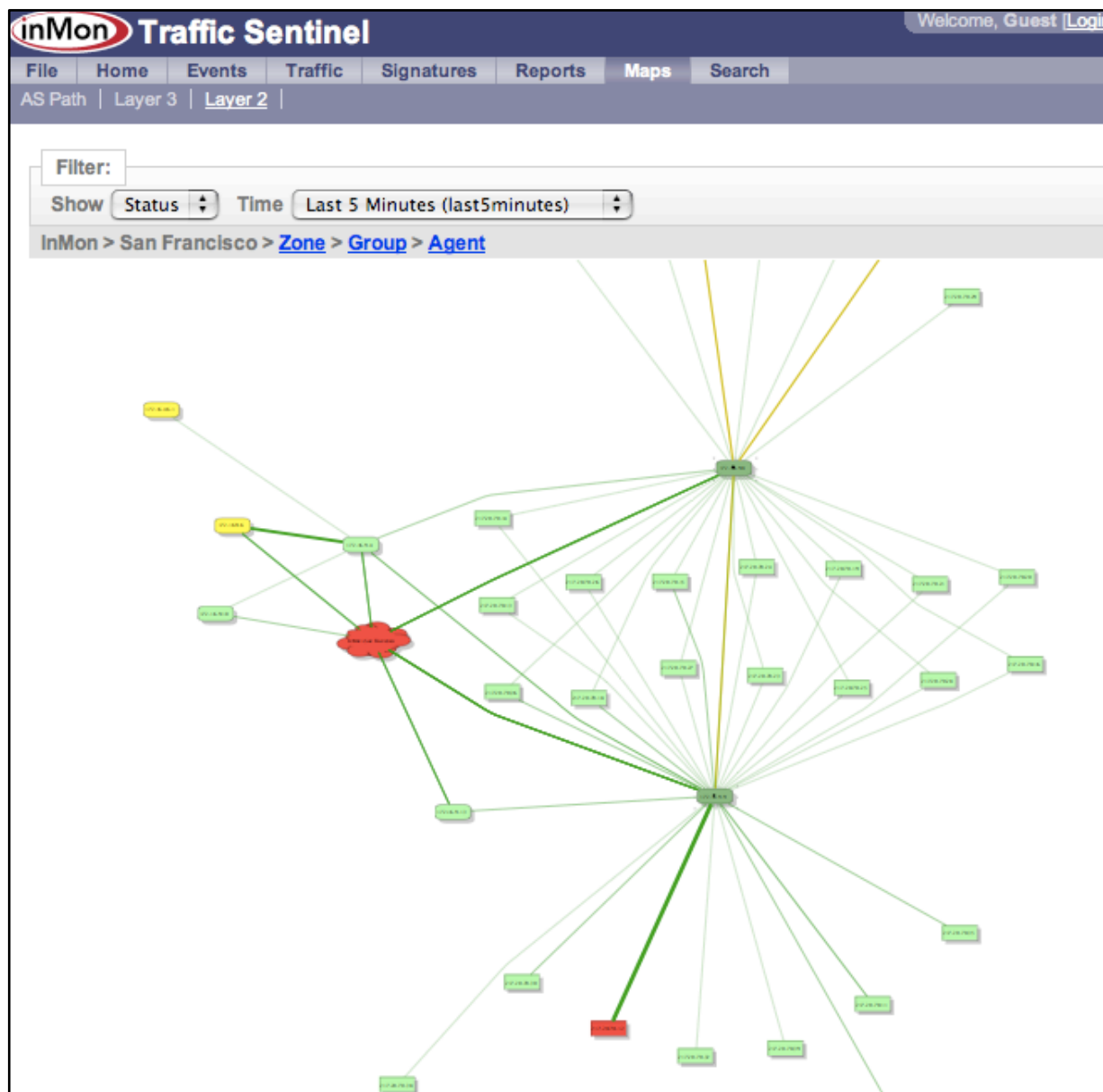


Traffic Sentinel: Multivendor topology discovery

Uses:

- sFlow
- CDP
- FDP
- LLDP
- Spanning-tree
- Bridge-tables
- and more...

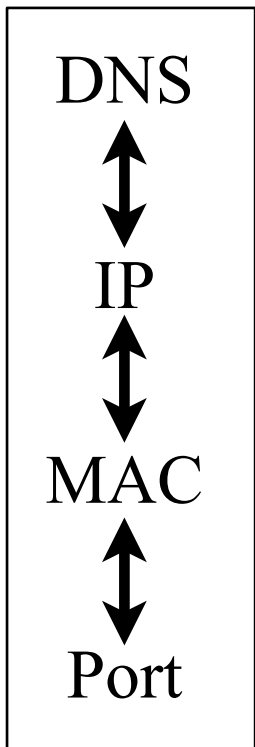
- Auto-layout
- Mouse-wheel zoom
- Show Status, Traffic (refreshed every minute)





Traffic Sentinel: End-host location

Uses:
sFlow
SNMP



inMon Traffic Sentinel

File Home Events Traffic Signatures Reports Maps Search

Status Interfaces Circles Trend

Filter:

InMon > San Francisco > Embarcadero > Mission > 12-70.demo.inmon.com Show Map Agent Details

Show Hosts Interfaces Connected Only

Status
Frames
Utilization
Broadcasts
Multicasts
Errors
Discards

Site	Interface	IfSpeed	Hosts
Summary	ethernet1/1	1Gb/sec	000480F546C2
	ethernet2/1	1Gb/sec	172.16.239.85
	ethernet2/2	1Gb/sec	95-118.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/3	1Gb/sec	203-239.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/5	1Gb/sec	31-238.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/6	1Gb/sec	63-239.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/7	1Gb/sec	48-44.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/8	1Gb/sec	222-122.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/11	1Gb/sec	160-118.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/12	1Gb/sec	160-118.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/13	1Gb/sec	4-239.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/14	1Gb/sec	76-239.demo.inmon.com
	ethernet2/15	1Gb/sec	41-238.demo.inmon.com

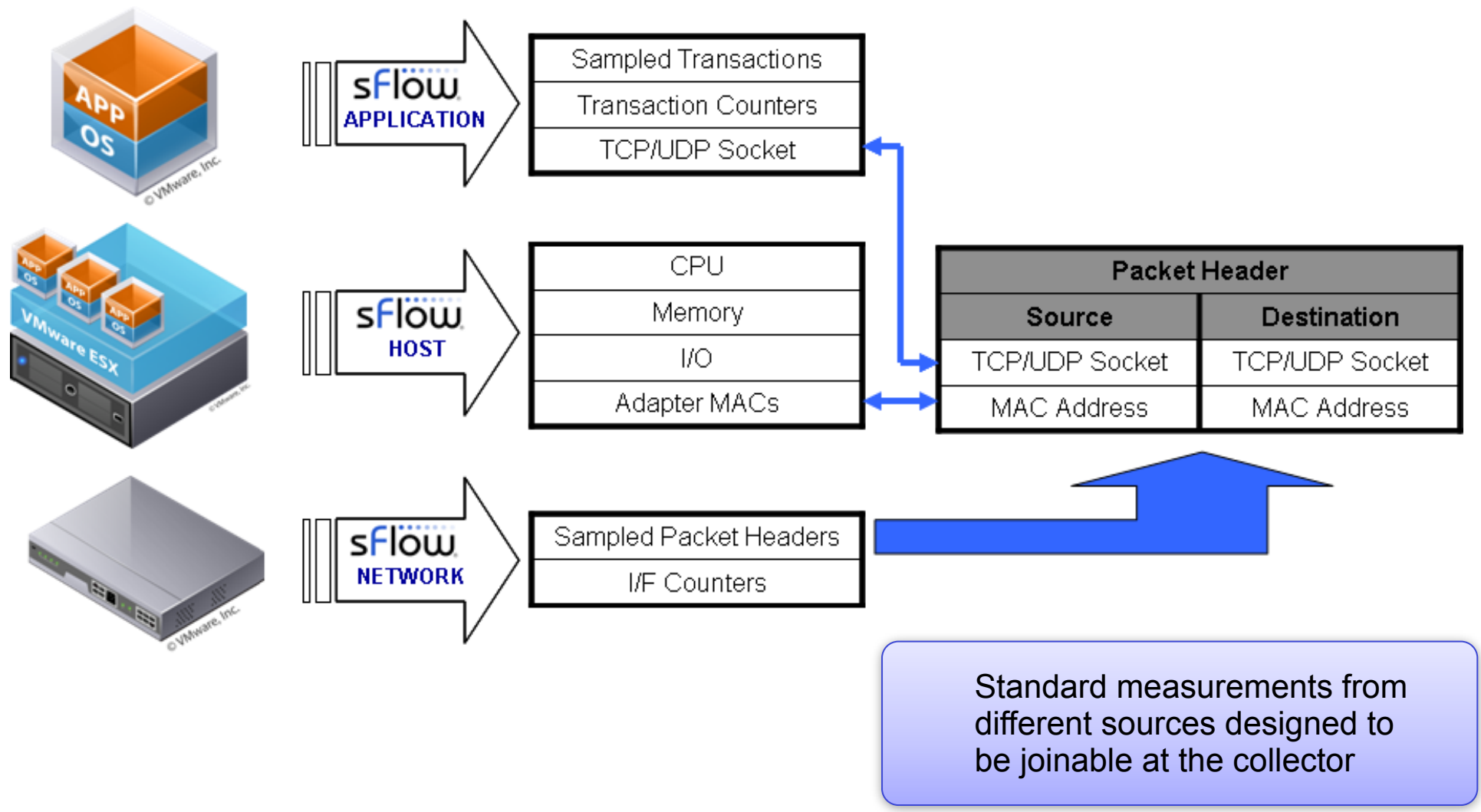
With sFlow, host locations can be updated within 60 seconds

Simple Agents

- Configuring sFlow on all ports of a Brocade switch:

```
config> int e 1/1 to 1/48
interface> sflow forwarding
config> sflow destination 192.168.4.5
config> sflow sample 512
config> sflow polling-interval 30
config> sflow enable
```

Cross-layer correlation: Application, Host and Network



e.g. application response time increase correlated directly to congestion on network path

Simple Agents - sFlow-HOST

(<http://host-sflow.sf.net>)

- Portable, open-source (Windows, Linux, Solaris, BSD, Xen, KVM ...)
- Ultra-light (100kB, 0.0% cpu)
- Zero licensing costs (but support available)
- Zero-config option (DNS-SD)
- Secure (push-only - does not listen for instructions)
- Scalable (still with 1-minute granularity)
- Standard (no vendor lock-in)



Developed in collaboration with Data-center and Supercomputing experts.

Simple Agents - sFlow-APPLICATION

(<http://host-sflow.sf.net/relatedlinks.php>)

- Application-layer sFlow agents for:

- Java



- Apache



- NGINX



- Memcached



- node.js



- Tomcat



- Hadoop



- PCoIP



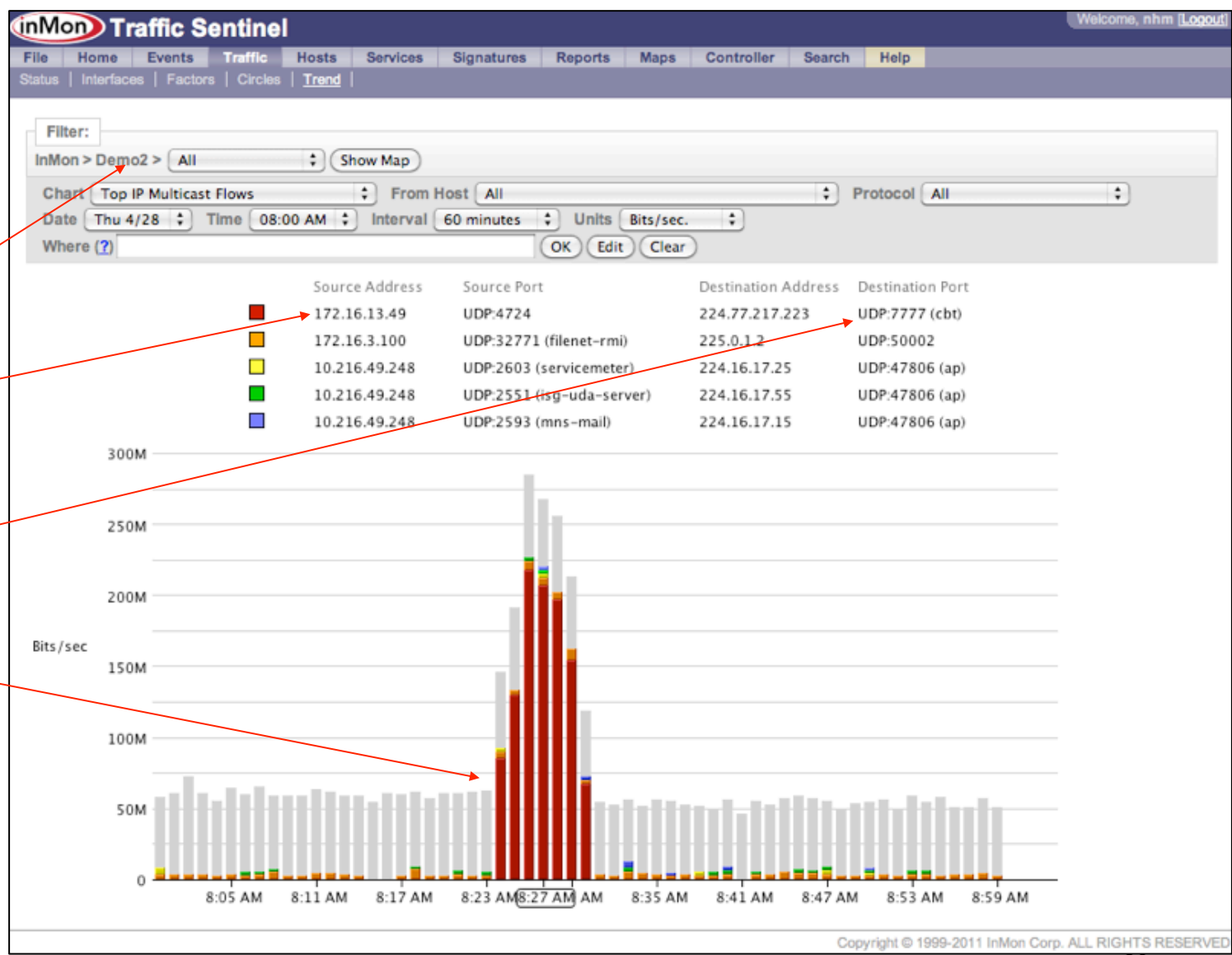
- Generic API for other apps (e.g. SDSC “Rocks”)

Developed in collaboration with Data-center and Supercomputing

Why Monitor Everything?

1. Troubleshooting - always have context

where
who
what
when



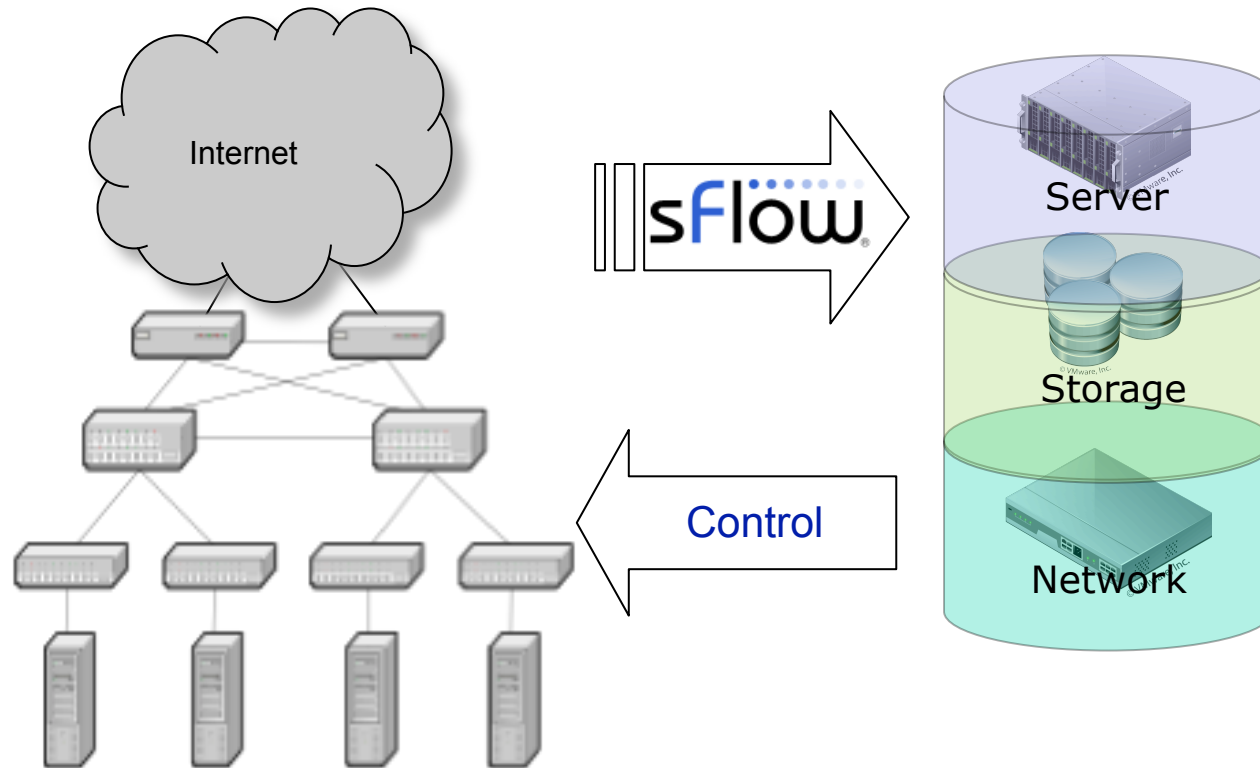
Why Monitor Everything?

1. Troubleshooting - always have context

The screenshot shows the inMon Traffic Sentinel web interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with options: File, Home, Events, Traffic, Signatures, Reports, Maps, Search, and Help. Below the menu, the current view is identified as 'AS Path | Layer 3 | Layer 2'. A filter section includes a 'Filter:' label, a 'Show' dropdown set to 'Flows', and a 'Time' dropdown set to 'Last 5 Minutes (last5minutes)'. The breadcrumb navigation shows 'InMon > San Francisco > Zone > Group > Agent'. Search filters include 'Host' (All), 'Protocol' (All), and 'AS Path' (All). A search box contains the query 'Where (ipsource=172.16.238.126 & ipdestination=172.16.89.98)' with 'OK' and 'Edit' buttons. The main area displays a network diagram with nodes and connections. A path is highlighted in yellow, starting from a central node and moving towards the bottom right. Two red arrows point to this path with the labels 'trace path' and 'locate hosts'. A legend at the bottom right identifies symbols: a circle for 'Zone', an oval for 'Group', a square for 'Switch', and a rectangle for 'Router'. Copyright information at the bottom reads 'Copyright © 1999-2007 InMon Corp. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED'.

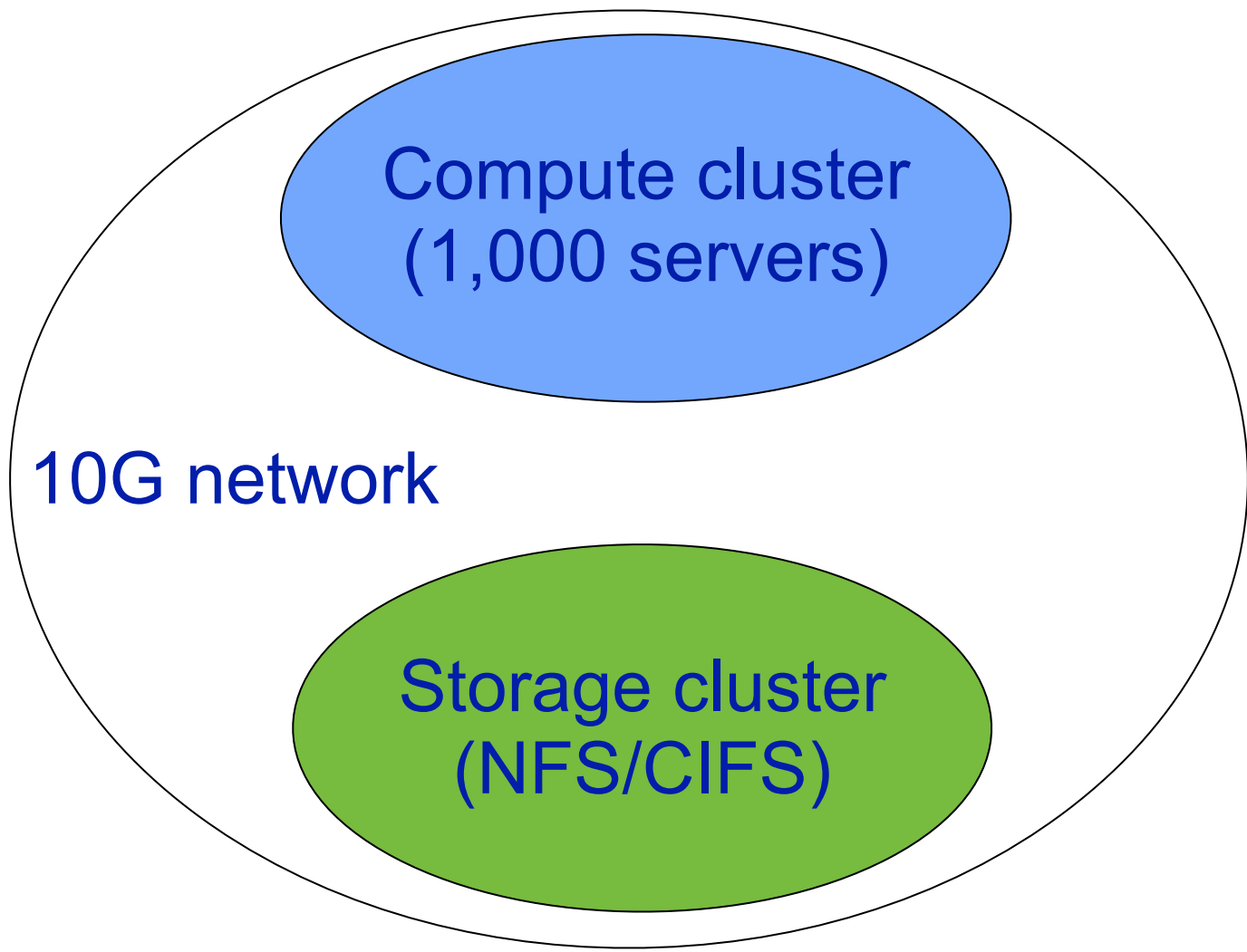
Why Monitor Everything?

2. Put Network and Server teams on same page



3. Full “Observability” required for automated control

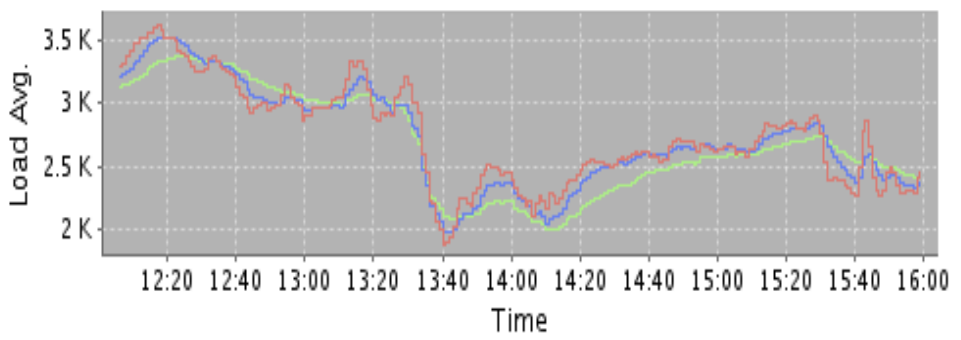
Example



Cluster performance

Load Avg.

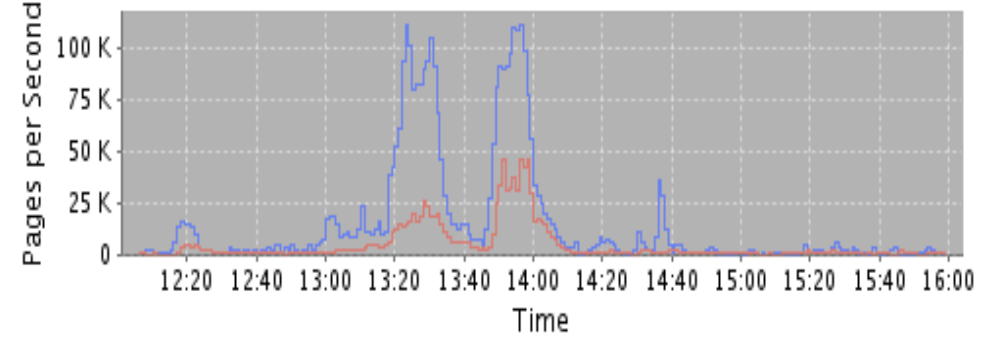
17 Apr, 12:06 - 17 Apr, 16:06, interval=1 min.



— Load Avg. (1 min.) — Load Avg. (5 min.) — Load Avg. (15 min.)

Swapping

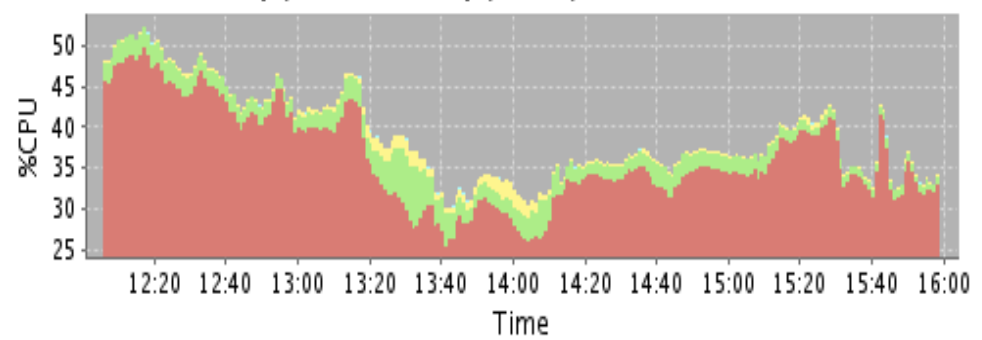
17 Apr, 12:06 - 17 Apr, 16:06, interval=1 min.



— Swap In — Swap Out

Utilization

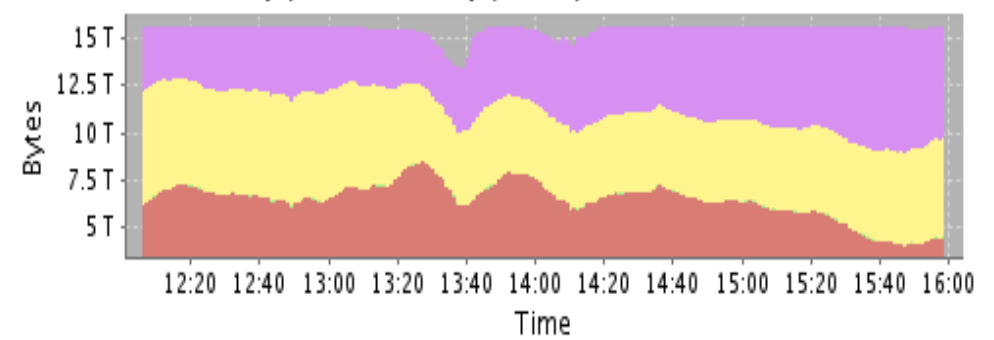
17 Apr, 12:06 - 17 Apr, 16:06, interval=1 min.



■ %User ■ %Nice ■ %System ■ %I/O Wait ■ %IRQ ■ %Soft IRQ

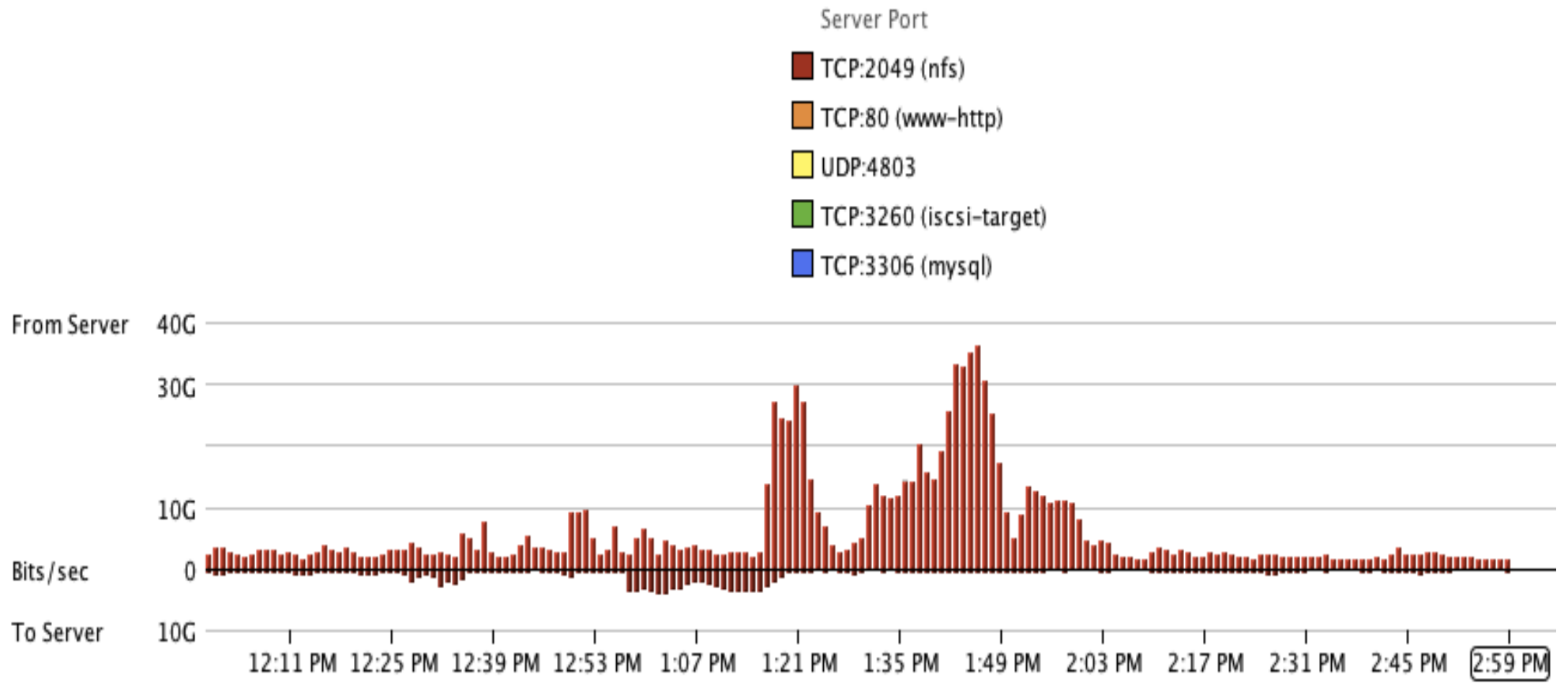
Memory

17 Apr, 12:06 - 17 Apr, 16:06, interval=1 min.



■ Mem. Used ■ Mem. Shared ■ Mem. Buffered ■ Mem. Cached ■ Mem. Free

Cluster traffic



Top servers

Show Overview 2 Sort Load Avg 1 Truncate 20 Edit Columns

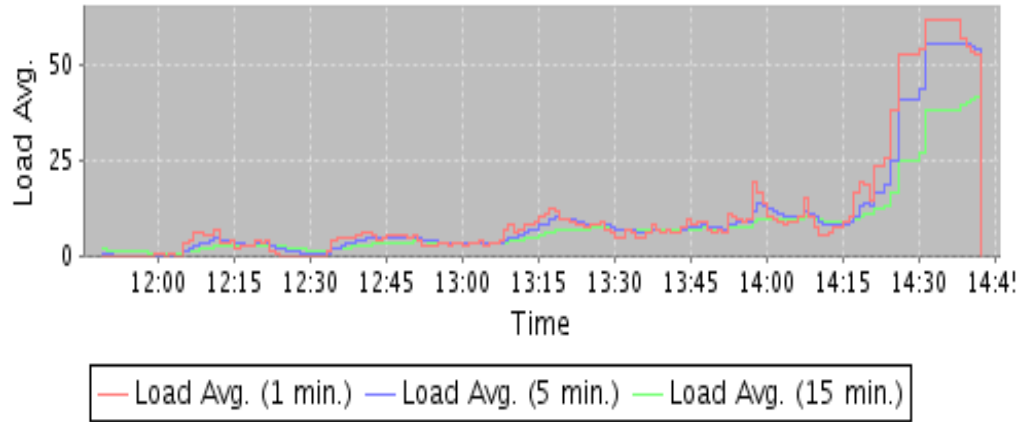
Counters									Host		
Load Avg 1	%CPU	%Mem.	Swapin/s	Swapout/s	Reads/s	Writes/s	Rx Bytes/s	Tx Bytes/s	Agent	Host Type	Host Name
23.40	100.00	99.44	4.28	0.70	0.78	0.61	25.19	1,274.52	10.219.36.200	Physical	10.219.36.200
7.98	99.53	58.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	218.30	1,040,385.54	10.219.37.157	Physical	10.219.37.157
7.67	92.86	56.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	171.86	778,607.24	10.219.37.211	Physical	10.219.37.211
7.52	92.66	55.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	177.31	817,871.07	10.219.36.72	Physical	10.219.36.72
7.49	94.85	56.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	170.95	809,419.80	10.219.36.209	Physical	10.219.36.209
7.48	91.73	55.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	223.14	1,041,724.67	10.219.36.17	Physical	10.219.36.17
7.43	92.02	56.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	216.85	1,025,722.11	10.219.36.149	Physical	10.219.36.149
7.26	86.14	58.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	224.49	1,034,503.78	10.219.36.208	Physical	10.219.36.208
7.18	88.49	58.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	185.79	824,794.10	10.219.36.208	Physical	10.219.36.208
7.17	84.36	56.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	223.17	1,032,919.56	10.219.36.31	Physical	10.219.36.31
7.15	86.45	62.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	226.24	1,033,835.55	10.219.36.139	Physical	10.219.36.139
7.10	83.75	60.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	177.83	833,379.90	10.219.36.138	Physical	10.219.36.138
7.06	85.66	56.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	168.55	783,295.85	10.219.36.108	Physical	10.219.36.108
7.00	84.72	55.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.33	1,042,690.01	10.219.36.208	Physical	10.219.36.208
7.00	85.90	56.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	181.16	835,603.10	10.219.36.88	Physical	10.219.36.88
7.00	86.48	60.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	222.11	1,046,296.23	10.219.36.43	Physical	10.219.36.43
6.96	87.34	56.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	826,231.39	10.219.40.112	Physical	10.219.40.112
6.95	82.67	55.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	215.73	1,020,508.88	10.219.40.36	Physical	10.219.40.36
6.70	81.33	56.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	173.36	806,747.68	10.219.36.79	Physical	10.219.36.79
6.67	82.72	55.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	219.71	1,045,871.64	10.219.37.200	Physical	10.219.37.200

20 Mar, 09:22 - 20 Mar, 09:27

Individual server

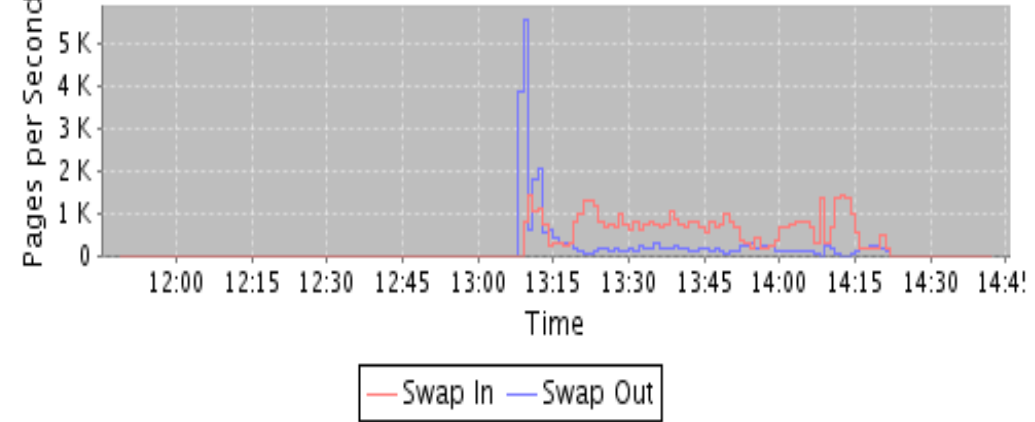
Load Avg.

8 Apr, 11:49 - 8 Apr, 14:49, interval=1 min.



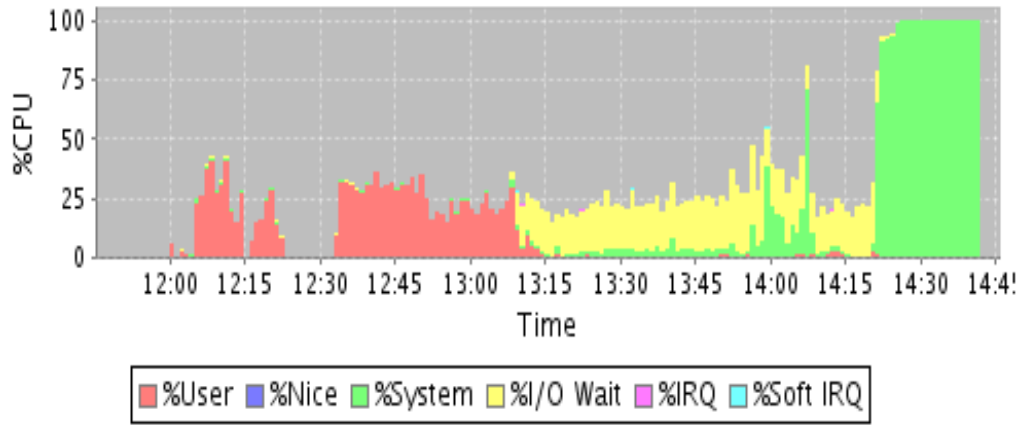
Swapping

8 Apr, 11:49 - 8 Apr, 14:49, interval=1 min.



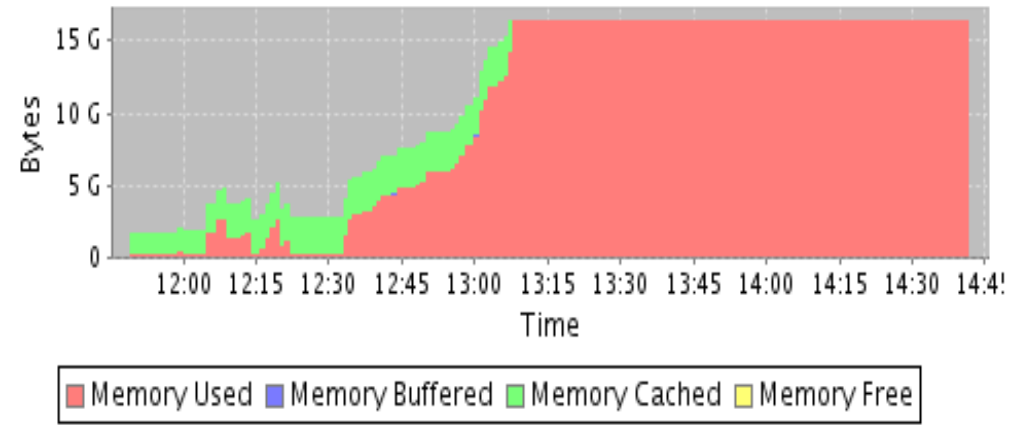
Utilization

8 Apr, 11:49 - 8 Apr, 14:49, interval=1 min.

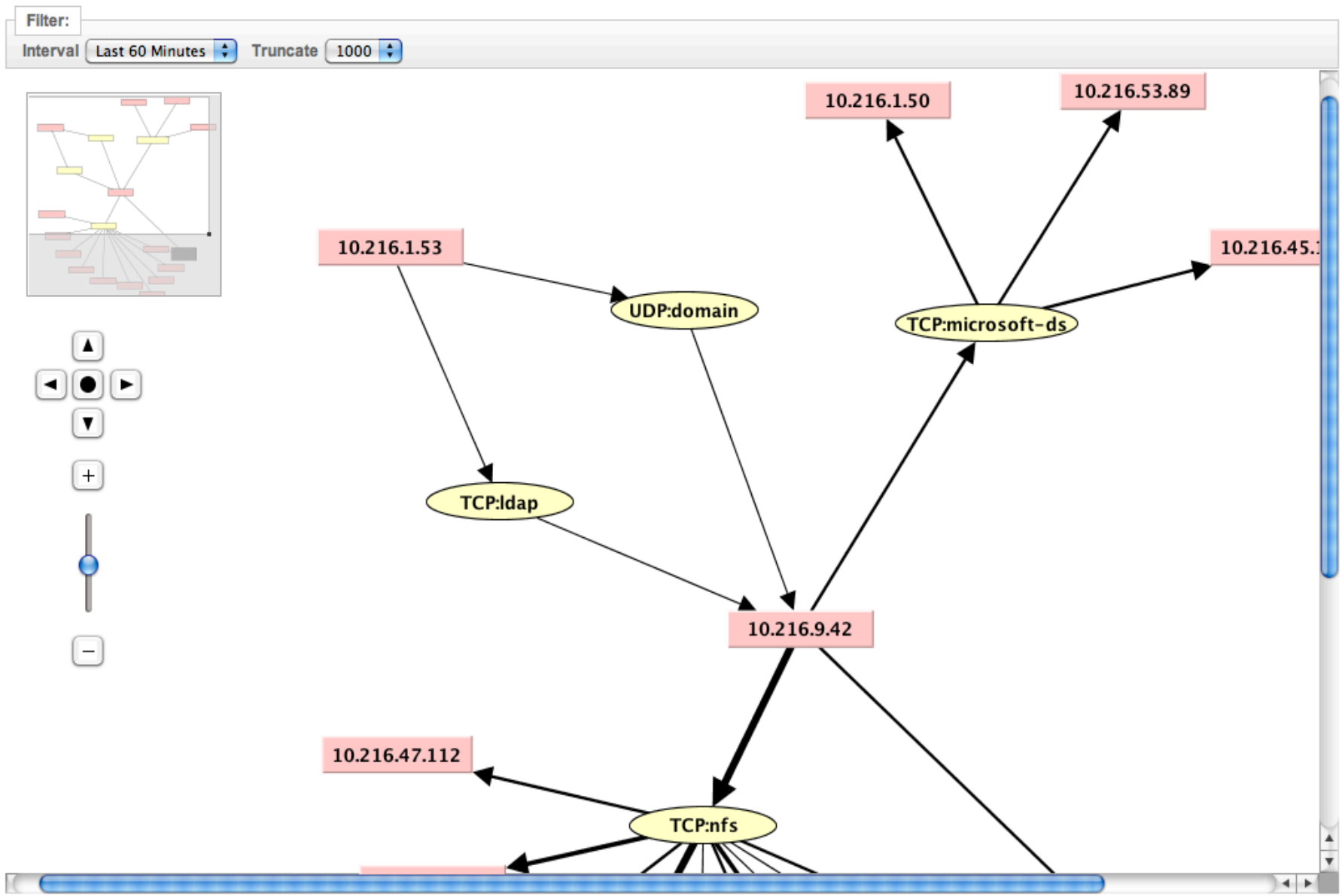


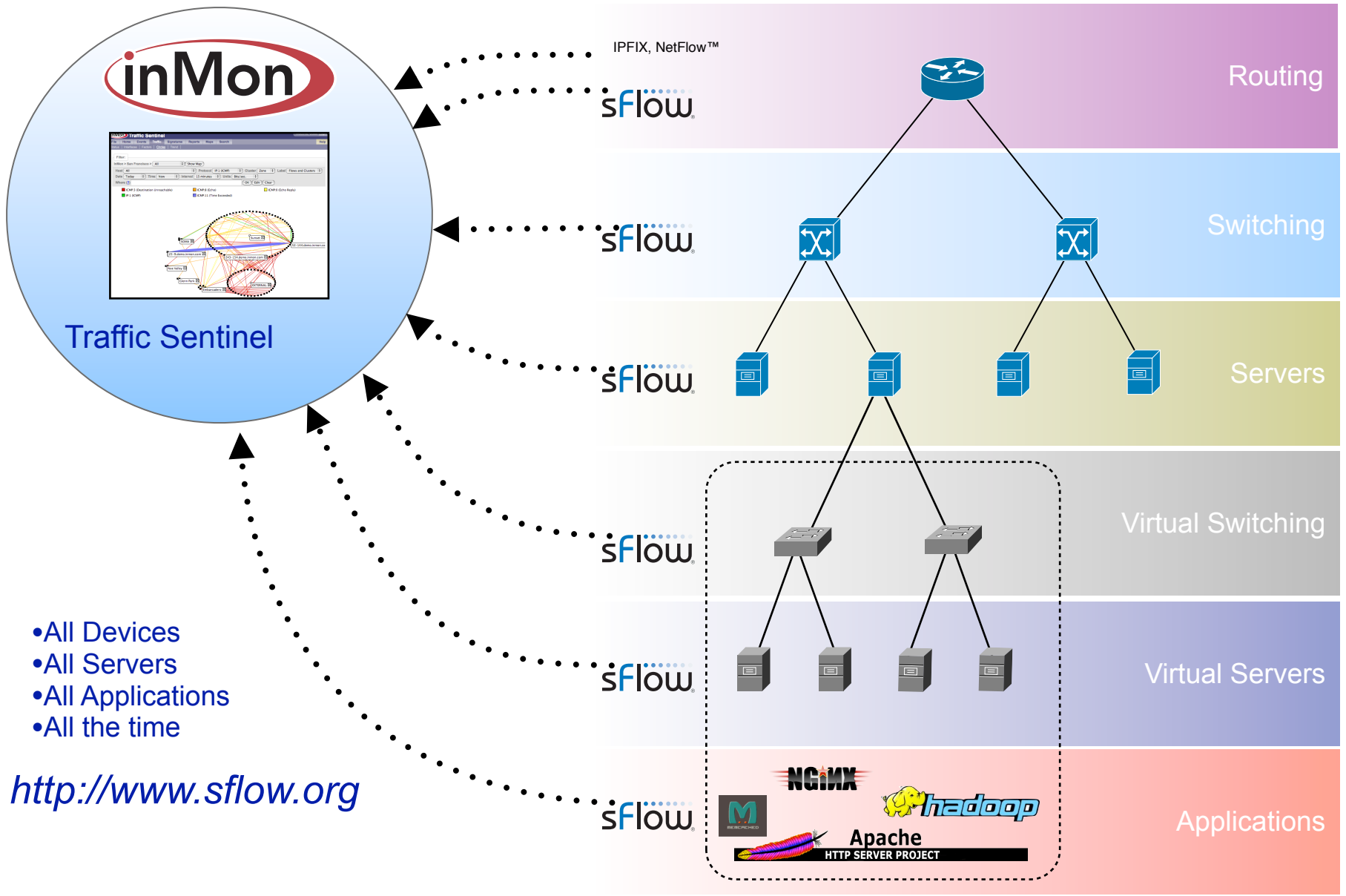
Memory

8 Apr, 11:49 - 8 Apr, 14:49, interval=1 min.



Application dependency map

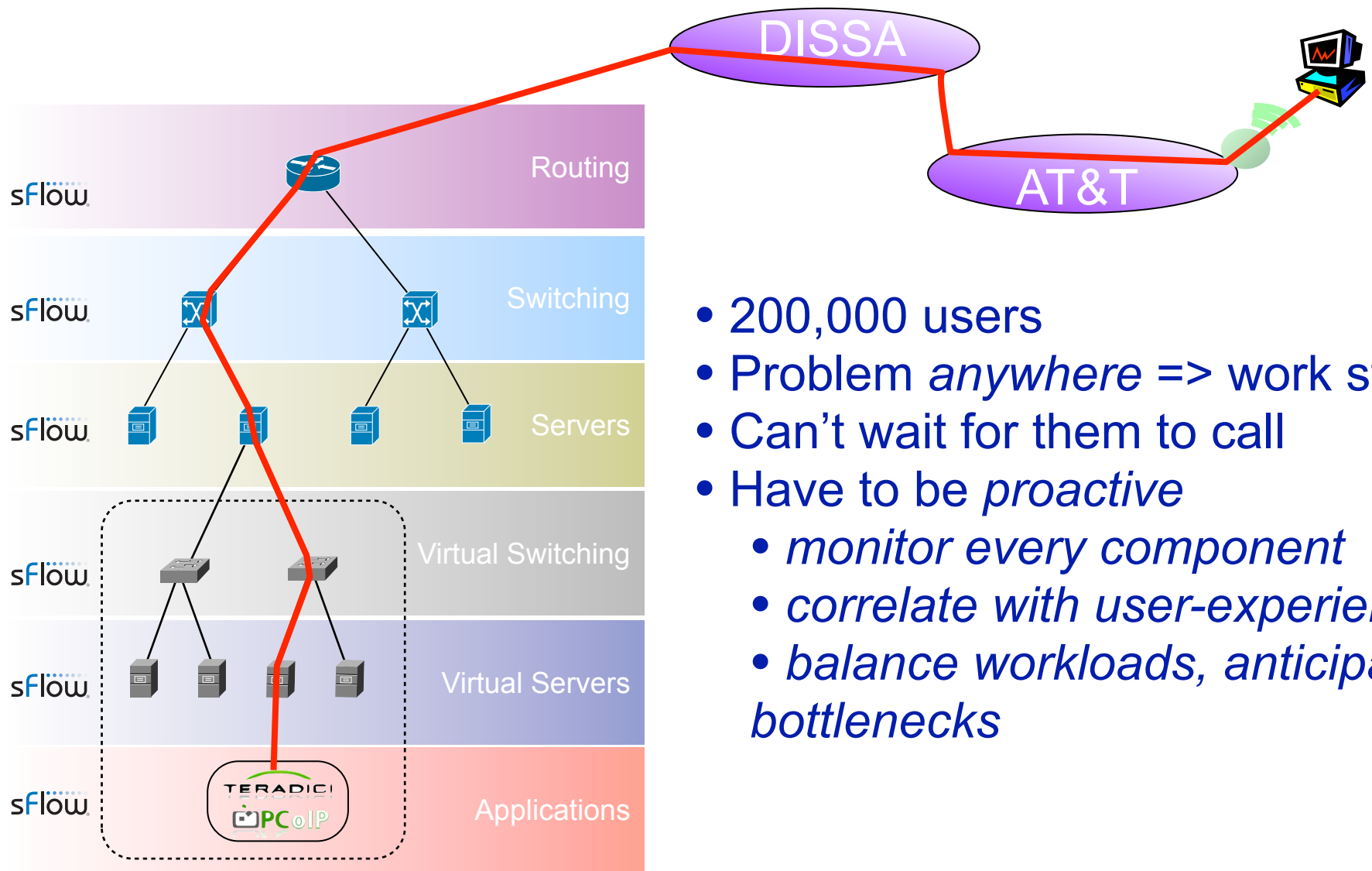




- All Devices
- All Servers
- All Applications
- All the time

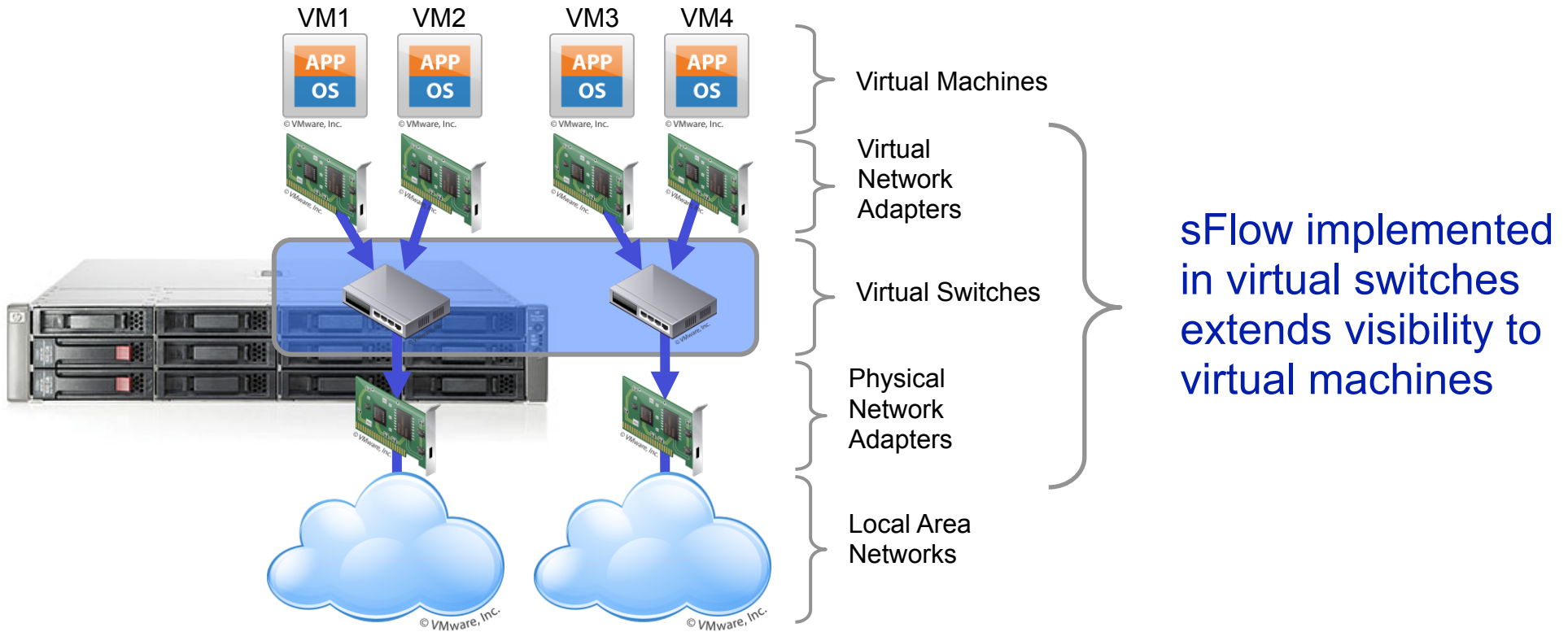
<http://www.sflow.org>

Network Visibility: VDI



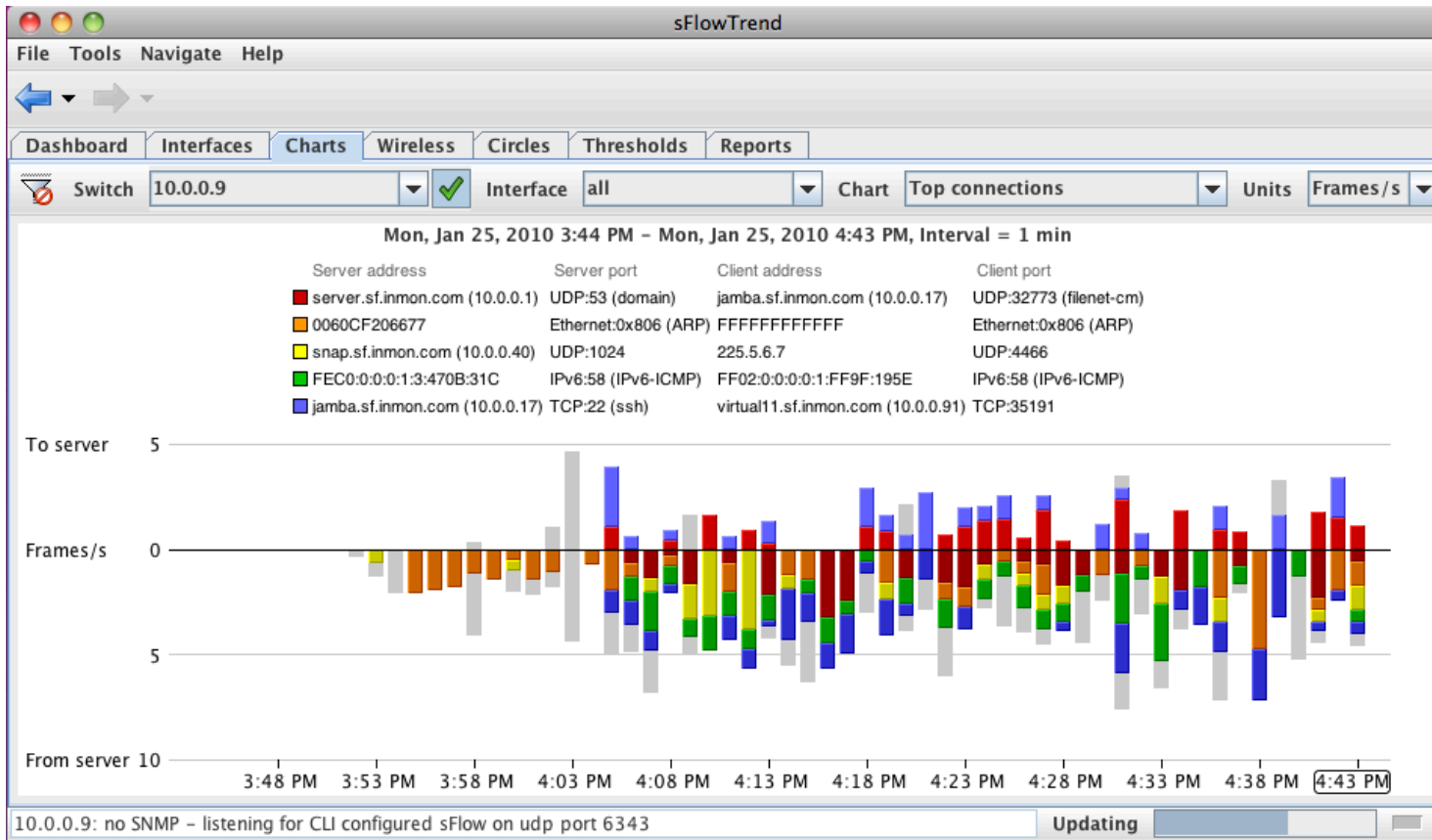
- 200,000 users
- Problem *anywhere* => work stops
- Can't wait for them to call
- Have to be *proactive*
 - *monitor every component*
 - *correlate with user-experience*
 - *balance workloads, anticipate bottlenecks*

vSwitch sFlow



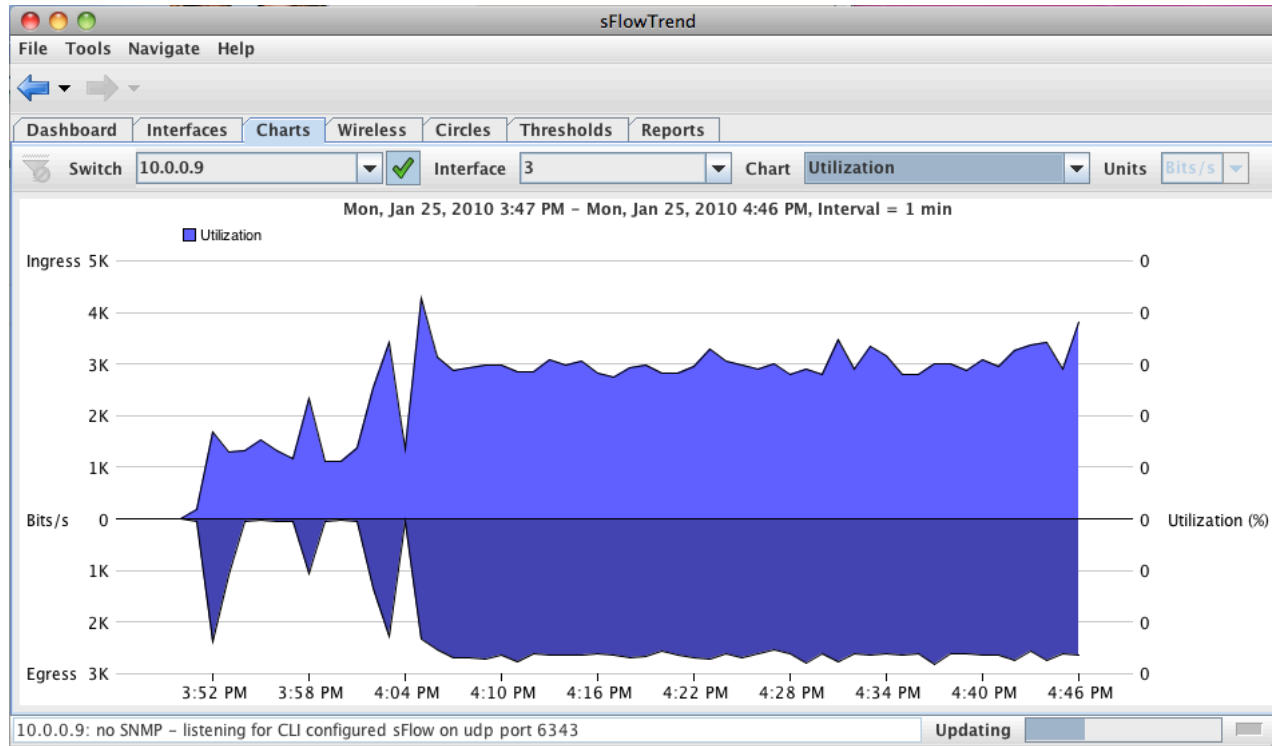
- Visibility into vSwitch critical, 20-40 times more vNICs than pNICs
- Inter-VM traffic only visibility to vSwitch
- sFlow in vSwitch unifies physical and virtual LAN management
- Open vSwitch delivers sFlow (and OpenFlow) in open source virtualization stacks Xen/XenServer/KVM

sFlow monitoring of vSwitch: traffic flows



- Visibility into all traffic
 - VM-VM,
 - VM to any other host
 - Layer 2
 - TCP/UDP
 - IPv6
- Data for managing switched traffic
 - VLANs
 - Layer 2 priorities

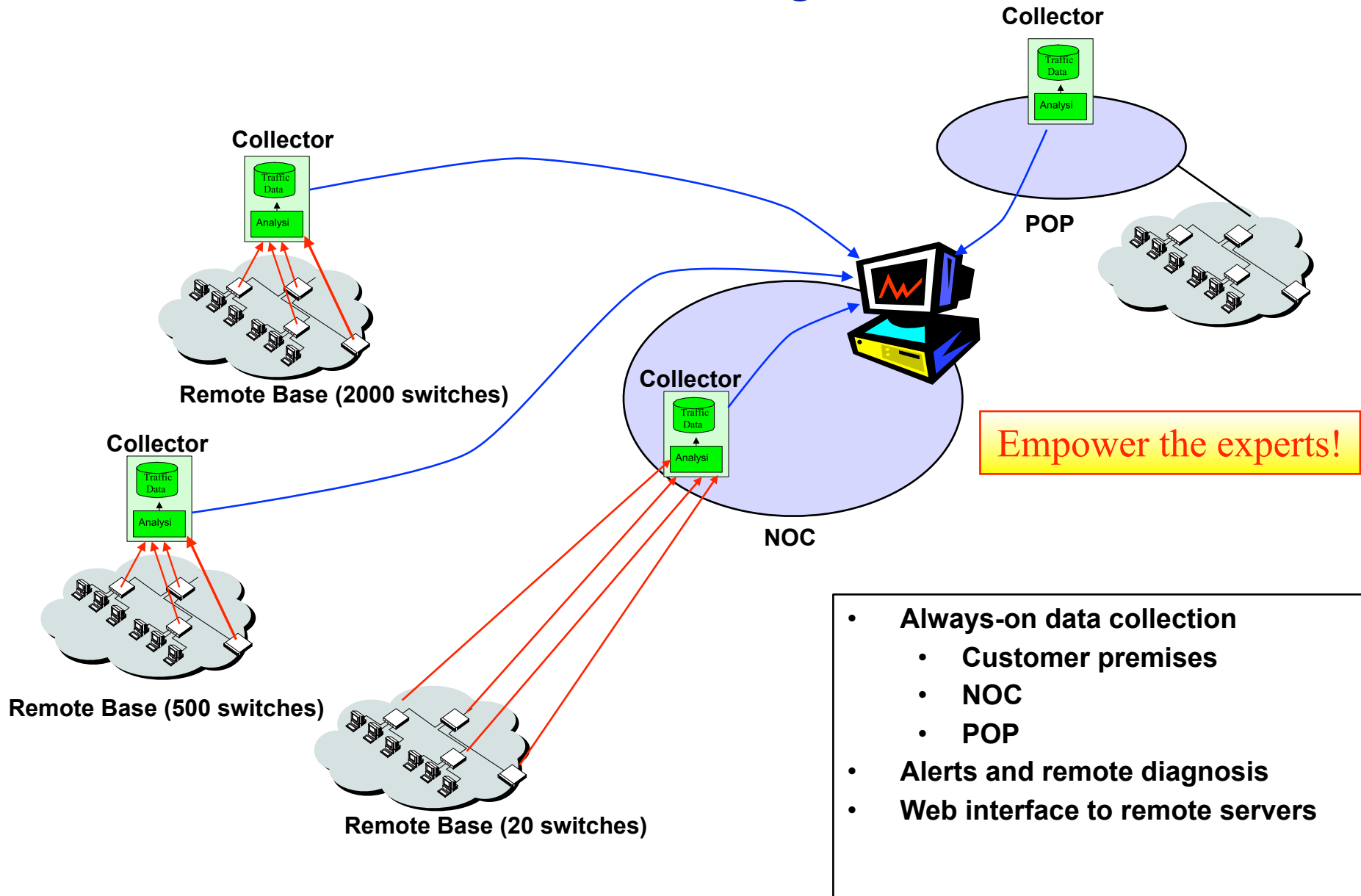
sFlow monitoring of vSwitch: interface counters



- Trending interface utilization a staple of network management
- sFlow is only realistic way to monitor virtual interface counters
 - sFlow counter export is scalable to support 200,000+ virtual ports (20-40 VMs per physical server makes this scalability a practical requirement in environments with 5,000 - 10,000 physical ports)



Traffic Sentinel in the NOC: Remote-site Management





sFlow vs NetFlow

- NetFlow gives partial visibility
 - Monitors routed L3 traffic only
 - Insufficient detail for effective LAN management
 - Significantly impacts switch/router performance
 - Cisco recommends monitoring of key interfaces only
 - Complex configuration
- sFlow can and should be enabled everywhere
 - sFlow monitors all traffic L2-L7, switched and routed, core to VM
 - Detailed data supports many applications
 - Negligible switch and network performance impact
 - Simple configuration
 - Collects interface counters too
 - Cross-layer measurements (e.g. MAC<->IP, GRE Tunneling)
 - Server and application monitoring too

inmon.com

sFlow Host Structures

The diagram illustrates the flow of sFlow data from three sources to a central Packet Header table:

- sFlow APPLICATION:** Provides data for Sampled Transactions, Transaction Counters, and TCP/UDP Sockets.
- sFlow HOST:** Provides data for CPU, Memory, I/O, and Adapter MACs.
- sFlow NETWORK:** Provides data for Sampled Packet Headers and I/F Counters.

The central **Packet Header** table is structured as follows:

Packet Header	
Source	Destination
TCP/UDP Socket	TCP/UDP Socket
MAC Address	MAC Address

The completed sFlow Host Structures specification has been published by sFlow.org, extending the sFlow standard to include physical and virtual server performance metrics. The specification describes a coherent network that builds on the sFlow metrics exported by most switch vendors, linking network, server and application performance monitoring to provide an integrated picture of performance.

The diagram above shows how the packet header information exported by network devices is used to link

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