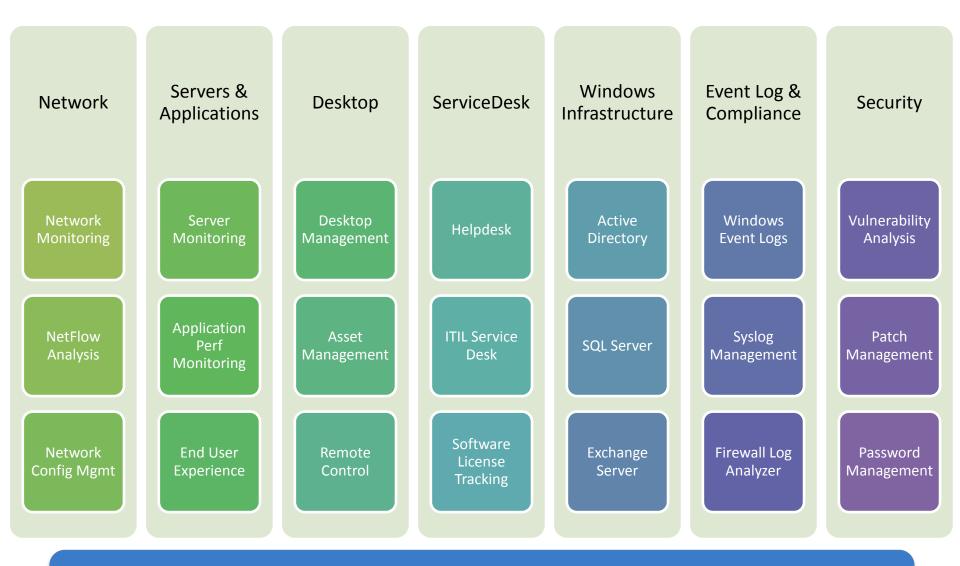


# NetFlow – The De Facto Standard for Traffic Analytics

A Webinar on NetFlow and its uses in Enterprise Networks for Bandwidth and Traffic Analytics

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ManageEngine NetFlow Analyzer





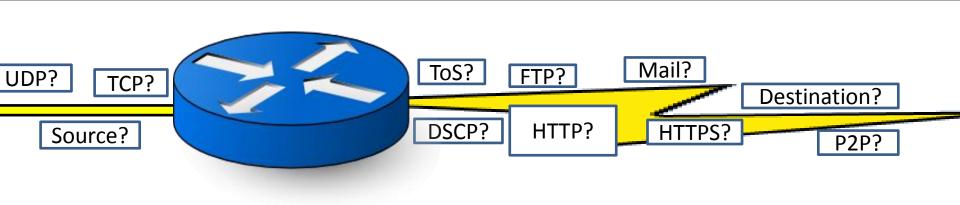
ManageEngine is an IT management vendor focused on bringing a complete IT management portfolio to all types of enterprises

## **Today's Discussion**

- The need for bandwidth monitoring and traffic analytics
- What is NetFlow
- Flexible NetFlow
- Supported Devices
- Use cases
- SNMP, Packet Sniffing or NetFlow
- Questions?

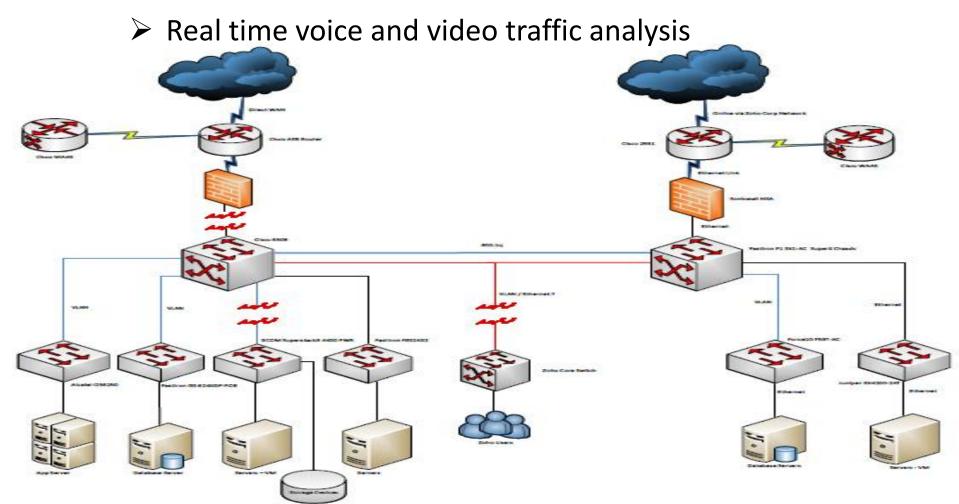
## What is Happening

- Profile your network
- Who are the 'Top Talkers'
- Understand application usage patterns
- Protocol distribution
- Performance of QoS policies



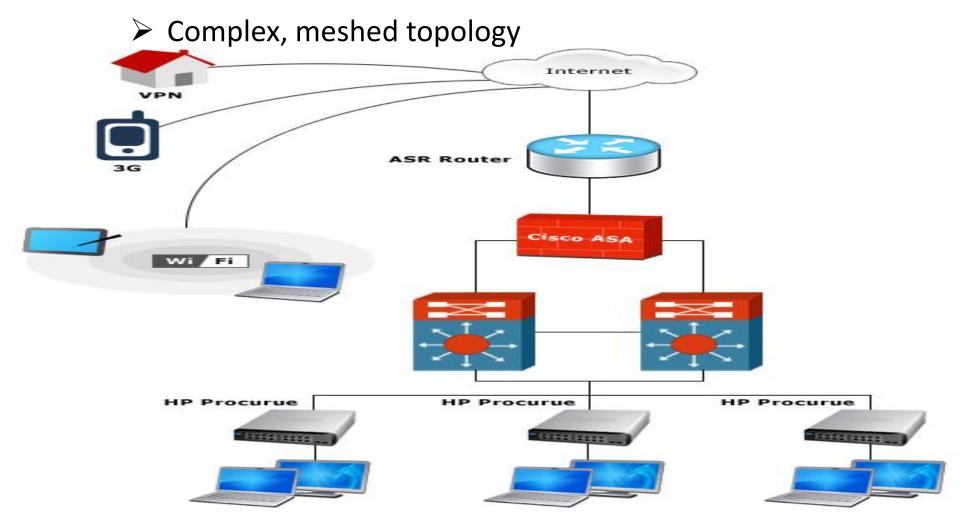
## **Quicker Troubleshooting**

- > Drill down to traffic spikes or bottlenecks on leased line
- > Find root cause of Internet and application slowness



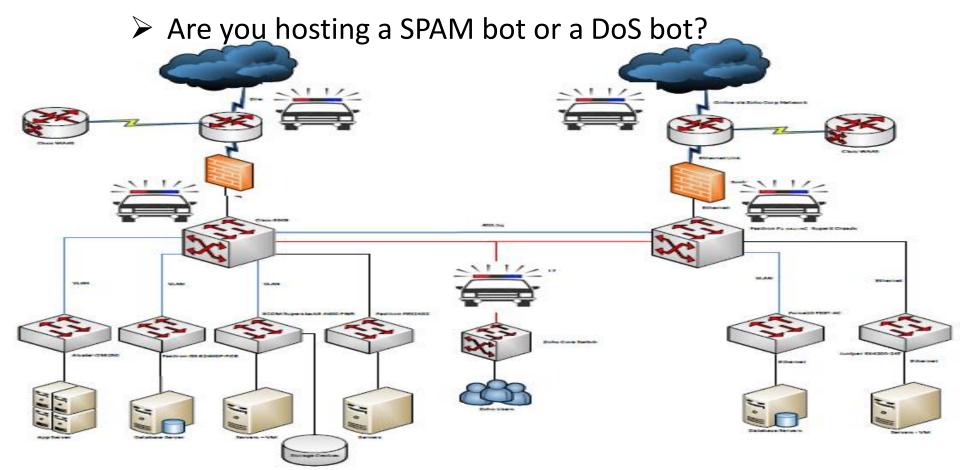
## **Bigger, Faster and Complex Networks**

- Erosion of network perimeter: Telecommuting
- Faster networks: 1G, 10G, 40G and now 100G



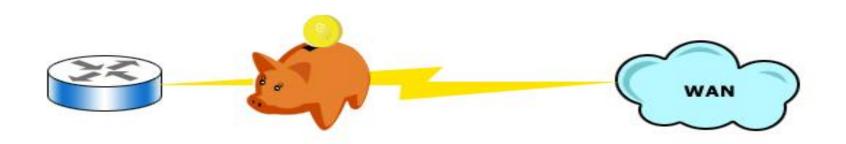
## **Network Security**

- Increasing BYOD trend and telecommuting
- Remember the 2011 network attacks?
- Zero day malware goes undetected by IDS and IPS



## **Capacity Planning and Cost Savings**

- > Is a bandwidth upgrade necessary?
- ➤ How much is social media traffic usage?
- Identify congestion causing applications
- > Save cost with informed decisions



## **SLA Verification and Usage based Billing**

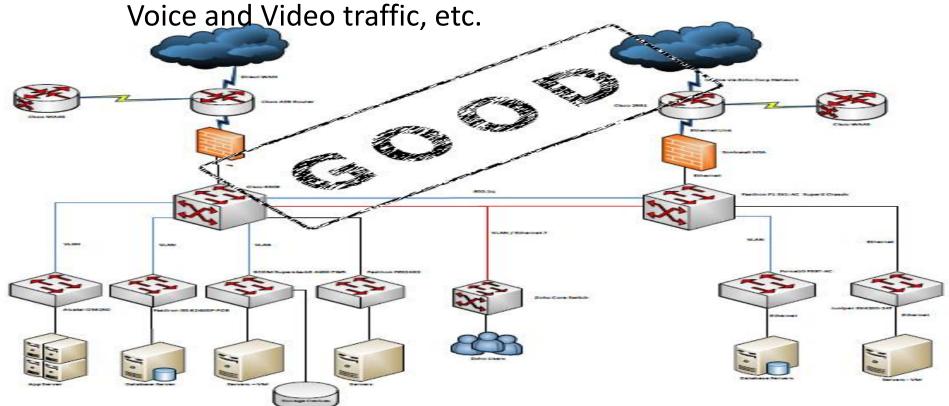
- ➤ ISP meeting Committed Data Rate (CDR)?
- Validate ISP's SLA reports with your custom reports
- Usage data and info for billing / chargeback



## Create a high performing network

- Ensure optimal bandwidth usage
- Effect of network changes and new applications
- ➤ Validate QoS policies

➤ Performance of new technology: IPv6, MPLS, 40G or 100G,



## **Introducing NetFlow**

Technology developed by Cisco - Initially designed as a switching path

Now the **Primary IP Traffic** accounting technology

Answers the WHO, WHAT, WHEN and WHERE question of network IP traffic

All major vendors now support flow export:

NetFlow - Cisco, Adtran, 3COM

sFlow - Alcatel, HP, Brocade, Enterasys, Dell

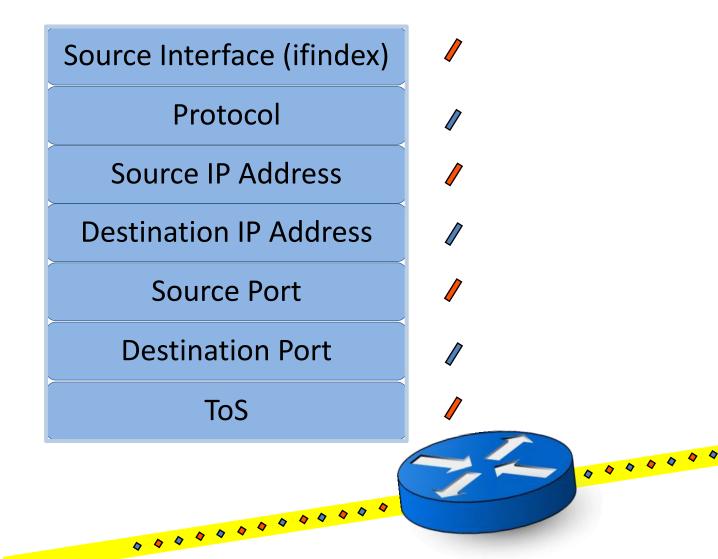
IPFIX - Nortel

J-Flow - Juniper

## What is NetFlow

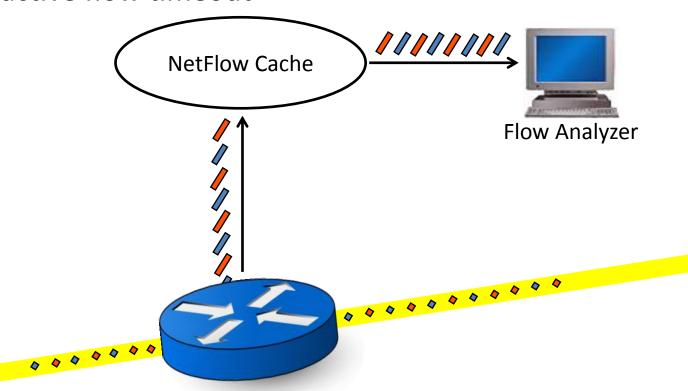
# What is a Flow

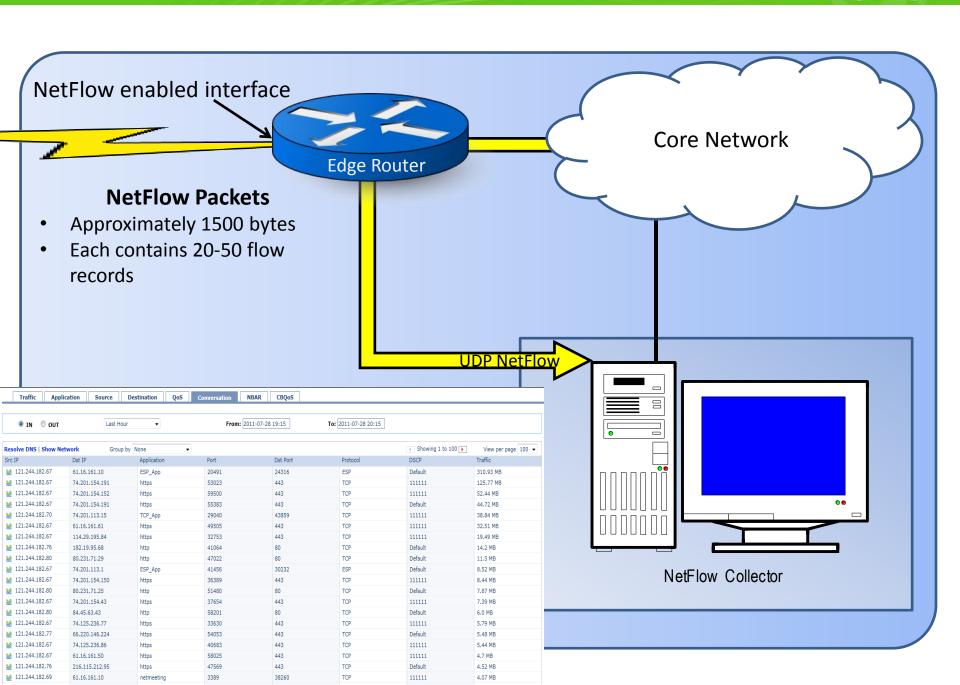
## Seven (7) unique fields define a flow

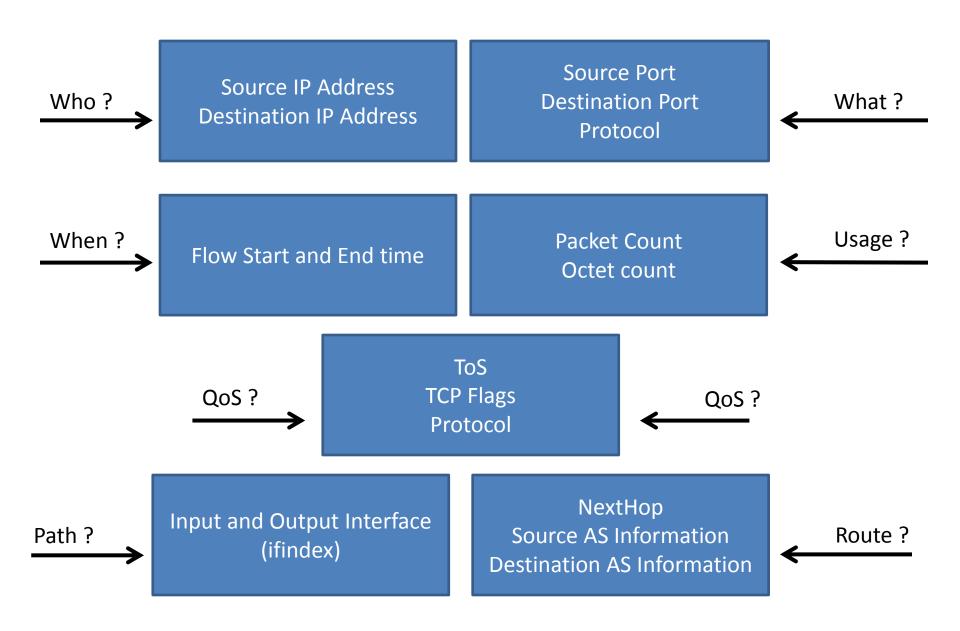


#### **How NetFlow Works**

- Traffic passes through routing/switching device interface
- Flow created (remember the 7 fields) and stored in NetFlow cache
- Flows grouped and exported in UDP packets to collector based on active and inactive flow timeout







## **Cisco NetFlow Versions**

Cisco NetFlow Version	Description	
Version 1	Original implementation, Now Obsolete Only IPv4 Traffic	
Version 5	Most widely used version Supports AS reporting and few additional fields	
Version 7	Specific to Cisco catalyst switches	
Version 8	Same as Version 5 but with Flow Aggregation options	
Version 9	Flexible, Customizable and template based Supports new data fields	

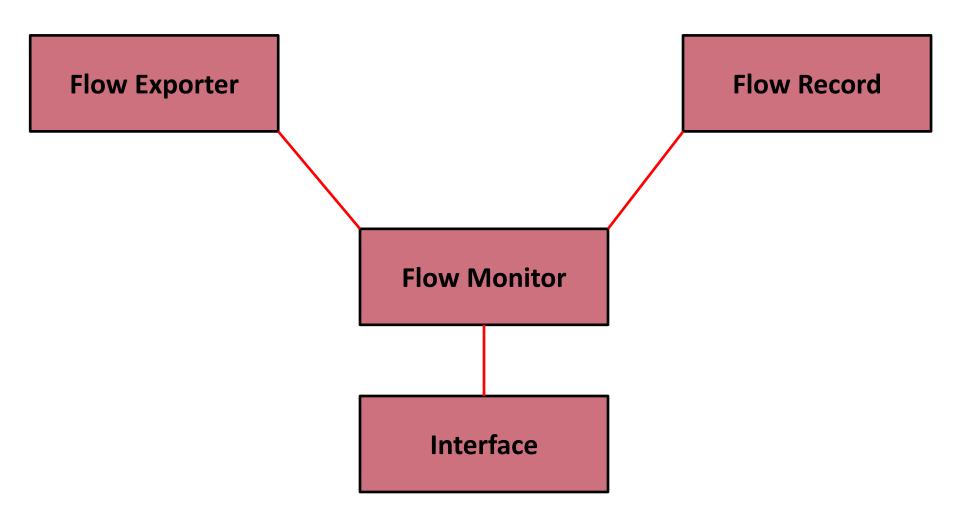
### More on NetFlow

- ip flow-export version < version > [origin-as | peer-as |
  - Select the version of NetFlow to be exported and type of AS info.
- ip flow-export destination <address> <port>
  - Exactly what it says. e.g. ip flow-export destination 198.2.1.16 9996
- ip flow export source <interface>
  - The interface through which NetFlow packets are sent from cache to collector.
     Recommended to use an interface with the best route to the collector.
- ip flow-cache timeout inactive <seconds>
  - The time period for which an expired flow will remain in the cache before being exported. 15 seconds is the default as well as the recommended value
- ip flow-cache timeout active <minutes>
  - Time period for which an active flow will remain in the cache before being exported. 30 minutes is default but the recommended value is 1 minute.

## **NetFlow Version 9 – Flexible NetFlow**

### **NetFlow Version 9 – Flexible NetFlow**

- Highly flexible flow export Customized traffic monitoring with user defined key and non key fields
- Ability to monitor a wide range of IP packet information which traditional NetFlow did not have
- Analyze the effect of new technology implementations in your network:
   IPv6, VoIP, Webex, Telepresence or other voice and video solutions
- Some of the major custom fields supported are
  - MPLS Labels
  - IPv6 Traffic
  - NBAR protocols
  - Live performance of media flows
  - Multicast IP Traffic
  - VLAN ID



#### **Flow Exporter**

destination 198.2.16.1

source Loopback0

transport udp 9996

export-protocol netflow-v9

output-features

**Flow Record** 

#### **Pre-Defined Flow Records**

netflow-original

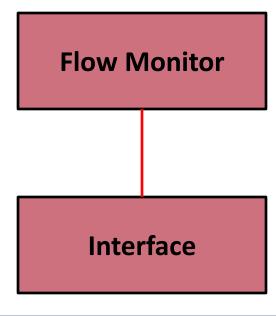
netflow ipv4 original-input

**User-Defined Flow Records** Match statements match ipv4 source address match ipv4 destination address match ipv4 protocol match transport source-port match transport destination-port match interface input Collect statements collect routing source as collect transport tcp flags collect counter bytes collect counter packets collect flow direction

**Flow Monitor** 

exporter exporter\_name

record *netflow-original*OR
record *record\_name* 



Interface fastethernet2/1 ip flow monitor *monitor\_name* input

## **Config Example - User-Defined Flow Record**

flow record *NFArecord*match ipv4 source address
match ipv4 destination address
match transport source-port
match transport destination-port
match interface input
match ipv4 protocol
match ipv4 tos
match ipv4 dscp

collect routing source as collect routing destination as collect routing next-hop address ipv4 collect transport tcp flags collect counter bytes collect counter packets collect timestamp sys-uptime first collect timestamp sys-uptime last collect interface output collect flow direction collect ipv4 id collect ipv4 source mask collect ipv4 destination mask

## **Config Example - Flow Exporter and Flow Monitor**

flow exporter *NFAexporter* destination 192.16.1.82 source loopback0 transport udp 9996 export-protocol netflow-v9

flow monitor *NFAmonitor*exporter *NFAexporter*cache timeout active 1
cache timeout inactive 15
record *NFArecord* or record *netflow-original* 

Interface fastethernet1/2 ip flow monitor *NFAmonitor* input

## **NetFlow Performance Impact**

#### **CPU Utilization**

- 10,000 active flows 7.14 % additional CPU
- 65,000 active flows 22.98 % additional CPU

### **Bandwidth Usage Estimate**

Around 2% to 3% additional bandwidth load on the NetFlow exporting link for the device

# **Flow Exporting Devices**



## **NetFlow supported Cisco devices**



Cisco Catalyst 3560	Cisco 800	Cisco 7200
Cisco Catalyst 3750	Cisco 1800	Cisco 7600
Cisco Catalyst 4500	Cisco 1900	Cisco 12000
Cisco Catalyst 6500	Cisco 2800	Cisco ASR series
Cisco Nexus	Cisco 3800	
Cisco ASA firewall	Cisco 3900	

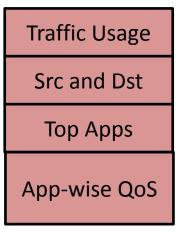
### **Other Vendors and Flow Formats**

- sFlow: Alcatel, Brocade Foundry, Dell, Enterasys, Extreme, Force 10, Fortinet, HP ProCurve, Juniper, Vyatta, etc. <a href="http://www.sflow.org/products">http://www.sflow.org/products</a>
- J-Flow: Juniper devices
- IPFIX: To be developed as the standard for flow export. Described in RFC 3917. Based on NetFlow v9.
- AppFlow: Extension to IPFIX for application monitoring. Citrix NetScaler captures app-specific network data and generates Appflow records
- NetStream: Huawei / 3COM devices

## **Some Use Cases**

- Which links are most utilized and under-utilized
- Who are the top takers and which are the top applications
- Understand application usage Peak and non-peak usage, when, application volume and speed
- Traffic priorities and QoS performance

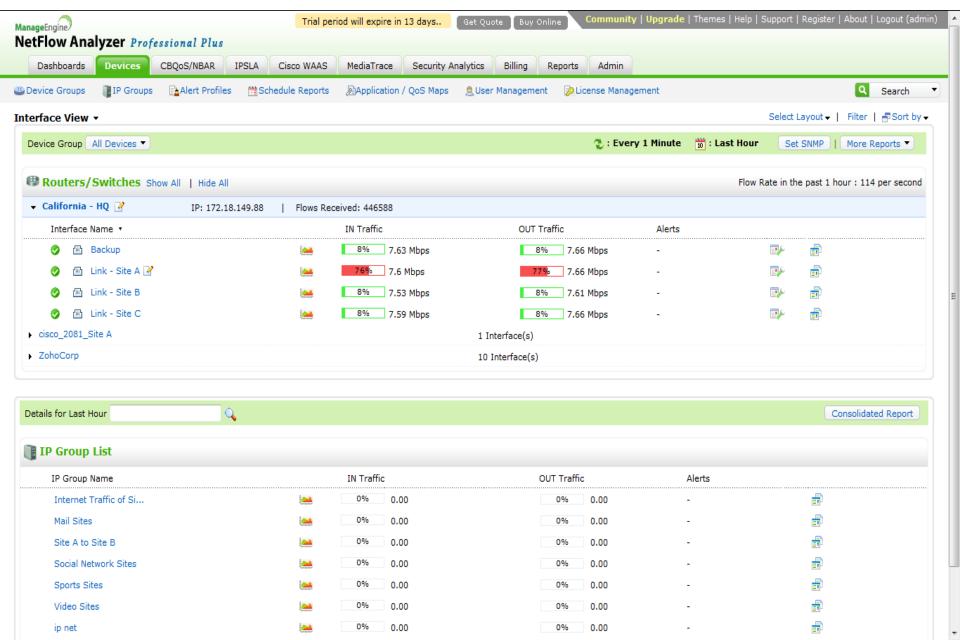






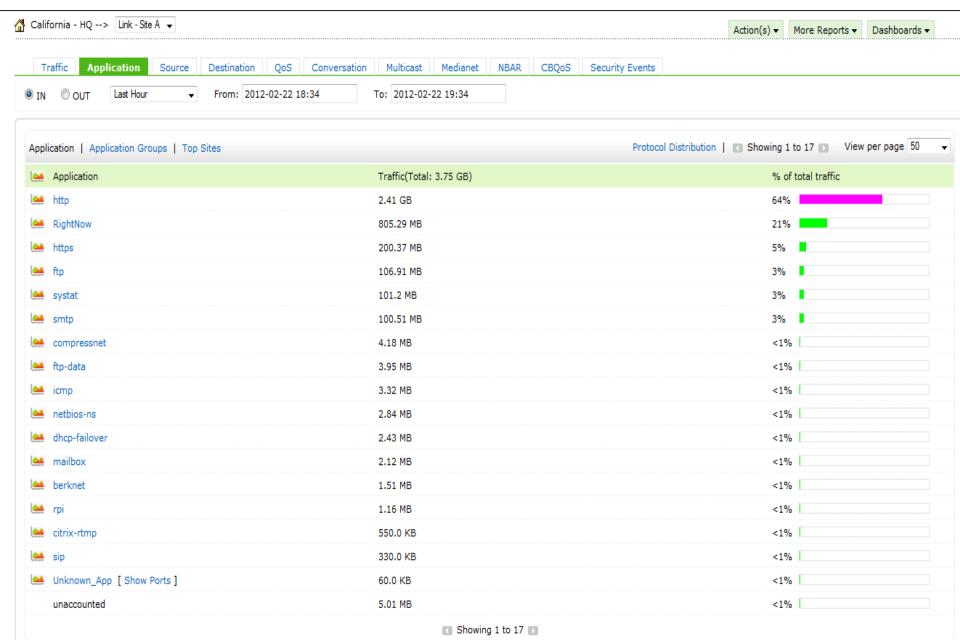


#### **Application Slowness – Check link utilization**



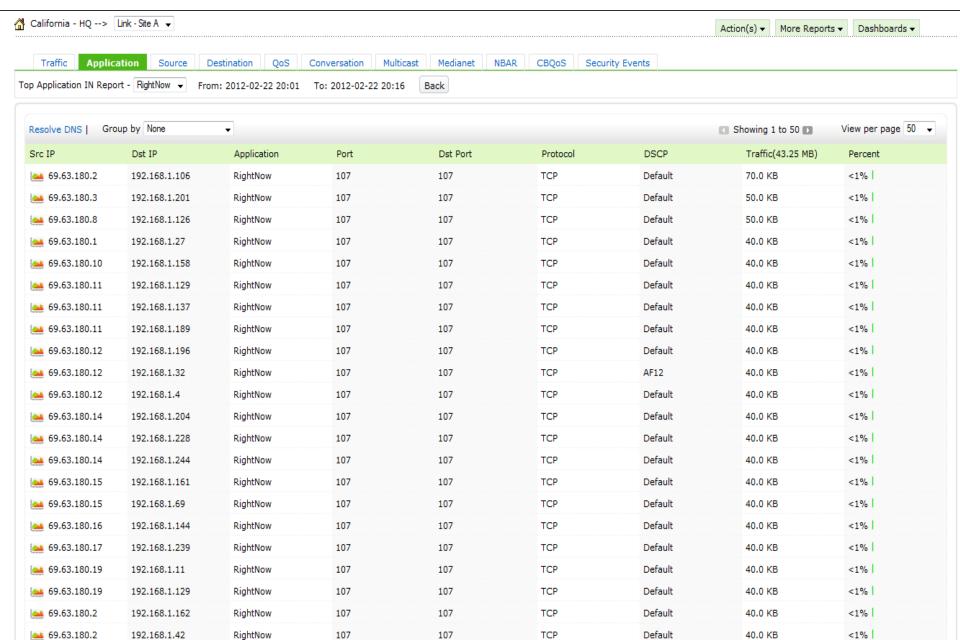


#### **Check top applications – HTTP more than business application**

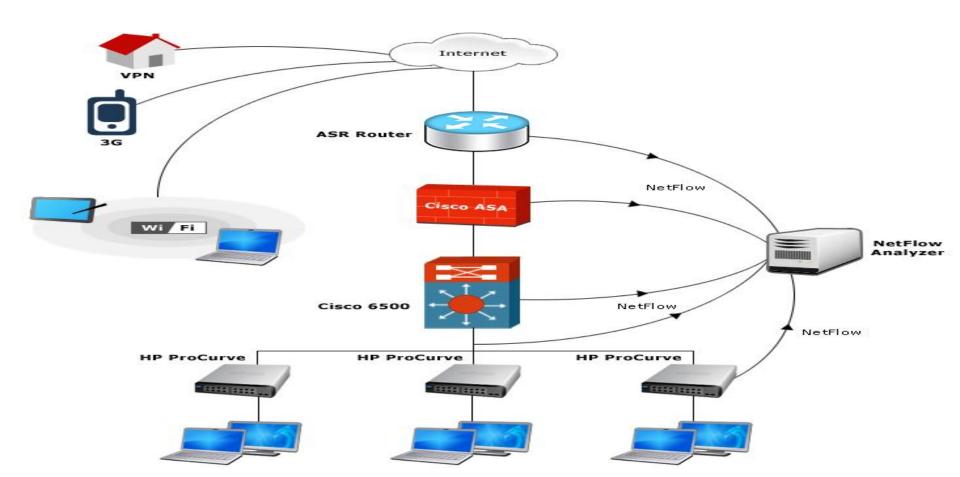




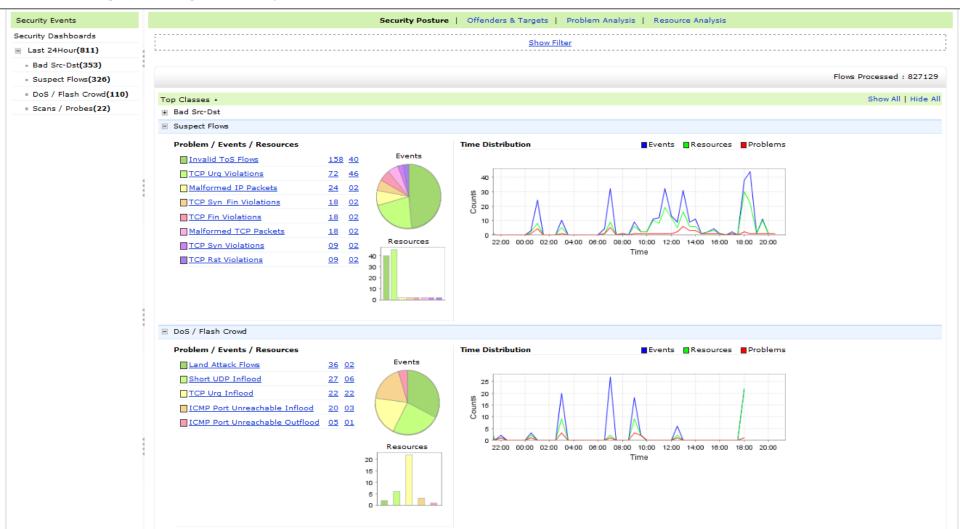
#### Incorrect priority for business application



- Specific IP Traffic header information captured Low overhead on network devices
- Can work in high speed environments as well as new technologies like
   MPLS or 100G networks

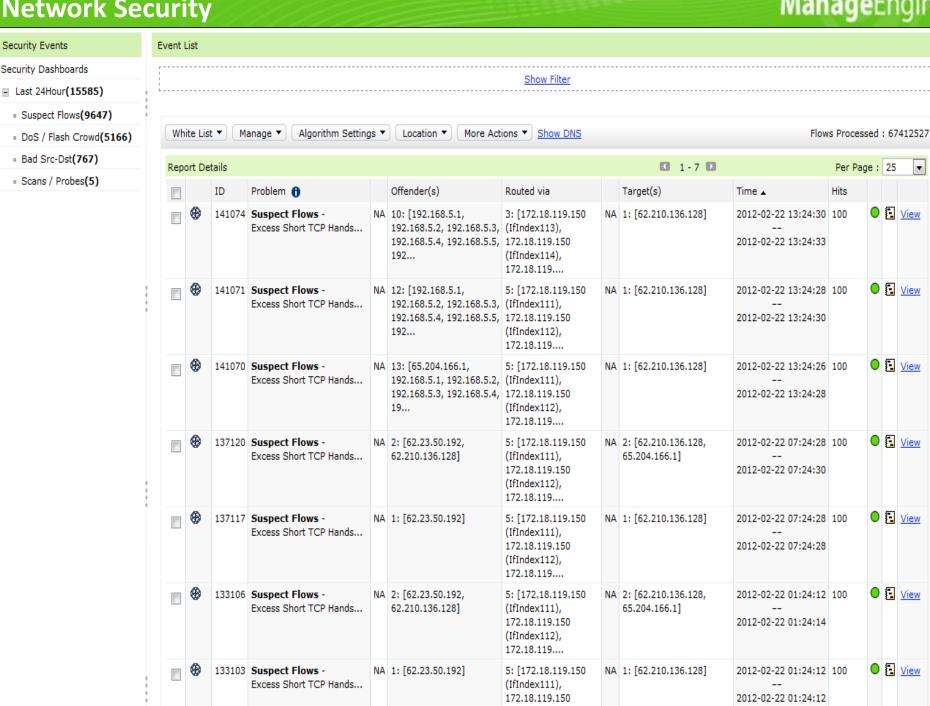


- Non Signature based Hence can detect zero day malware
- Detects anomalies coming beyond IDS/IPS and firewalls or even those originating from your LAN network



**Network Security** 

## **Manage**Engine

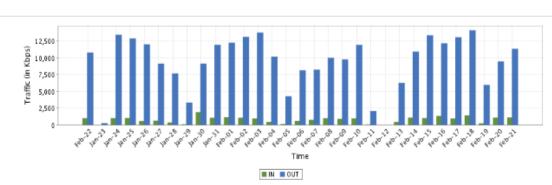


- Is the bandwidth upgrade necessary?
- Analyze application usage. Limit or block bandwidth hogging applications using QoS, ACL, etc.
- Check link utilization and business application distribution over time in lowest possible granularity – 1 minute.
- Do you still need more bandwidth?
- Informed decisions with reports to validate leads to higher cost savings

## **Capacity Planning Decisions**

Average Usage(Daily)





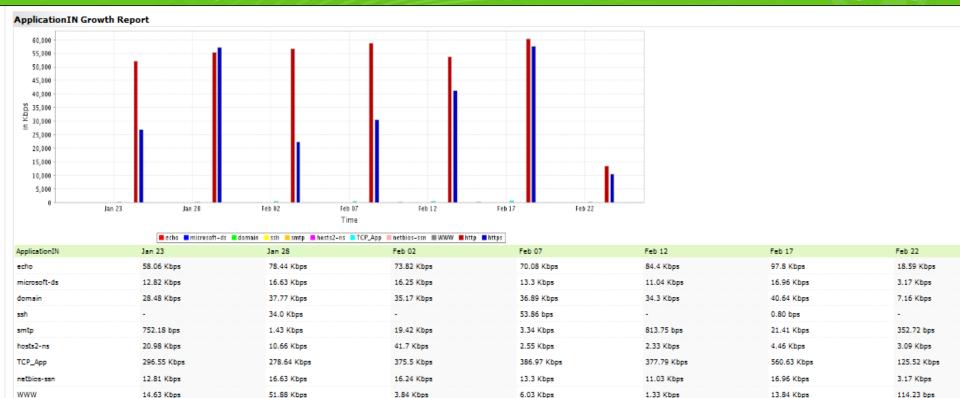
52.11 Mbps

26.92 Mbps

http

https

## **Manage**Engine



58.73 Mbps

30.5 Mbps

53.73 Mbps

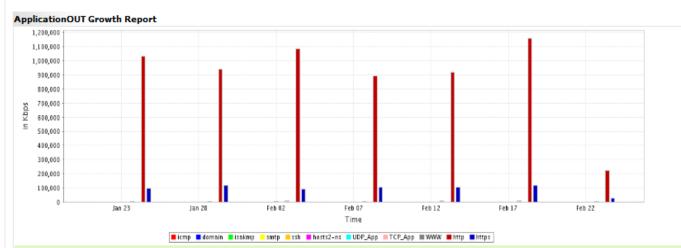
41.16 Mbps

60.43 Mbps

57.57 Mbps

13.41 Mbps

10.35 Mbps



56.83 Mbps

22.34 Mbps

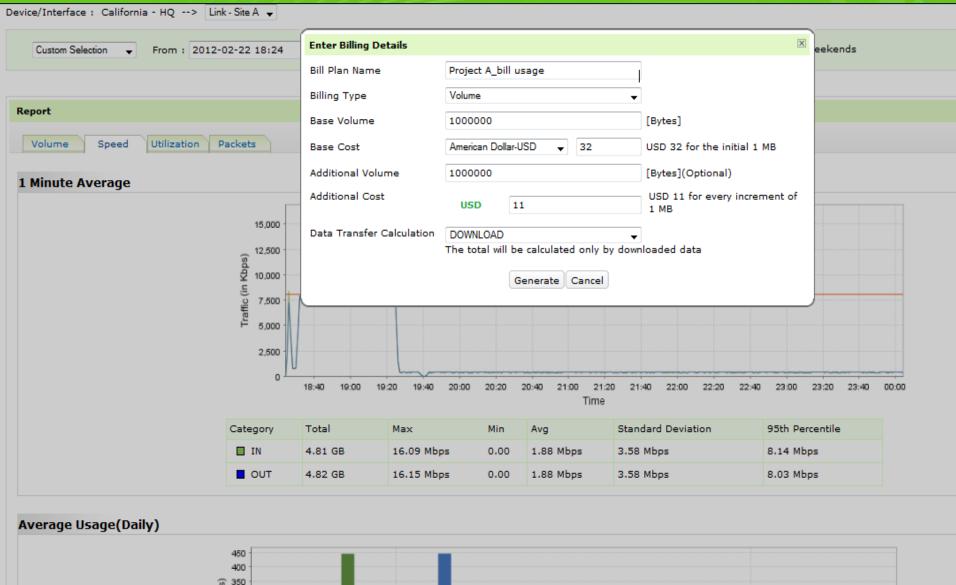
55.37 Mbps

57.18 Mbps

- Verify the Committed Information Rate and Committed Data Rate with your own usage based reports
- Generate billing reports and compare with ISP reports
- For department/project level billing: Account per network
- Billing based on 5 minute averages and 95<sup>th</sup> percentile. 95<sup>th</sup> percentile can be IN and OUT merged or IN and OUT separate
- Design In-line with generic ISP based billing solutions

## **SLA Verification and Billing**

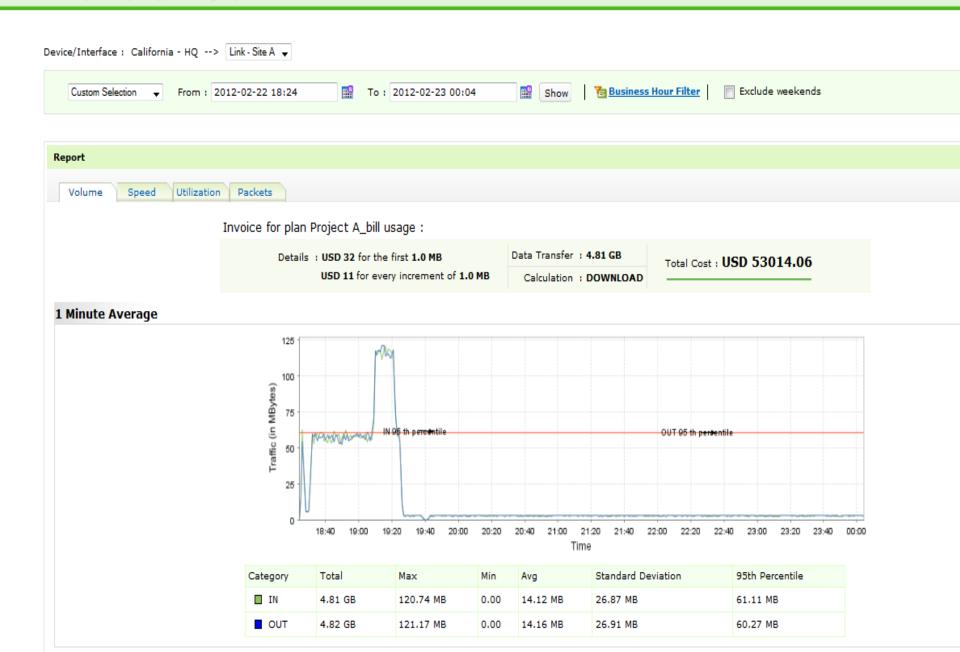
## **Manage**Engine



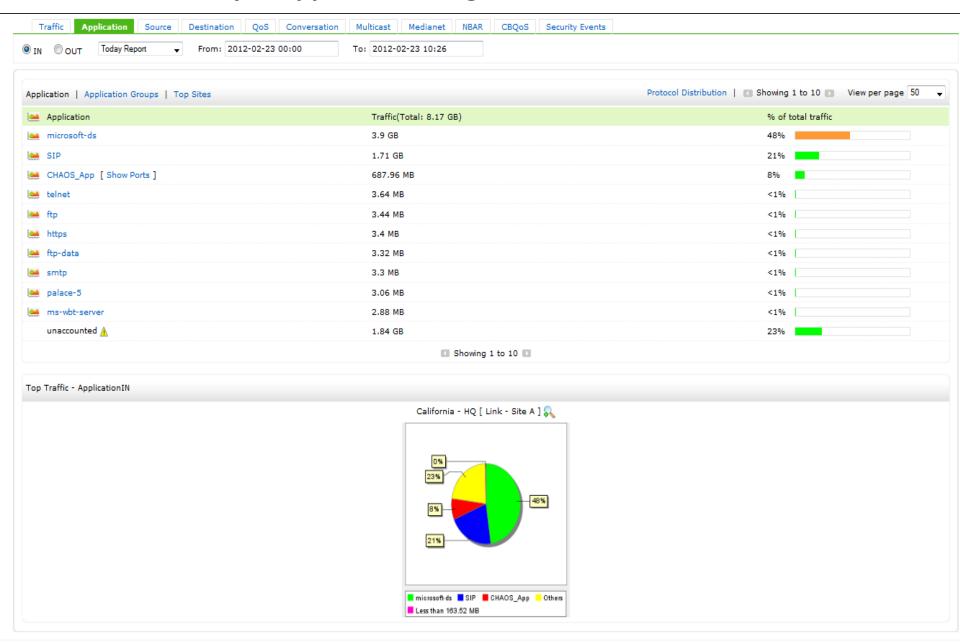


### **SLA Verification and Billing**

#### **NetFlow Analyzer Capacity Planning Report**



### **Analyze Application usage and VoIP Conversations**



- Bulk Data scheduled during business hours
- Both VoIP and bulk data applications under default priority
- Reschedule bulk data for non peak hours Get traffic distribution report over time to know peak and non-peak hours
- Assign QoS priority for VoIP traffic Validate QoS policy performance from NetFlow conversation reports
- Study effect of network changes using various reports

# **SNMP, Packet Sniffing or NetFlow**

## **Answering an FAQ**

- SNMP: Basic method
  - Traffic usage information from any SNMP capable device
  - No details Port, Protocol, IP Address of traffic cannot be seen
  - Negligible overhead on network resources
- NetFlow: Optimal method
  - Answers WHO, WHAT, WHEN and WHERE question on IP traffic
  - Detailed information. Very less or ignorable overhead on network
- Packet Sniffing: Advanced and detailed
  - Most detailed and In-depth information
  - Every IP Traffic information captured
  - Requires SPAN High resource requirements and highly expensive

## When to Use?

#### SNMP:

- No NetFlow available or detailed visibility is not required
- Accurate bandwidth usage reports is necessary
  - ➤ Compare SNMP stats with NetFlow based reports to confirm report accuracy

### NetFlow:

- Implement throughout the network, on all supported devices, at all times
- Proactive reporting and troubleshooting
- Many use cases

### Packet Sniffing:

- Resource and data intensive with huge storage requirements
- Use in high priority environments like data centers, server farms
- Keep in standby mode and use when problems require packet level analysis

- Network uptime is a business requisite
- To create high performing networks, proactive monitoring is needed
- Use NetFlow, a non-intrusive, zero network impact technology to keep a tab on your complete network
- Cost Savings: Less downtime, Informed decisions, Hold back on WAN optimization & bandwidth upgrades, Secure network
- Small enterprises: Packet Sniffing is highly expensive. Use SNMP reports and NetFlow
- Medium and Large enterprises: Proactive monitoring with NetFlow
   & Packet Sniffing for detailed analysis at packet level

# **About NetFlow Analyzer**

- Solution for bandwidth monitoring, traffic analysis & network forensics
- Supports flow formats like NetFlow, sFlow, IPFIX, Appflow, etc.
- Many of Cisco's major monitoring technologies supported:
  - Cisco NetFlow
  - Cisco Medianet Perf Monitoring and Mediatrace
  - Cisco CBQoS
  - Cisco NBAR via SNMP and Flexible NetFlow
  - Cisco IPSLA VoIP and Data
  - Cisco WAAS reporting

- Additional features:
  - Network behavior anomaly detection leveraging on Cisco NetFlow
  - Enhanced reporting on Cisco ASA NSEL flows
  - Reporting on Autonomous System information from NetFlow data
- Distributed architecture based enterprise edition available for monitoring more than 250 geo-distributed interfaces or more than 600 high traffic interfaces
- Future enhancements include: Support for more Flexible NetFlow fields,
   Cisco PfR, Cisco Smart Logging and Telemetry, NBAR2

## **Questions?**

Over 4000 enterprises worldwide uses ManageEngine NetFlow Analyzer for traffic analytics

NetFlow Analyzer: <a href="https://www.netflowanalyzer.com">www.netflowanalyzer.com</a>

TAC Team: <a href="mailto:netflowanalyzer-support@manageengine.com">netflowanalyzer-support@manageengine.com</a>

Sales: <a href="mailto:sales@manageengine.com">sales@manageengine.com</a>

NetFlow Analyzer Blogs: <a href="https://blogs.netflowanalyzer.com">https://blogs.netflowanalyzer.com</a>

User Forums: <a href="http://forums.netflowanalyzer.com">http://forums.netflowanalyzer.com</a>