UCL

Université catholique de Louvain

Case study : UCL's computer network

Quentin Hunin Network engineer

About myself

Graduated from UCL in 2011

Network engineer at ING Belgium between 2011 and 2013

Network engineer at UCL since 2013

Agenda

Some design considerations

Some figures

IP plan

Core network

External connections

Data-centers

Campus

DHCP / DNS

Monitoring and management tools

Future

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Design considerations

Applications give sense to IT infrastructures

but IT infrastructures make it possible.

Computer networks belong to the foundations.



Design considerations

- Optimal technical solution
- Cost and time
- History
- Existing agreements
- Management
- Compliancy and legal constraints
- Public tender rules
- Maintenance cost
- Staffing

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Some figures

6 000 staff members

30 000 students

6 geographical sites (LLN, Woluwe, Saint-Gilles, Mons, Tournai, Charleroi)

100+ buildings

Tens of partners depending on our IT (non-profits organizations, hospitals, schools,...)



Some IT figures

- 3 main data-centers / 500 servers / 150 TB of storage
- 10 Gigabit connectivity towards research networks
- 5 Gigabit commercial bandwidth
- 7 core L3 switches
- 560 Ethernet access and distribution switches
- 28.000 network outlets
- 950 WiFi access points supporting up to 13.500 clients
- 30 kms of fiber cables



How do we connect





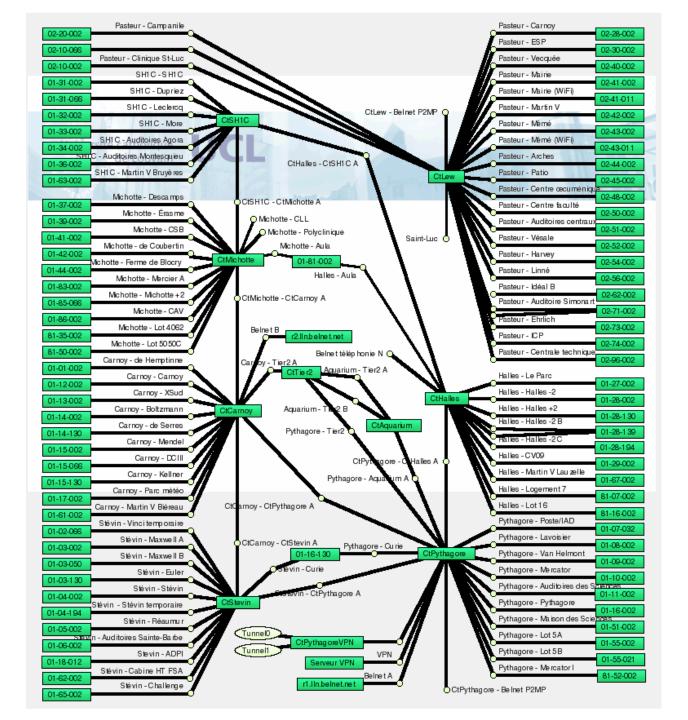


What we connect and power



The big picture







IP prefixes

130.104.0.0/16

192.135.167.0/23

193.191.171.0/24

→ no NAT needed

2001:6a8:3080::/44

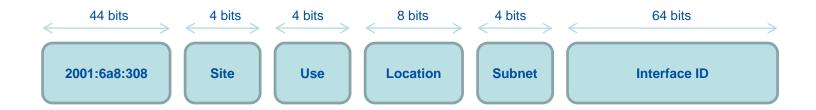
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IPv4 addressing plan

- No addressing plan at that time
- Started with a first asked first served assignment



IPv6 addressing plan



Encode information inside the prefix to:

have smaller routing tables.

make filtering rules easier and more readable

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Core network

- 10 Gbit/s inter router links
- Dual stack IPv4 / IPv6.
- Supports unicast and multicast traffic forwarding



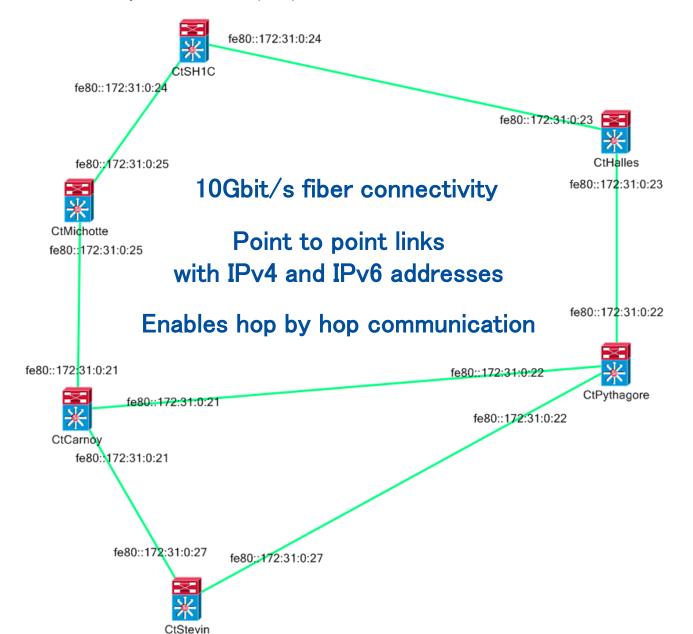
Core network

Cisco 6509-E





Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)



Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)

CtPythagore# ping FE80::172:31:0:21

Output Interface: Vlan981

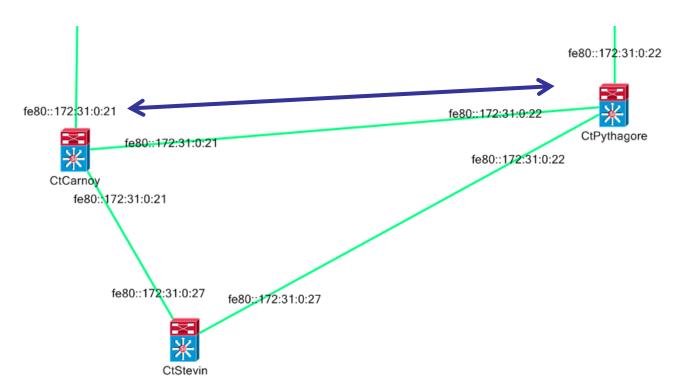
Type escape sequence to abort.

Sending 5, 100-byte ICMP Echos to FE80::172:31:0:21, timeout is 2 seconds:

Packet sent with a source address of FE80::172:31:0:22%Vlan981

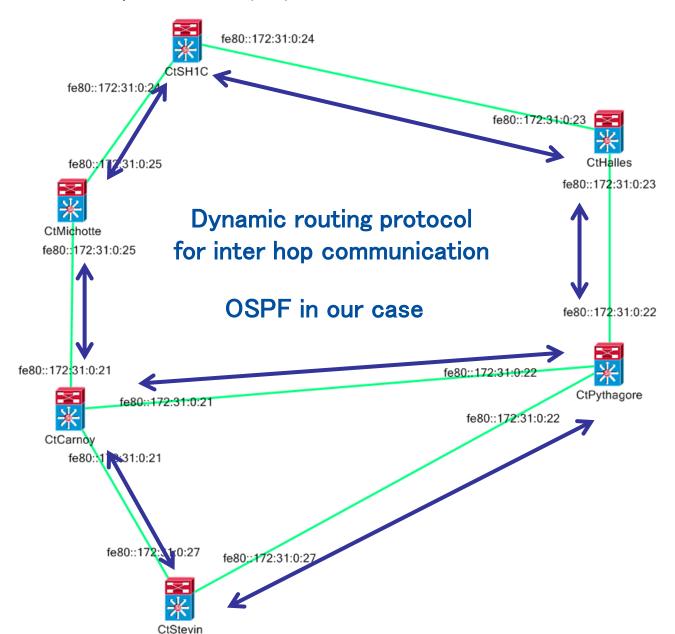
11111

Success rate is 100 percent (5/5), round-trip min/avg/max = 0/0/0 ms





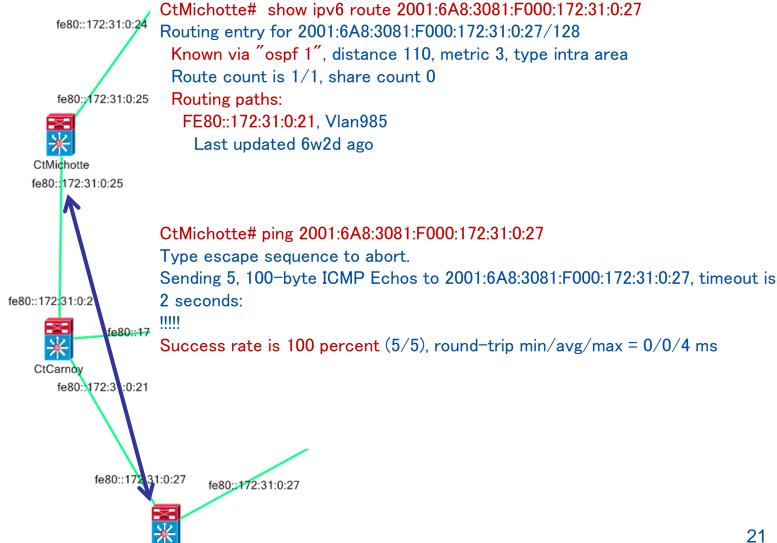
Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)





CtStevin 2001:6A8:3081:F000:172:31:0:27/128

Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)





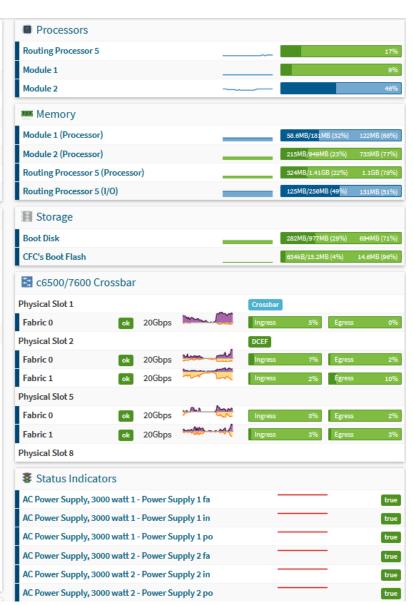
Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)

Cisco IOS Software, s2t54 Software (s2t54-IPSERVICESK9-M), Version 15.1(2)SY7, RELEASE SOFTWARE (fc4) Technical Support: http://www.cisco.com/techsupport Copyright (c) 1986-2016 by Cisco Systems, Inc. Compiled Sun 13-Mar-16 07:14 by prod_rel_team

Hardware	Cisco 6509 (WS-C6509-E)
Operating system	Cisco IOS 15.1(2)SY7 (IPSERVICESK9)
System name	ctpythagore.sri.ucl.ac.be
Contact	UCL/SRI, +32 (10) 47 2611, sri@sri.ucl.ac.be
Serial	SMC09210001
Uptime	1 year, 313 days, 17m 17s
Last reboot	2016-04-01 15:02:46



Te2/1, Te2/2, Te2/3, Te2/4, Te2/5, Te2/6, Te2/7, Te2/8, Te2/9, Te2/10, Te2/11, Te2/12, Te2/13, Te2/14, Te2/15, Te2/16, Te5/4, Te5/5, NDE_0, Gi1/1, Gi1/2, Gi1/3, Gi1/4, Gi1/5, Gi1/6, Gi1/7, Gi1/8, Gi1/9, Gi1/10, Gi1/11, Gi1/12, Gi1/13, Gi1/14, Gi1/15, Gi1/16, Gi1/17, Gi1/18, Gi1/19, Gi1/20, Gi1/21, Gi1/22, Gi1/23, Gi1/24, Gi5/1, Gi5/2, Gi5/3, Gi8/1, Gi8/2, Gi8/3, Gi8/4, Gi8/5, Gi8/6, Po24, Vlan1, Vlan99, Vlan134, Vlan151, Vlan196, Vlan200, Vlan201, Vlan202, Vlan203, Vlan207, Vlan208, Vlan209, Vlan211, Vlan212, Vlan213, Vlan214, Vlan216, Vlan217, Vlan218, Vlan219, Vlan220, Vlan221, Vlan222, Vlan223, Vlan224, Vlan225, Vlan226, Vlan227, Vlan238, Vlan230, Vlan231, Vlan232, Vlan233, Vlan234, Vlan235, Vlan236, Vlan237, Vlan238, Vlan239, Vlan240, Vlan241, Vlan242, Vlan243, Vlan244, Vlan245, Vlan246, Vlan247, Vlan248, Vlan249, Vlan250, Vlan252, Vlan253, Vlan254, Vlan255, Vlan256, Vlan257, Vlan258, Vlan259, Vlan260, Vlan261, Vlan262, Vlan264, Vlan265, Vlan266, Vlan267, Vlan268, Vlan269, Vlan270, Vlan271, Vlan272, Vlan273, Vlan274, Vlan275, Vlan276, Vlan277, Vlan278, Vlan279, Vlan280, Vlan281, Vlan282, Vlan283, Vlan298, Vlan299, Vlan303, Vlan307, Vlan308, Vlan309, Vlan310, Vlan449, Vlan484, Vlan808, Vlan809, Vlan811, Vlan812, Vlan813, Vlan814, Vlan815, Vlan816, Vlan817, Vlan818, Vlan819, Vlan820, Vlan821, Vlan822, Vlan824, Vlan826, Vlan828, Vlan829, Vlan830, Vlan831, Vlan833, Vlan836, Vlan837, Vlan838, Vlan839, Vlan842, Vlan843, Vlan844, Vlan845, Vlan848, Vlan850, Vlan851, Vlan859, Vlan873, Vlan874, Vlan875, Vlan876, Vlan877, Vlan879, Vlan881, Vlan886, Vlan887, Vlan888, Vlan891, Vlan891, Vlan894, Vlan895, Vlan896, Vlan897, Vlan898, Vlan920, Vlan921, Vlan922, Vlan923, Vlan924, Vlan925, Vlan926, Vlan927, Vlan928, Vlan929, Vlan981, Vlan982, Vlan983, Vlan988, Vlan989, Vlan991, Vlan992, Vlan1200, Vlan1201, Vlan1202, Vlan1203, Vlan1204, Vlan1205, Vlan1206, Vlan1207, Vlan1208, Vlan1209, Vlan1210, Vlan1211, Vlan1296, Vlan1297, Vlan1873, Vlan1981, Vlan1982, Vlan1988, Vlan1989, Vlan2981, Vlan2982, Vlan2983, Vlan204, Vlan3205, Vlan3206, Vlan3210, Vlan3215, Vlan3251, Vlan3891, Vlan3893, Po360, Tu0, Tu1, Tu2, Tu11, Tu12, Lo0, Lo1, Lo2, Lo3, Lo11, Lo12, Nullo, Control Plane





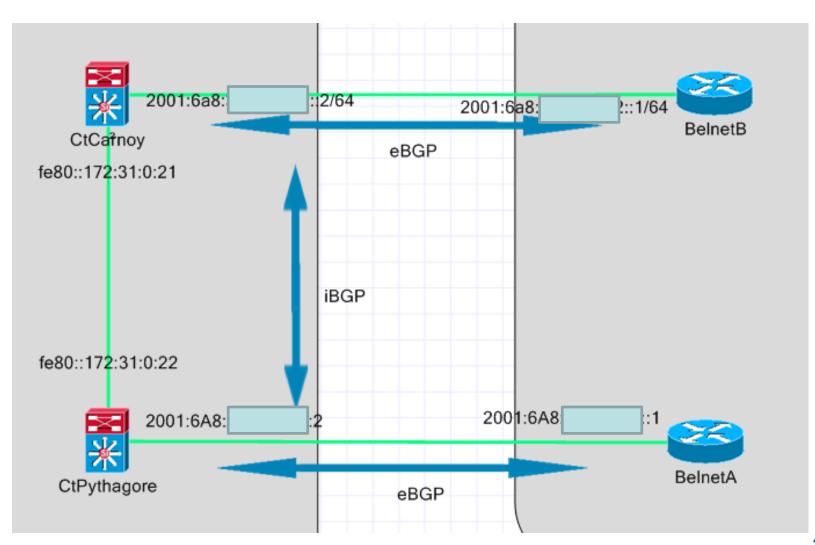
External connections

- Connects the internal network to the Internet through an ISP
 - → BGP is used for this.

- Connects remote sites
 - → L2 and L3 VPNs provided by ISP or directly over the Internet

- No DMZ in our case

Internet connectivity



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Internet connectivity

- Default route ::/0 announced by ISP on both BGP sessions
- UCL's prefix announced on both BGP session to ISP
- Local pref on both side to decide which link is active
- Filters on both side protect from incorrect announcements



CtCarnoy# show ip bgp ipv6 unicast

BGP table version is 3, local router ID is 193.191.X.Y

Status codes: s suppressed, d damped, h history, * valid, > best, i - internal,

r RIB-failure, S Stale, m multipath, b backup-path, f RT-Filter,

x best-external, a additional-path, c RIB-compressed,

Origin codes: i - IGP, e - EGP, ? – incomplete

Network Next Hop Metric LocPrf Weight Path
r ::/0 2001:6A8:
100 0 2611 i
r>i ::/0 2001:6A8:
0 200 0 2611 i

CtPythagore# show ipv6 route

IPv6 Routing Table - default - 82 entries

Codes: C - Connected, L - Local, S - Static, U - Per-user Static route

B - BGP, R - RIP, I1 - ISIS L1, I2 - ISIS L2

IA - ISIS interarea, IS - ISIS summary, D - EIGRP, EX - EIGRP external

ND - ND Default, NDp - ND Prefix, DCE - Destination, NDr - Redirect

O - OSPF Intra, OI - OSPF Inter, OE1 - OSPF ext 1, OE2 - OSPF ext 2

ON1 - OSPF NSSA ext 1, ON2 - OSPF NSSA ext 2

B ::/0 [20/0]

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via FE80::327C:5EFF:FE9F:3428, TenGigabitEthernet2/13

CtPythagore# ping 2001:4860:4860::8888 source Loopback 0

Type escape sequence to abort.

Sending 5, 100-byte ICMP Echos to 2001:4860:4860::8888, timeout is 2 seconds:

Packet sent with a source address of 2001:6A8:3081:F000:172:31:0:22

!!!!!!

Success rate is 100 percent (5/5), round-trip min/avg/max = 4/7/8 ms

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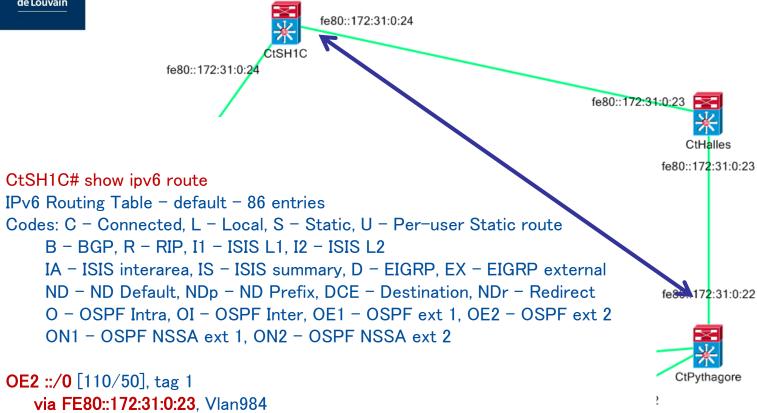
Internet connectivity

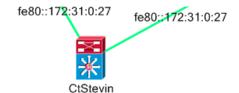
- Other routers need to learn the default route
- Can be achieved by configuring BGP on each router or

ask OSPF to generate and announce a default route



Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)







Security considerations

Make it robust by inserting static routes to null 0 on each router

```
ipv6 route 100::/8 null 0
```

ipv6 route 2001:db8::/32 null 0

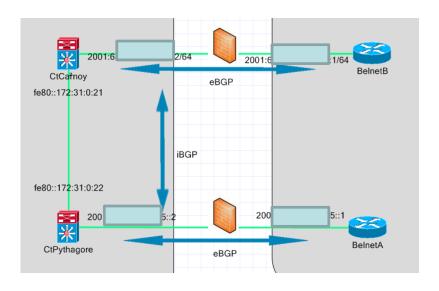
ipv6 route 2001:6a8:3080::/44 null 0

(...)



Security considerations (2)

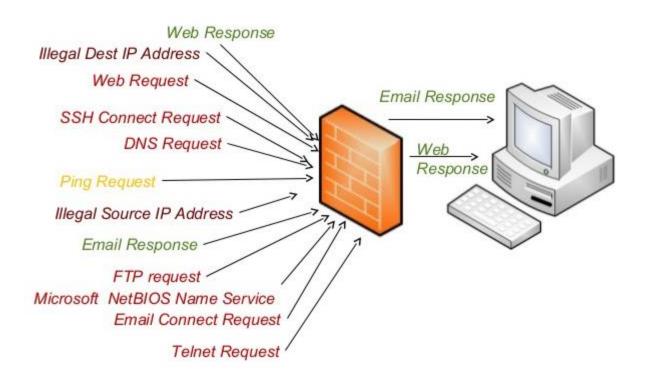
- A big part of the IT threats come from the Internet
- Next generation firewalls protect the edge of the network





Security considerations (3)

Packet Filter Firewall





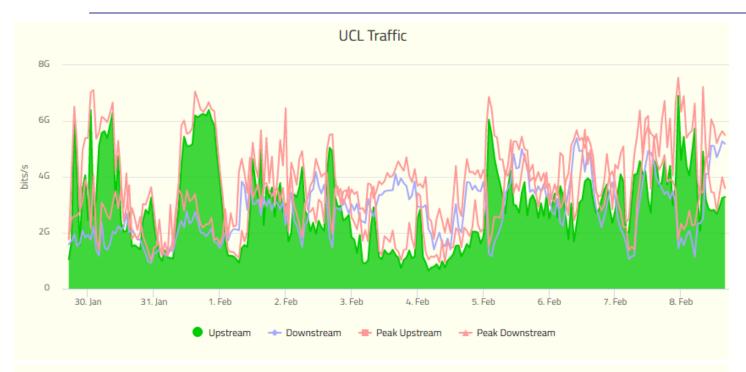
Security considerations (4)

Next generation firewalls offer more granularity





Monitoring



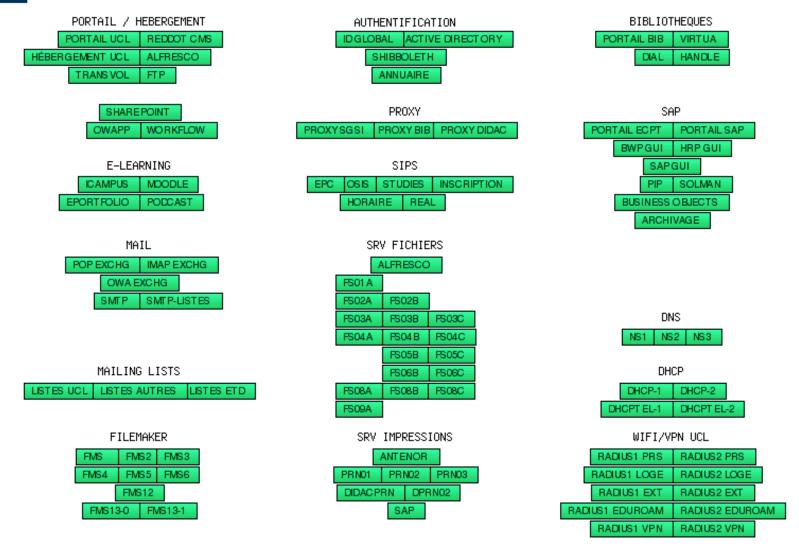
	Max	Avg	Last	
Upstream	6.91 GB	2.95 GB	3.25 GB	
Downstream	5.38 GB	2.78 GB	5.27 GB	
Peak Upstream	7.55 GB	3.77 GB	3.99 GB	
Peak Downstream	6.06 GB	3.39 GB	5.64 GB	

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Data-centers

- Host business critical applications and data
- Security and high availability are very important
- Virtualization is a key component for efficiency, scalability and elasticity but imposes constraints to the network







```
Device Status
          Name: PORTAIL UCL
      DNS Name: uclouvain.be.
       Address: 130.104.6.136
       Status: UP (Reachable since Feb 08, 02:26:31)
         Probe: HTTPS (port 443)
      Up Time: n/a
  Availability:
                        99.8 % (of 16 days, 0 hours, 52 minutes)
  TCP Failures:
                         0.03 % (of 23052 total attempts)
 Short-term Packet Loss: 0.0 % (of 100 last attempts)
  Recent Failure: 21 attempts at Feb 08, 02:06:01
  Response time: 150 msec
Recent Outages:
 02/08 02:06:01: DOWN for 20 minutes, 30 seconds
 02/06 14:41:28: DOWN for 1 minute, 0 seconds
  02/05 02:21:55: DOWN for 6 minutes, 30 seconds
  02/01 11:31:50: DOWN for 30 seconds
  02/01 02:24:49: DOWN for 3 minutes, 38 seconds
  01/30 02:24:44: DOWN for 3 minutes, 0 seconds
  01/29 02:26:42: DOWN for 36 seconds
 01/27 02:24:39: DOWN for 2 minutes, 56 seconds
 01/18 02:23:54: DOWN for 3 minutes, 0 seconds
  01/07 14:59:11: DOWN for 1 minute, 0 seconds
HTTP Information for https://uclouvain.be:443/probe.php
 Time to establish connection: 16 msecs
 Time spent connected to host: 134 msecs
Last updated Feb 08, 16:45:32; interval: 1 minute, 0 seconds
```



Data-centers

- Redundant connection to electrical grid
- UPS / diesel power generator
- Redundant servers / switches / connections
- Redundant power supplies
- Strict access-control
- Advanced fire protection
- Strict temperature and humidity conditions
- Dust control
- Disaster recovery plan

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Data-centers layers

- Security layer (ACLs, network firewall, server firewall, application firewall)
- Load-balancing
- Application servers
- Load-balancing
- Database servers

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Data-centers: load-balancer

- Shares the load between a pool of servers
- Servers can be removed or added to the pool on the fly
 - for maintenance purposes
 - due to an outage
 - to increase or decrease capacity
- Can provide SSL offloading

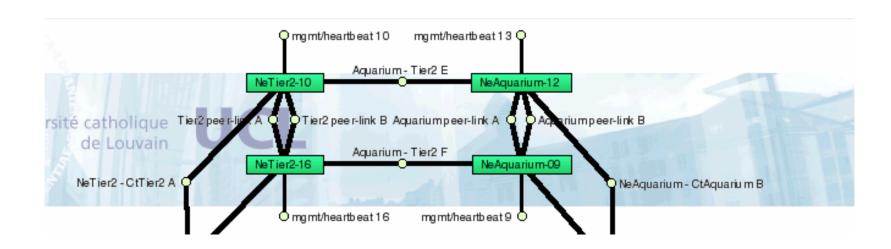


Data-centers: load-balancer

- -Different load-spread techniques:
 - round robin
 - number of active connections
 - response time
- Servers inside a pool are monitored using probes
 - ping
 - tcp connection
 - application call



Data-centers



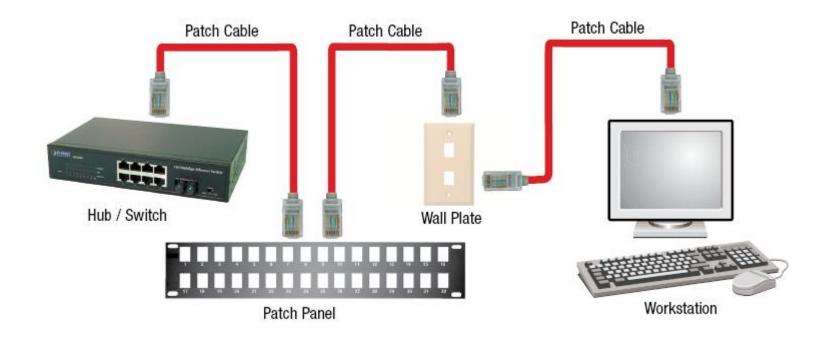
Campus

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The wide part of UCL's network

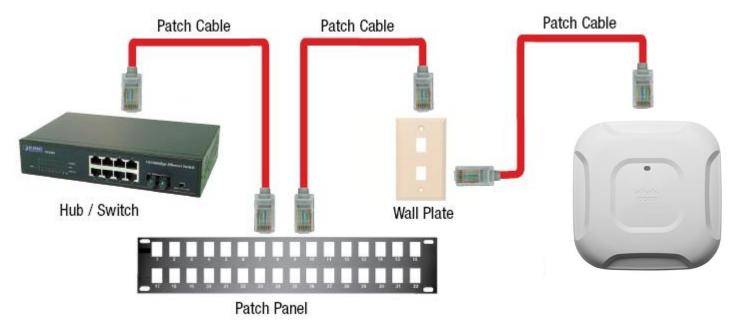
Switches are located in patchrooms

Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)



How patching is done

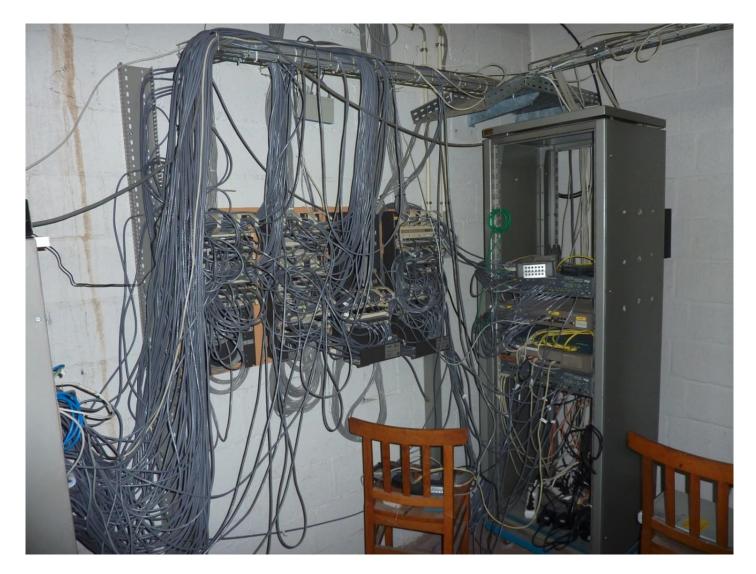
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How patching is done







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properly managed patchroom





properly managed patchroom

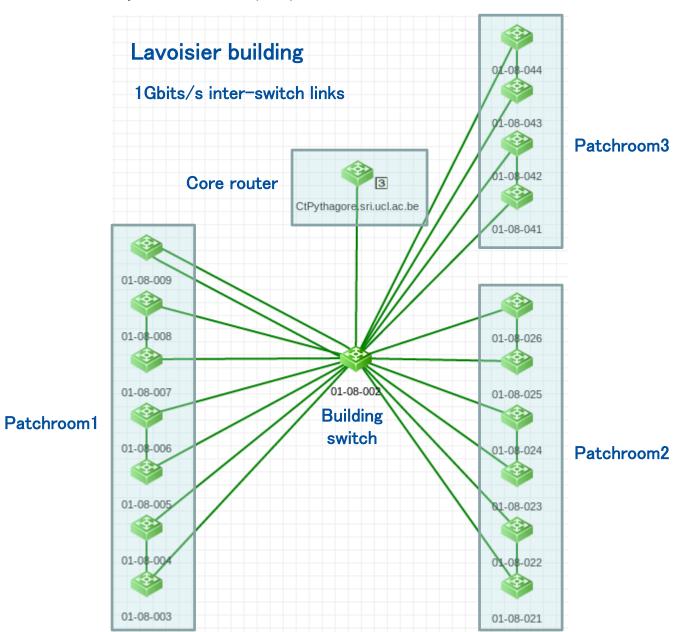
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Distribution and access layer

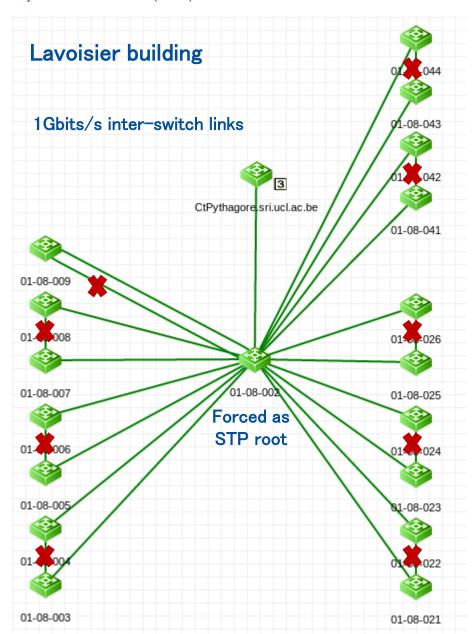
Each building is based on the same design

- 1 building switch:
 - connected using fiber to the core network connected using copper to access layer switches
- Several access switches:
 hold device connections
- STP used to avoid loops at L2
- L3 routing done on core switch









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Distribution and access layer

VLANs used to separate traffic from different groups at L2

Desktops used by students

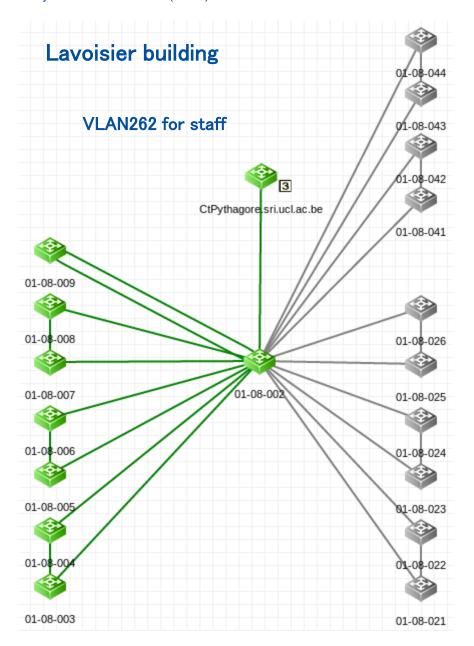
Desktops used by staff members

Printers

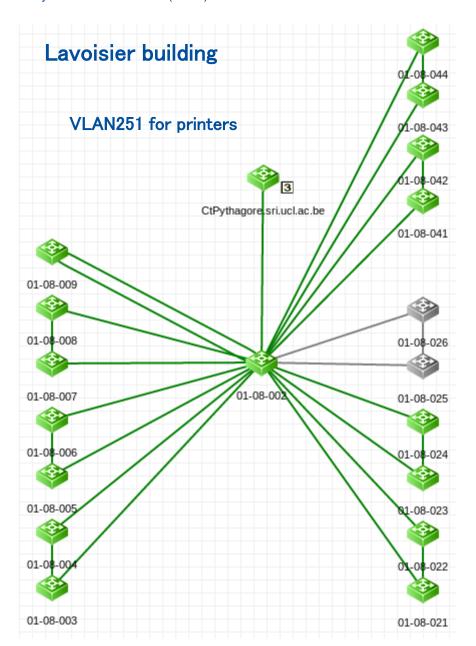
IP phones

. . .

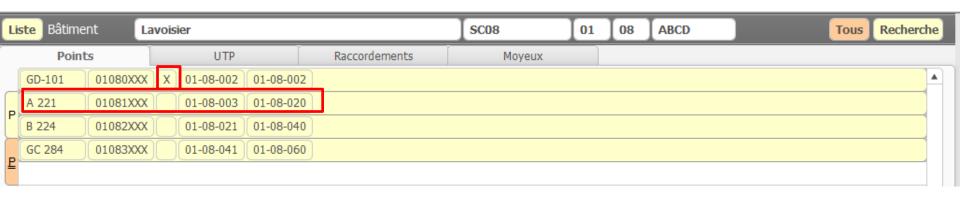




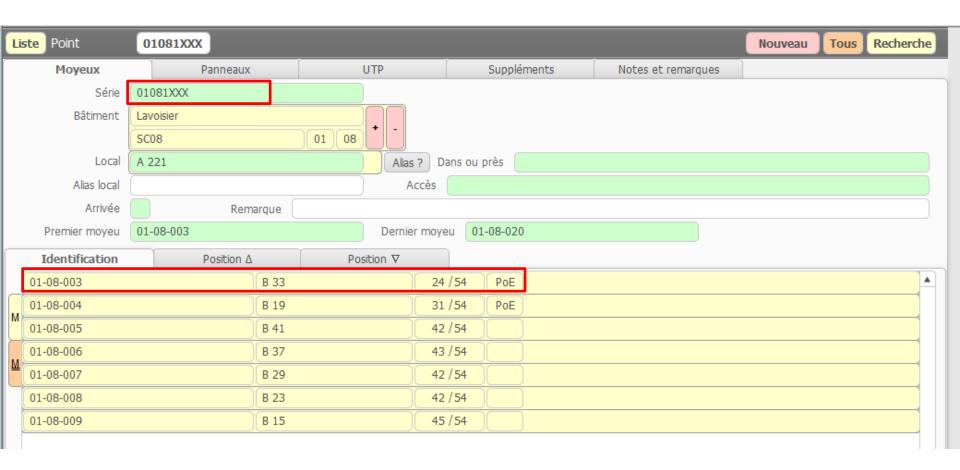




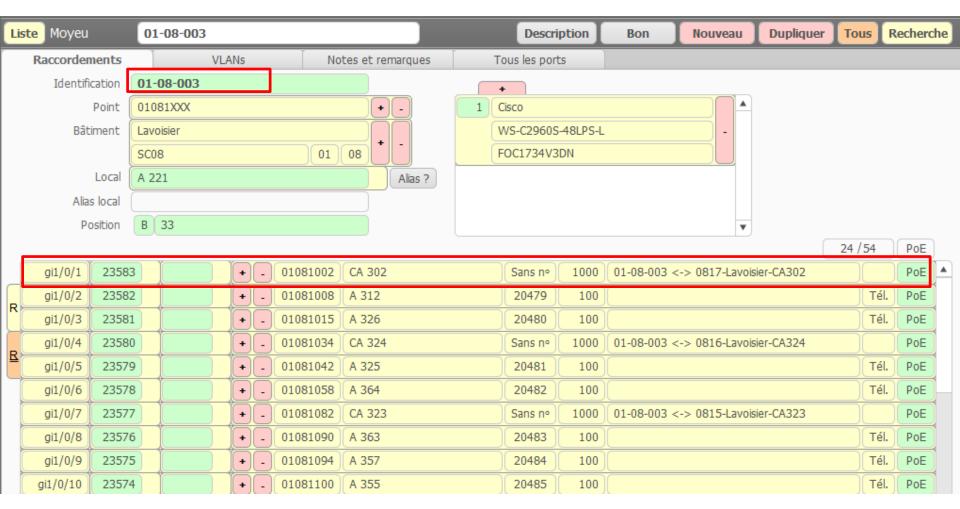
Documentation is crucial



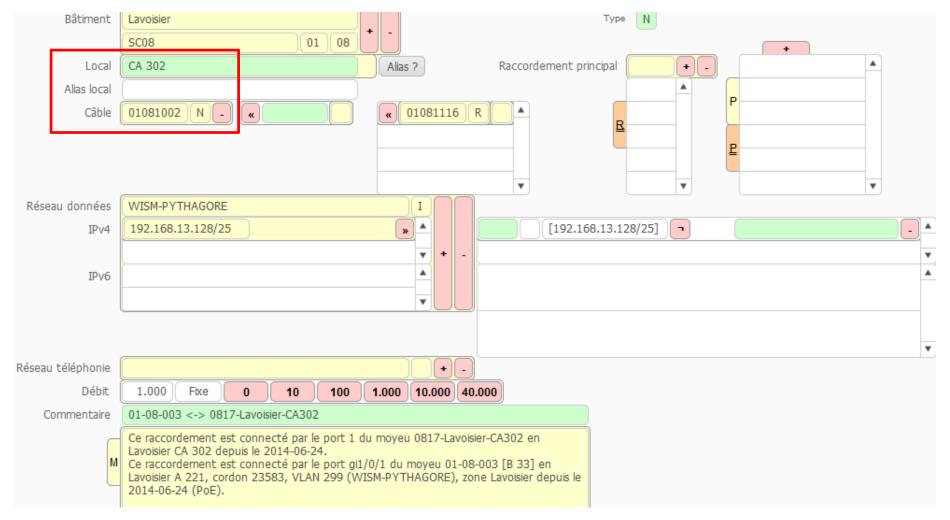












QoS

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- Prioritization needed because of the wide range of devices and applications using the network
- Different RTT, jitter and bandwidth constraints
- Kicks in only when congestion occurs
- Packets are tagged with a priority
- Voice calls get the highest priority but at low bandwidth
- Security cameras flows get higher priority
- Other flows get normal priority
- Access ports with more than 50Mbit/s traffic get low priority



Security considerations

- Enforce security rules as close as possible to the source.
- Switches inspect user traffic to:
 - drop unauthorized router advertisements (RA)
 - deny unauthorized DHCP servers
 - allow traffic only if DHCP transaction completed
 - avoid address spoofing
- -Routers check if source IP correspond to the defined network
- ACLs / firewalls are present on specific networks



Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)

01-16-012#sh ipv6 neighbors binding

Binding Table has 79 entries, 79 dynamic

Codes: L - Local, S - Static, ND - Neighbor Discovery, DH - DHCP, PKT - Other Packet, API - API created

IPv6 address Link-Layer addr Interface vlan prlvl age state Time left

ND FE80::FAB1:56FF:FECB:10A5 F8B1.56CB.10A5 Gi1/0/2 238 0005 4mn REACHABLE 24 s try 0

ND 2001:6A8:3081:4160:F803:99A6:37CA:53DF E8EA.6A00.159B Gi1/0/38 225 0005 237mn STALE 73544 s

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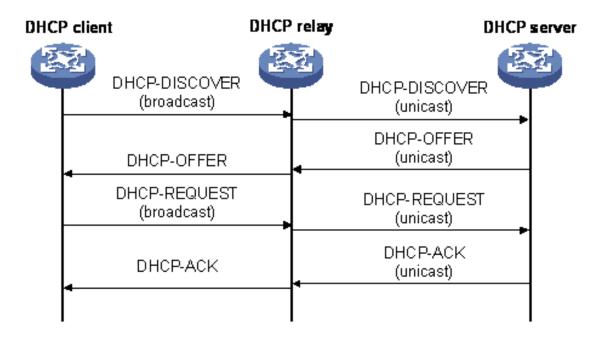
Address assignment

- Avoid manually assigned addresses:
 generates a lot of configuration burden
 prone to human error
- Unable to dynamically renumber a network
- Exceptions exist for network devices and specific servers

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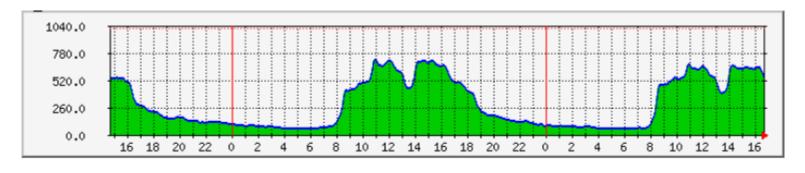
DHCP

- One global redundant DHCP infrastructure hosted in the DC
- Routers act as a DHCP relay agent





DHCP monitoring

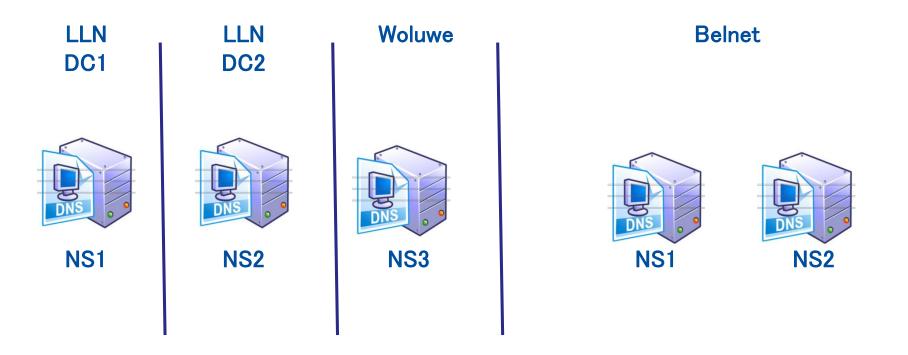


Max Moyenne Actuel
Adr. IP utilises: 712 adresse(s) 291 adresse(s) 538 adresse(s)

Number of distributed IPs on a DHCP pool used for WiFi



DNS





Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)

-qhunin@vps73519:~\$ dig @130.104.1.1 uclouvain.be NS

-(...)

-:: QUESTION SECTION:

-;uclouvain.be. IN NS

-;; ANSWER SECTION:

-uclouvain.be.	604800	IN	NS	ns3.sri.ucl.ac.be.
-uclouvain.be.	604800	IN	NS	ns2.belnet.be.

AAAA

2001:6a8:3082:1::53

-uclouvain.be. 604800 IN NS ns1.sri.ucl.ac.be.

-uclouvain.be. NS ns2.sri.ucl.ac.be. 604800 IN

-uclouvain.be. 604800 NS ns1.belnet.be. IN

-;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:

-ns3.sri.ucl.ac.be.

604800	IN	Α	130.104.1.1
604800	IN	Α	130.104.1.2
604800	IN	Α	130.104.254.1
604800	IN	AAAA	2001:6a8:3081:1::53
604800	IN	AAAA	2001:6a8:3081:2::53
	604800 604800 604800	604800 IN 604800 IN	604800 IN A 604800 IN A 604800 IN AAAA

IN

604800



DNS

- Two different views:

one for the external world

DNS servers respond only for UCL's domains

one for the internal network

DNS servers respond for all domains

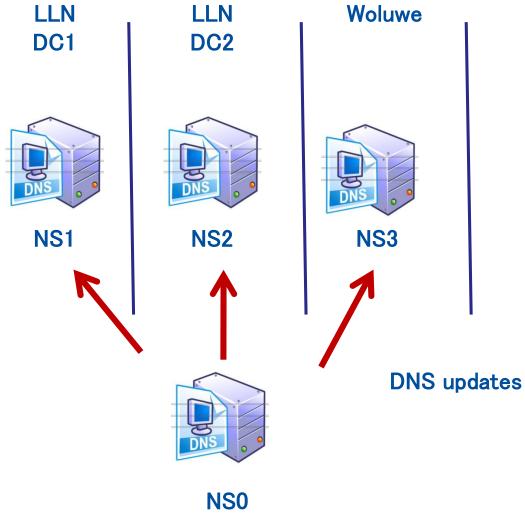
recursive DNS

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DNS - security

- DNSSec: DNS responses are signed using cryptography
- Hidden master: holds the authoritative DB
 does not serve client queries

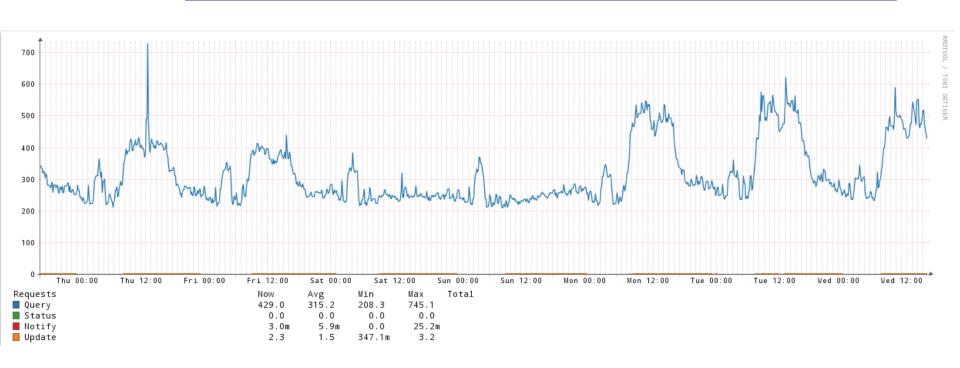
Service Général du Système d'Information (SGSI)



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DNS monitoring



Nbr of incoming DNS requests per second on NS1

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Monitoring tools

- Essential to see, detect and understand

what happened

what's happening

what will happen

- Used for proactive and reactive action during:

incidents

capacity planning

design

- Uses SNMP, netflows, syslog and/or CLI to collect data 73



Management tools

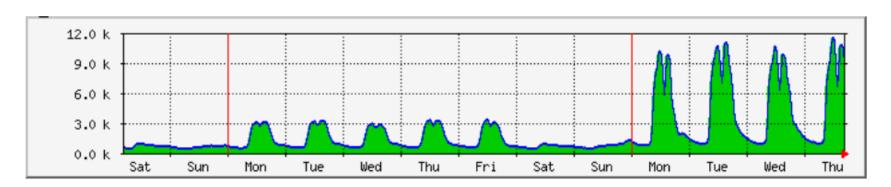
- Essential to be able to scale
- Examples:

configuration backup automation software update automation automated configuration deployment

. . .



Graphique hebdomadaire (sur 30 minutes : Moyenne)

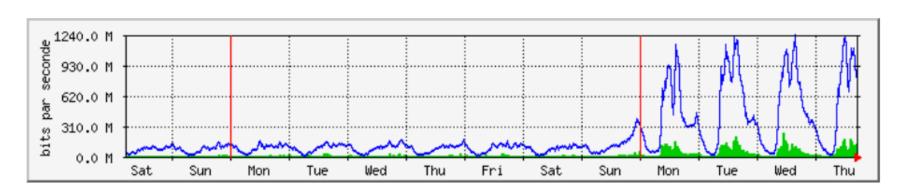


Max Moyenne Actuel
Clients: 11 kClients 2113 Clients 8866 Clients
Sortie 11 kClients 2113 Clients 8866 Clients

Total number of simultaneous WiFi clients

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Graphique hebdomadaire (sur 30 minutes : Moyenne)



 Max
 Moyenne
 Actuel

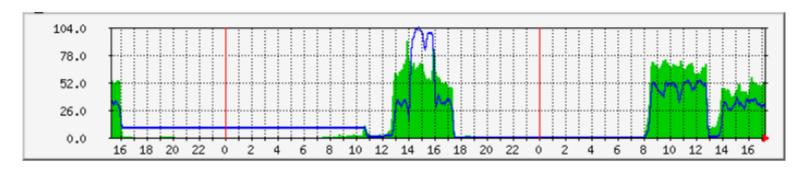
 Entrée
 242.8 Mb/s (2.4%)
 20.3 Mb/s (0.2%)
 131.9 Mb/s (1.3%)

 Sortie
 1229.3 Mb/s (12.3%)
 198.8 Mb/s (2.0%)
 850.1 Mb/s (8.5%)

Student's bandwidth usage on WiFi



Graphique quotidien (sur 5 minutes : Moyenne)

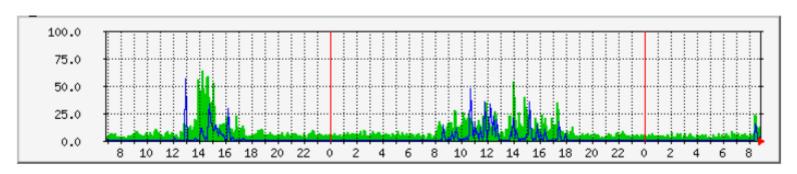


Max Moyenne Actuel
2.4Ghz: 91 Clients 20 Clients 53 Clients
5Ghz: 104 Clients 19 Clients 32 Clients

Number of connected clients on one of the WiFi access points in the SC10 auditorium



Graphique quotidien (sur 5 minutes : Moyenne)



Max Moyenne Actuel

2.4Ghz: 64 % 9 % 13 % **5Ghz:** 55 % 2 % 1 %

Medium usage on one of the WiFi access points in the SC10 auditorium



WiFi is slow

-Is it due to:

user's computer

a coverage issue

interference issue

saturated WiFi access point

saturated uplink on the wired part

WiFi controller issue

limit of available commercial bandwidth reached

service provider issue

destination website issue

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The future

catholique de Louvain

Core network replacement

Vision: provide a secure and seamless mobility experience to users throughout the campus no matter if they are connected using WiFi or wired, onsite or remotely.



The future

- Increase bandwidth capacity
- Provide network services as an Enterprise Service
 Provider
- Ability to virtually segment the network
- Reduce configuration tasks
- Increase flexibility
- Reduce lead time
- Use automation





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