
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

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

...

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
500 Ethernet access and distribution switches
25.000 network outlets
900 WiFi access points supporting up to 12.000 clients
30 kms of fiber cables

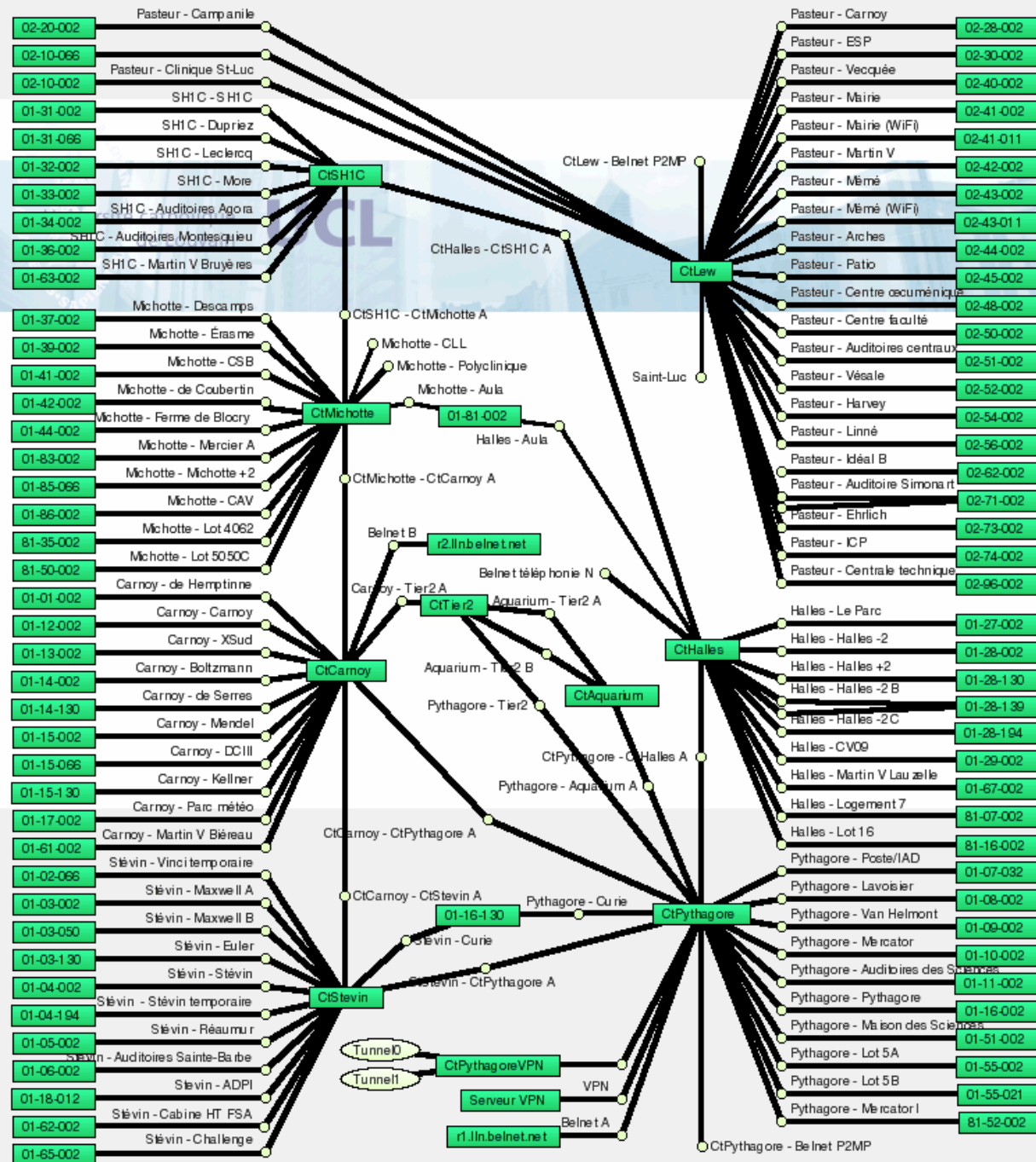
How we connect



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

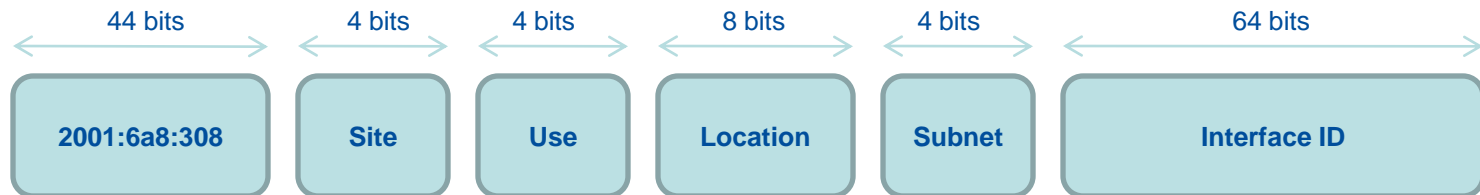
→ no NAT needed

2001:6a8:3080::/44

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.

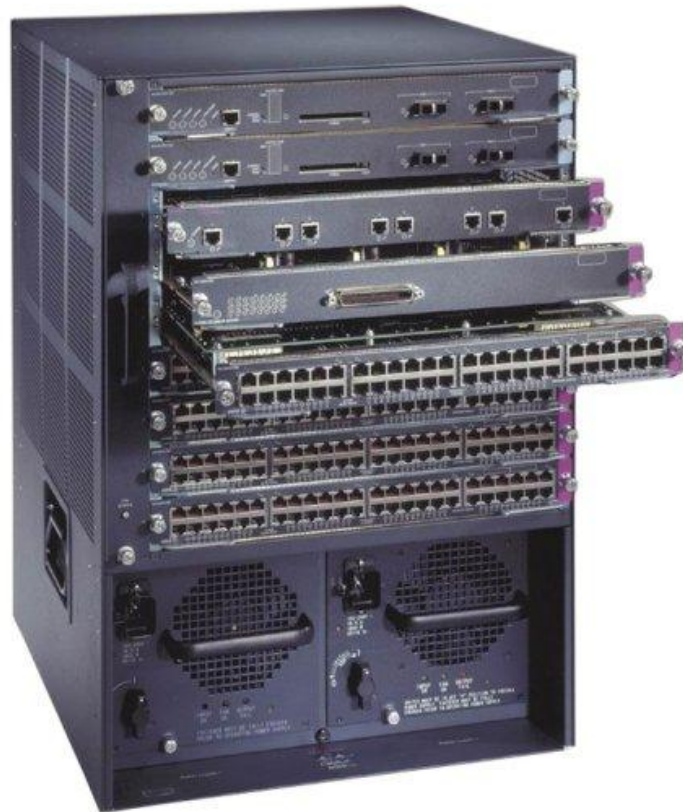
make filtering rules easier and more readable

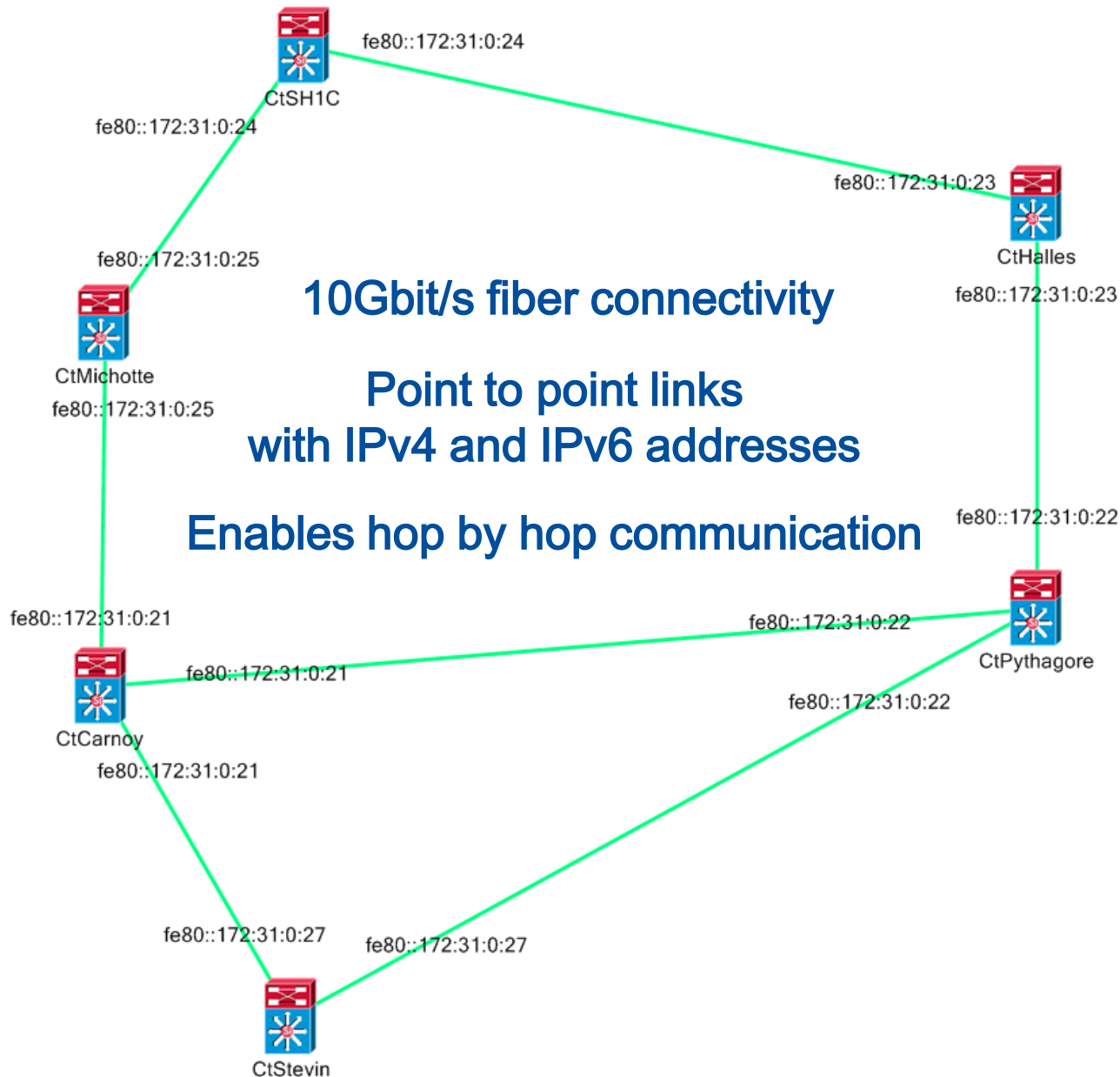
Core network

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

Core network

Cisco 6509-E





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

Output Interface: Vlan981

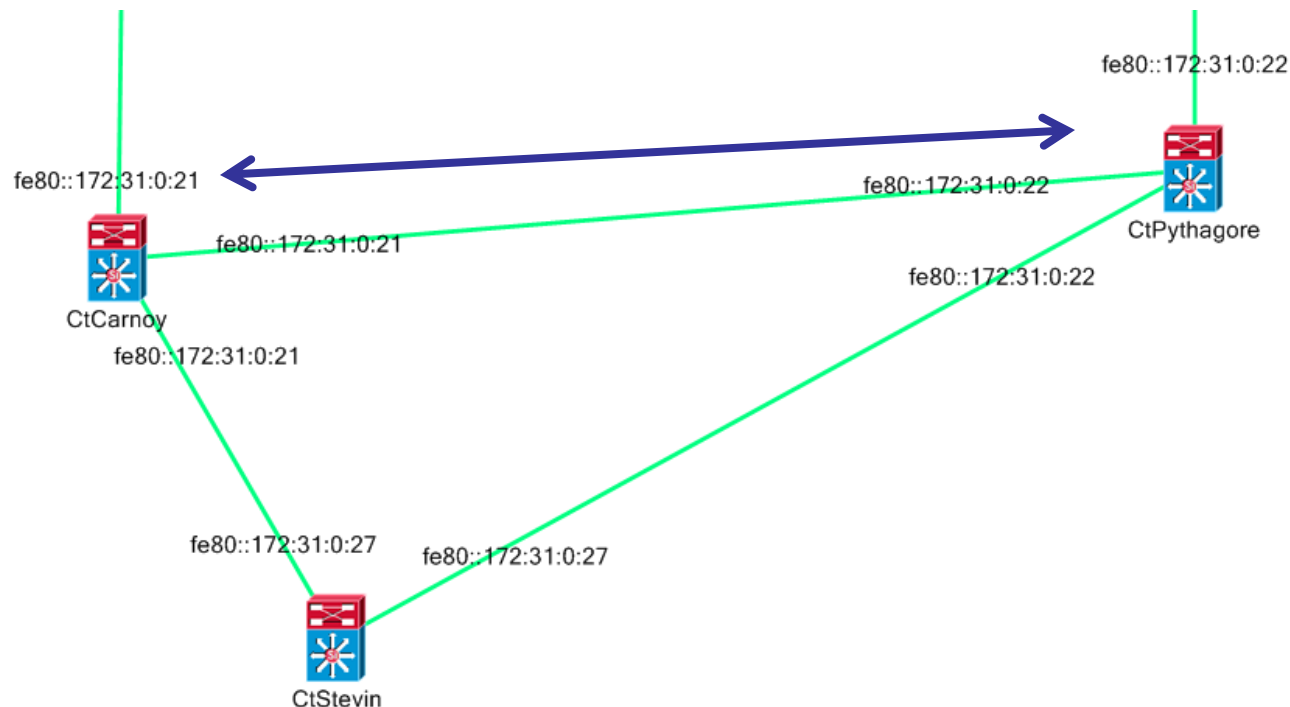
Type escape sequence to abort.

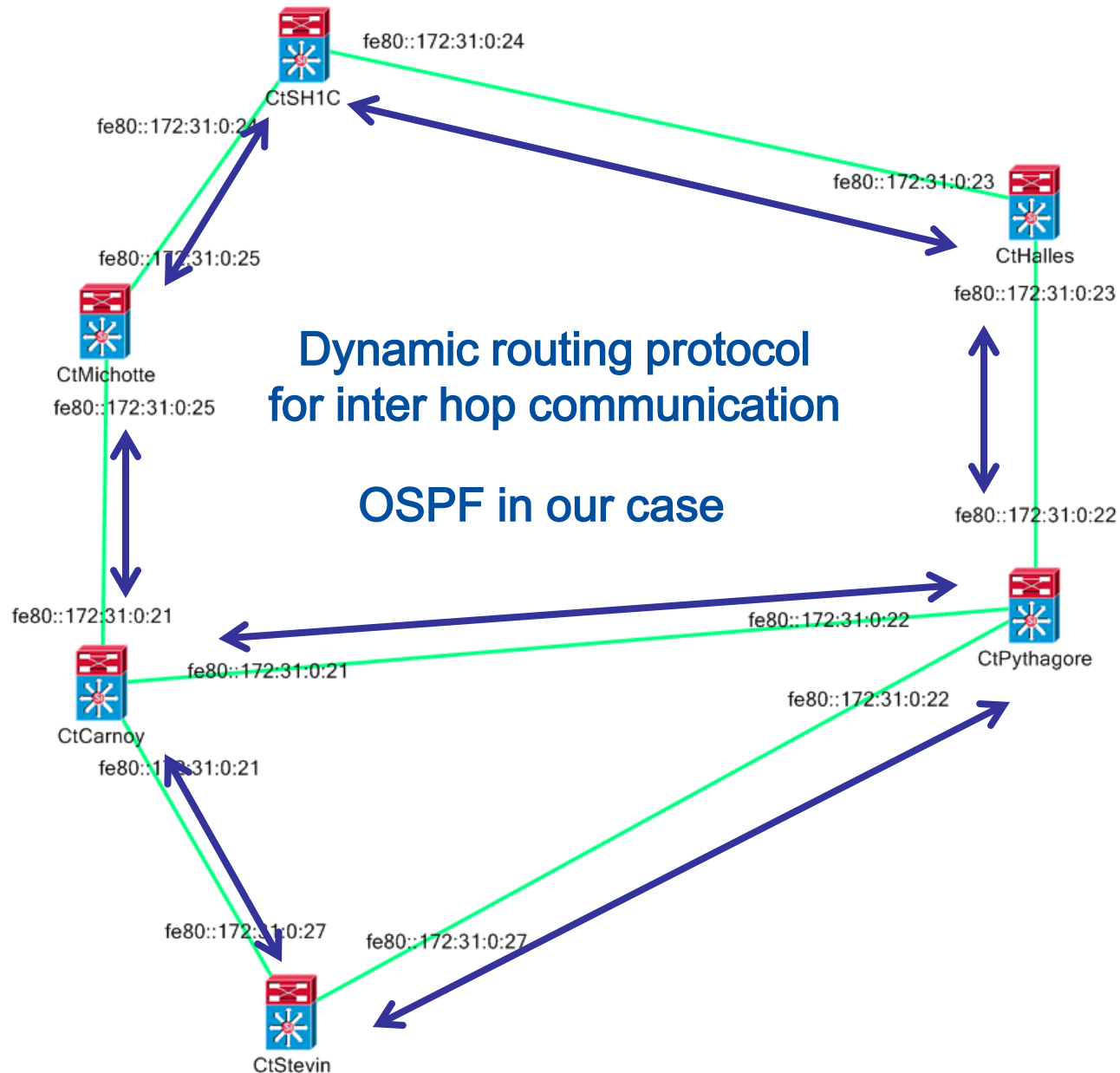
Sending 5, 100-byte ICMP Echos to FE80::172:31:0:21, timeout is 2 seconds:

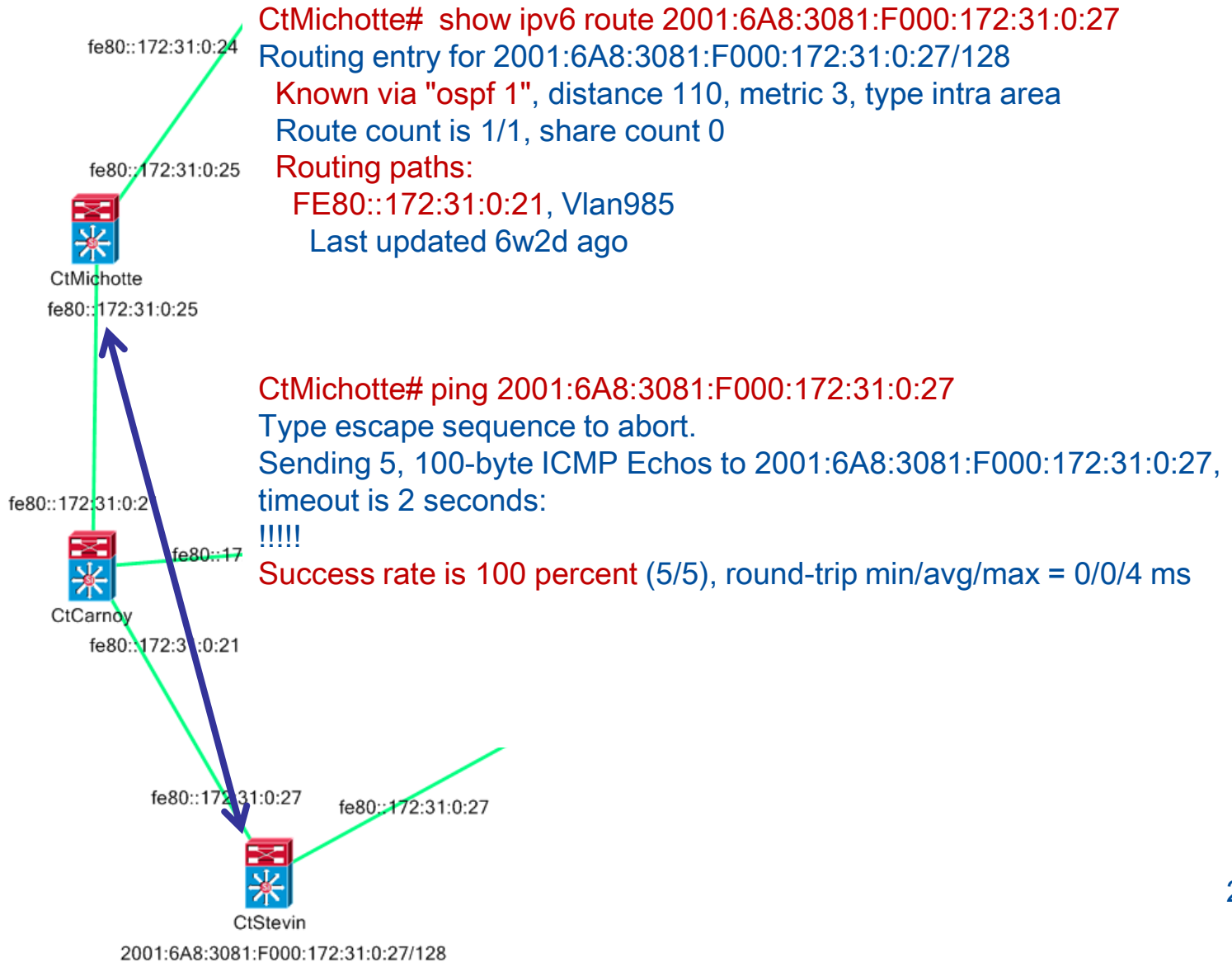
Packet sent with a source address of FE80::172:31:0:22%Vlan981

!!!!

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



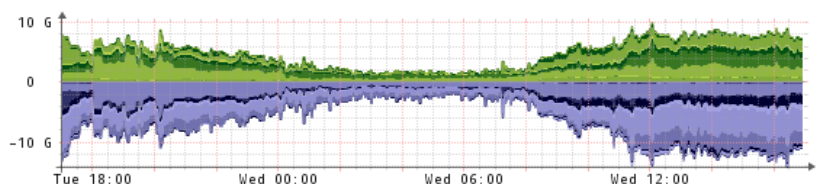




Cisco IOS Software, s2t54 Software (s2t54-IPSERVICESK9-M), Version 15.1(2)SY7, RELEASE SOFTWARE (fc4) Technical Support: <http://www.cisco.com/techsupport> Copyright (c) 1986-2016 by Cisco Systems, Inc. Compiled Sun 13-Mar-16 07:14 by prod_rel_team

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	313 days, 52m 17s

Ports



238 221 2 15

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, Vlan134, Vlan196, Vlan200, Vlan201, Vlan203, Vlan207, Vlan208, Vlan209, Vlan211, Vlan212, Vlan213, Vlan214, Vlan216, Vlan217, Vlan218, Vlan219, Vlan220, Vlan221, Vlan222, Vlan223, Vlan224, Vlan225, Vlan226, Vlan227, 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, Vlan298, Vlan299, Vlan303, Vlan307, Vlan308, Vlan309, Vlan310, Vlan449, Vlan484, Vlan814, Vlan815, Vlan816, Vlan817, Vlan818, Vlan819, Vlan820, Vlan821, Vlan822, Vlan824, Vlan826, Vlan828, Vlan829, Vlan830, Vlan831, Vlan833, Vlan836, Vlan837, Vlan838, Vlan839, Vlan842, Vlan843, Vlan844.

Processors

Routing Processor 5	18%
Module 1	11%
Module 2	45%

Memory

Module 1 (Processor)	58.5MB/181MB (32%)	122MB (68%)
Module 2 (Processor)	212MB/949MB (22%)	736MB (78%)
Routing Processor 5 (Processor)	315MB/1.41GB (22%)	1.11GB (78%)
Routing Processor 5 (I/O)	124MB/256MB (49%)	131MB (51%)

Storage

Boot Disk	282MB/977MB (29%)	694MB (71%)
CFC's Boot Flash	634kB/15.2MB (4%)	14.6MB (96%)

c6500/7600 Crossbar

Physical Slot 1

Fabric 0	ok	20Gbps	Ingress	5%	Egress	2%
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Physical Slot 2

Fabric 0	ok	20Gbps	Ingress	3%	Egress	15%
Fabric 1	ok	20Gbps	Ingress	8%	Egress	7%

Physical Slot 5

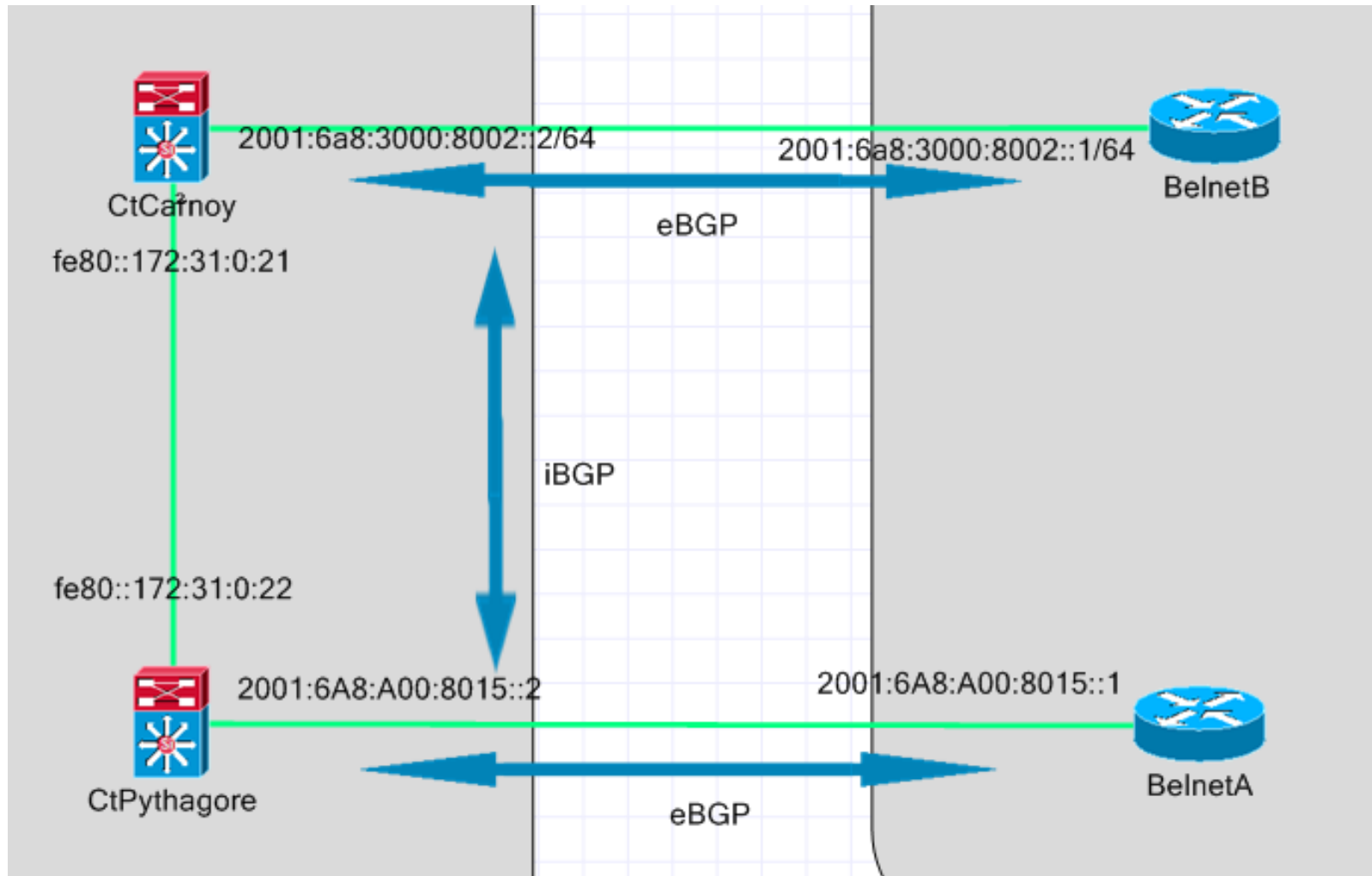
Fabric 0	ok	20Gbps	Ingress	7%	Egress	8%
Fabric 1	ok	20Gbps	Ingress	0%	Egress	0%

Physical Slot 8

External connections

- Connects the internal network to the Internet through a 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



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 decide which link is active
- Filters on both side protects 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	2001:6A8:3000:8002::1	100	0	2611	i
r>i ::/0	2001:6A8:A00:8015::1	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]

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:

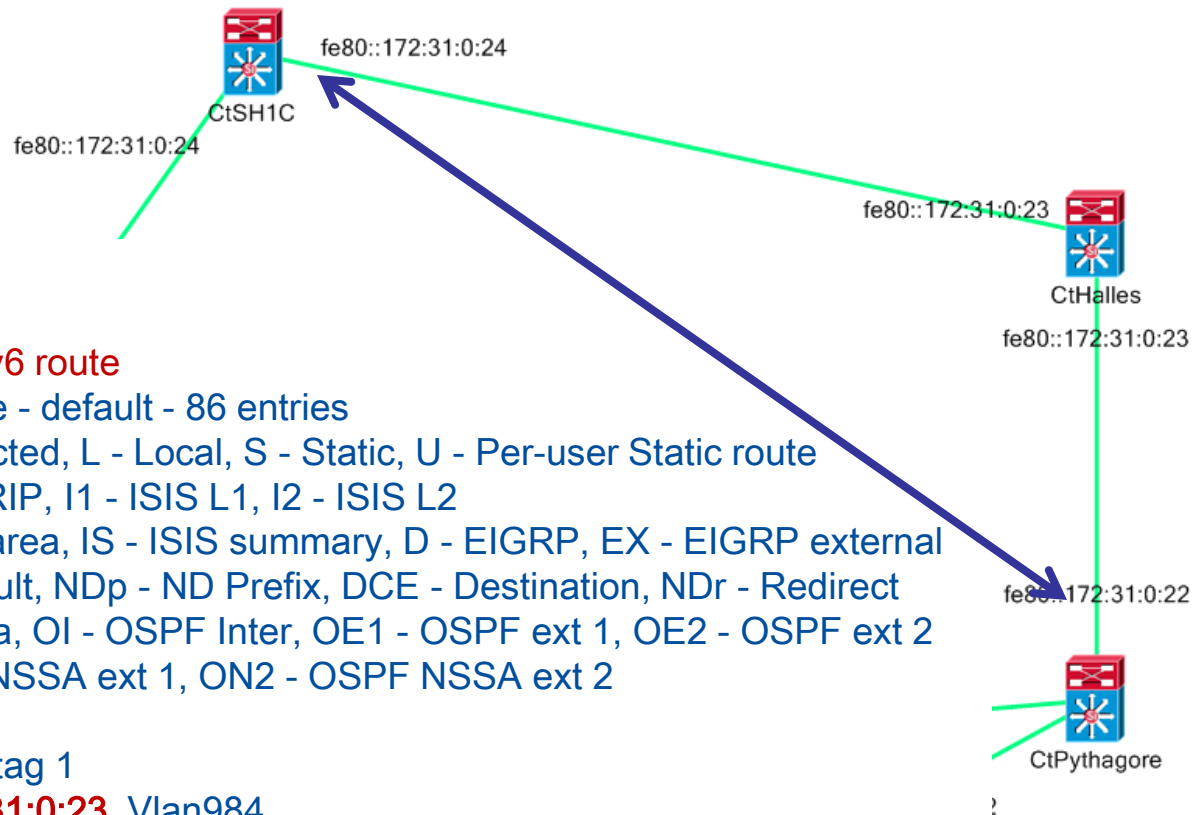
Packet sent with a source address of 2001:6A8:3081:F000:172:31:0:22

!!!!

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

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



CtSH1C# show ipv6 route

IPv6 Routing Table - default - 86 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

OE2 ::/0 [110/50], tag 1

via FE80::172:31:0:23, Vlan984



Security considerations

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

ipv6 route 100::/8 null 0

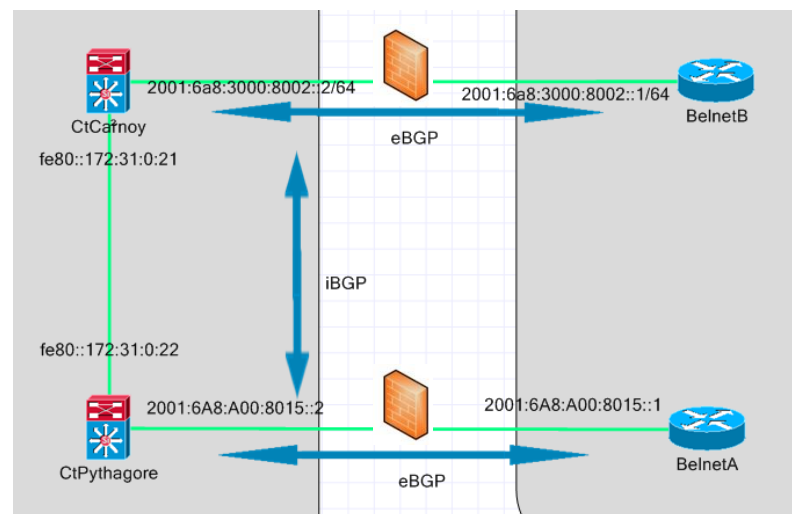
ipv6 route 2001:db8::/32 null 0

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

(...)

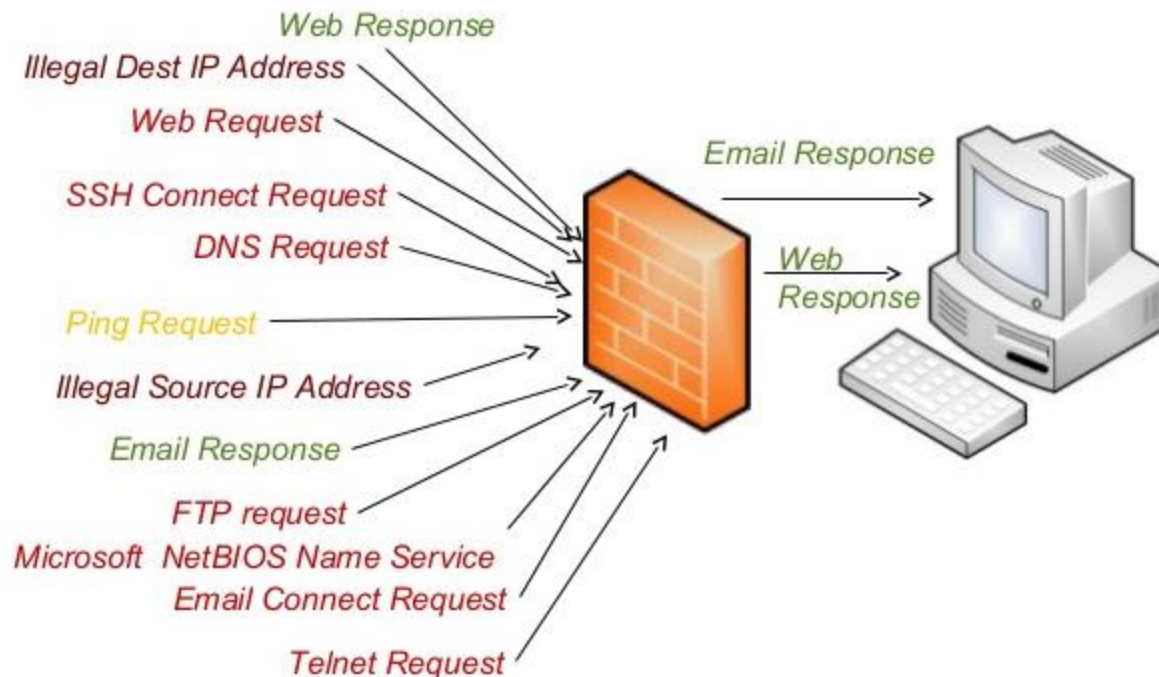
Security considerations (2)

- A big part of the IT threats come from the Internet
 - ACLs are currently protecting the edge of the network
- mainly L3 and L4 filtering rules
- stateless filtering



Security considerations (3)

Packet Filter Firewall



Security considerations (4)

IPv6 access list belnet-in-ipv6-acl (snapshot)

deny ipv6 2001:6A8:3080::/44 any (24 matches)

permit udp any host 2001:6A8:3081:1::53 eq domain (1 match)

permit udp any host 2001:6A8:3081:2::53 eq domain

permit udp any host 2001:6A8:3082:1::53 eq domain (2 matches)

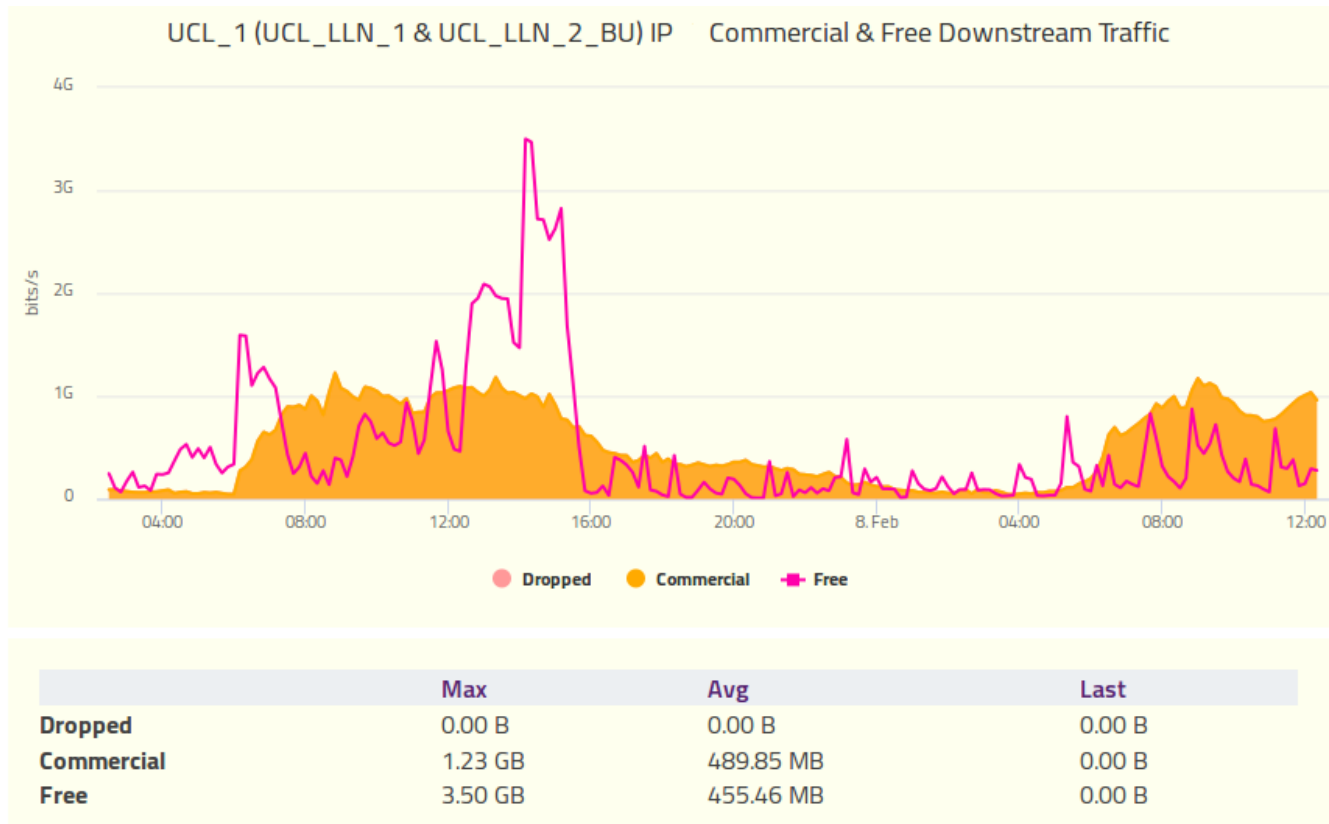
deny udp any any eq domain (111 matches)

Security considerations (4)

Project ongoing to install next generation firewalls at the edge

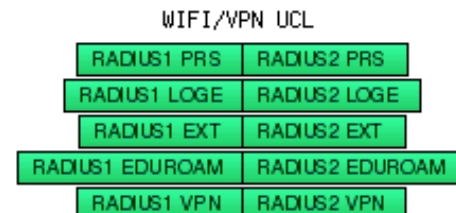
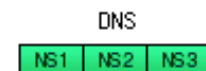
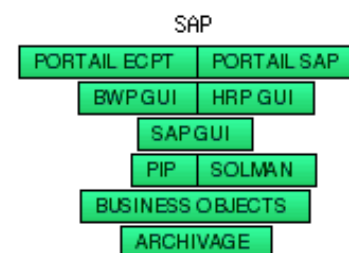
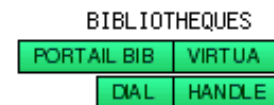
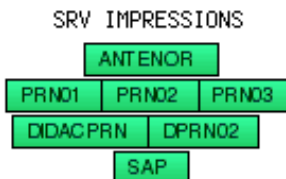
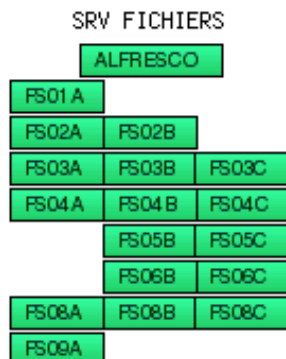
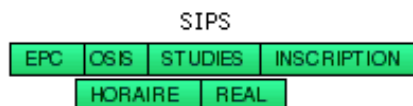
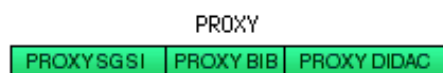
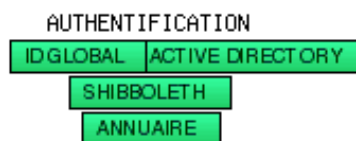
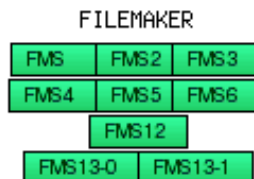
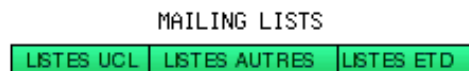
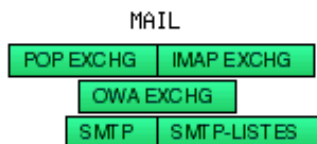
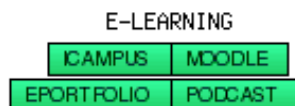
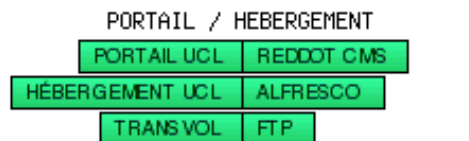


Monitoring



Data-centers

- Hosts 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: 130.104.5.100
Status: UP (Reachable since 04 Feb, 19:50:52)
Probe: Probe Group

Recent Outages:

04/02 19:49:52: DOWN for 1 minute, 0 seconds
20/12 13:25:07: DOWN for 9 minutes, 0 seconds
09/12 05:01:05: DOWN for 2 hours, 19 minutes
08/12 10:36:54: DOWN for 7 minutes, 2 seconds
07/12 22:36:45: DOWN for 10 hours, 5 minutes
05/12 06:52:03: DOWN for 1 minute, 0 seconds
03/12 11:44:19: DOWN for 1 minute, 0 seconds
01/12 13:09:33: DOWN for 9 minutes, 0 seconds
01/12 08:57:29: DOWN for 11 minutes, 0 seconds
10/11 16:37:21: DOWN for 1 minute, 0 seconds

Last updated 08 Feb, 13:42:09

Member Probes

▷ OK: HTTP PORTAIL UCL

Device Status

Status: UP (Reachable since 01 Dec, 09:02:36)
Probe: HTTP (port 80)
Up Time: n/a
Availability: 100 % (of 518 days, 5 hours, 58 minutes)
TCP Failures: 0.01 % (of 745933 total attempts)
Short-term Packet Loss: 0.0 % (of 100 last attempts)
Recent Failure: 1 attempts at 01 Dec, 09:02:06
Response time: 75 msec

Data-centers

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

Data-centers layers

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

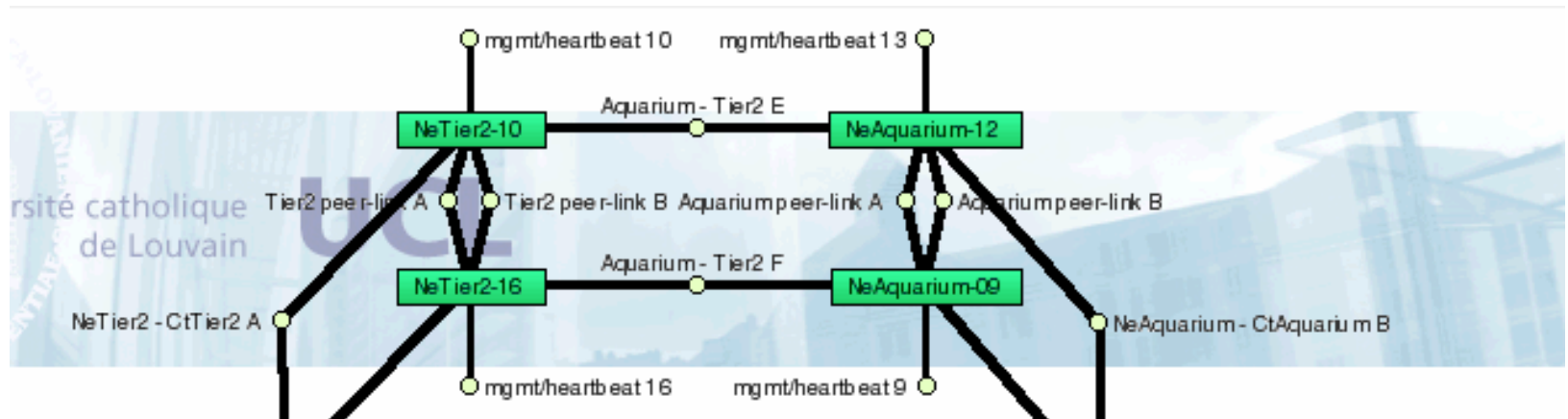
Data-centers: load-balancer

- 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 pool are monitored using probes
 - ping
 - tcp connection
 - application call

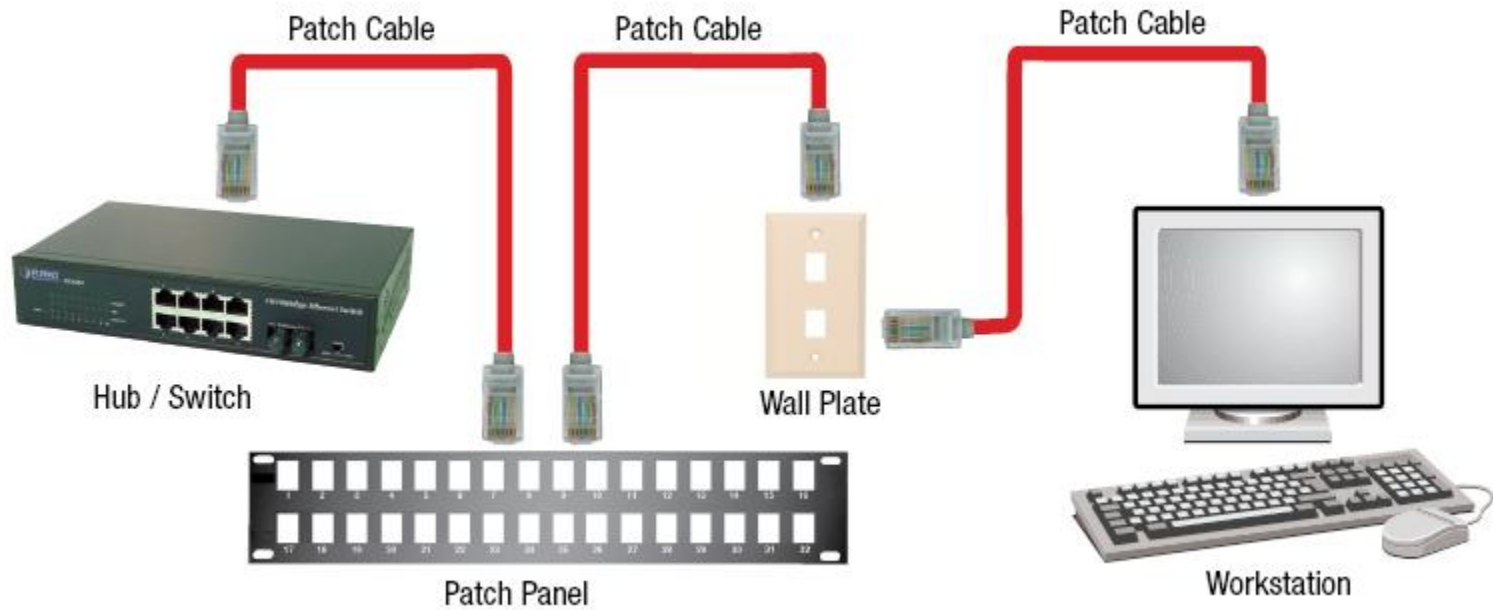
Data-centers



Campus

The wide part of UCL's network

Switches are located in patchrooms



How patching is done



Example of a badly managed patchroom



properly managed patchroom

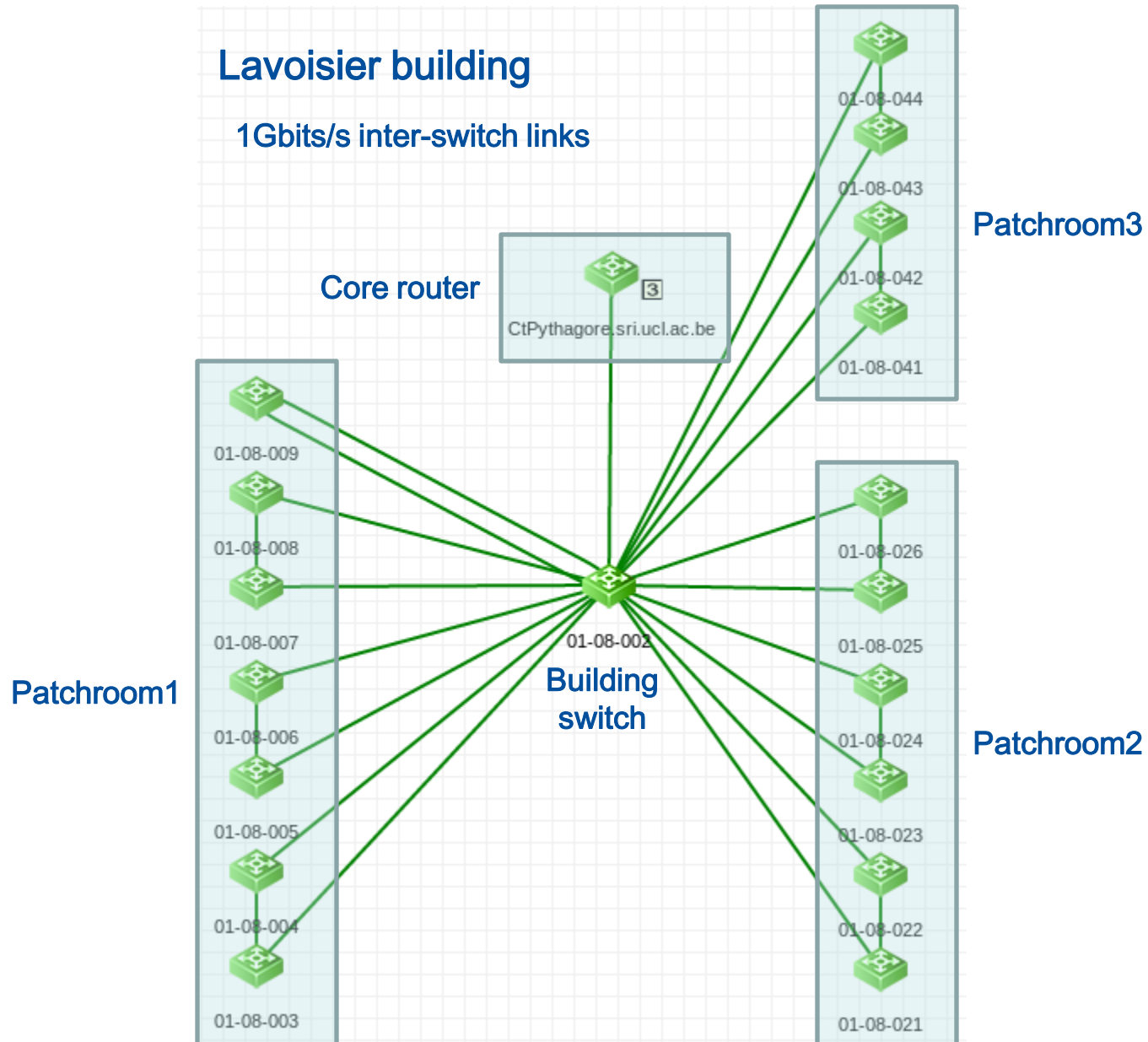


properly managed patchroom

Distribution and access layer

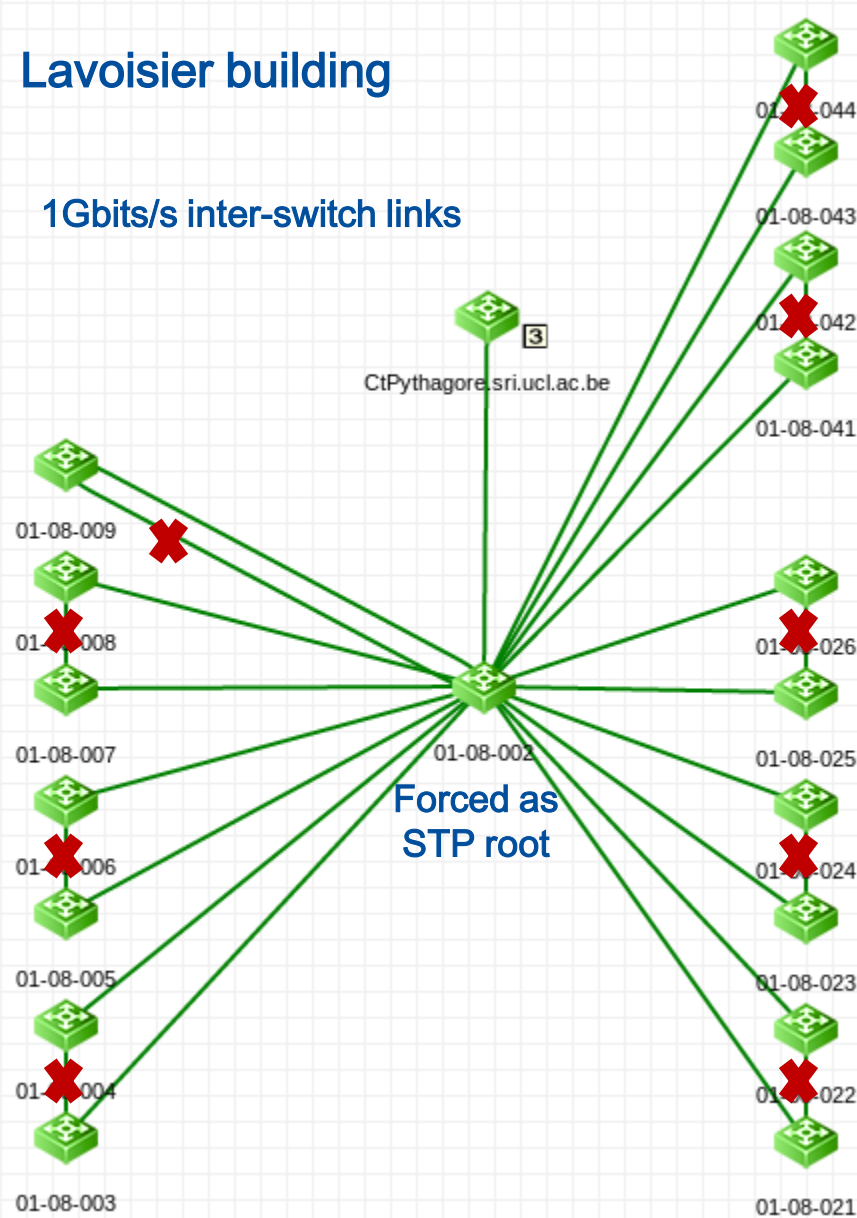
Each building is based on the same design

- 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



Lavoisier building

1Gbits/s inter-switch links



Distribution and access layer

VLANs used to separate traffic from different groups at L2

Desktops used by students

Desktops used by staff members

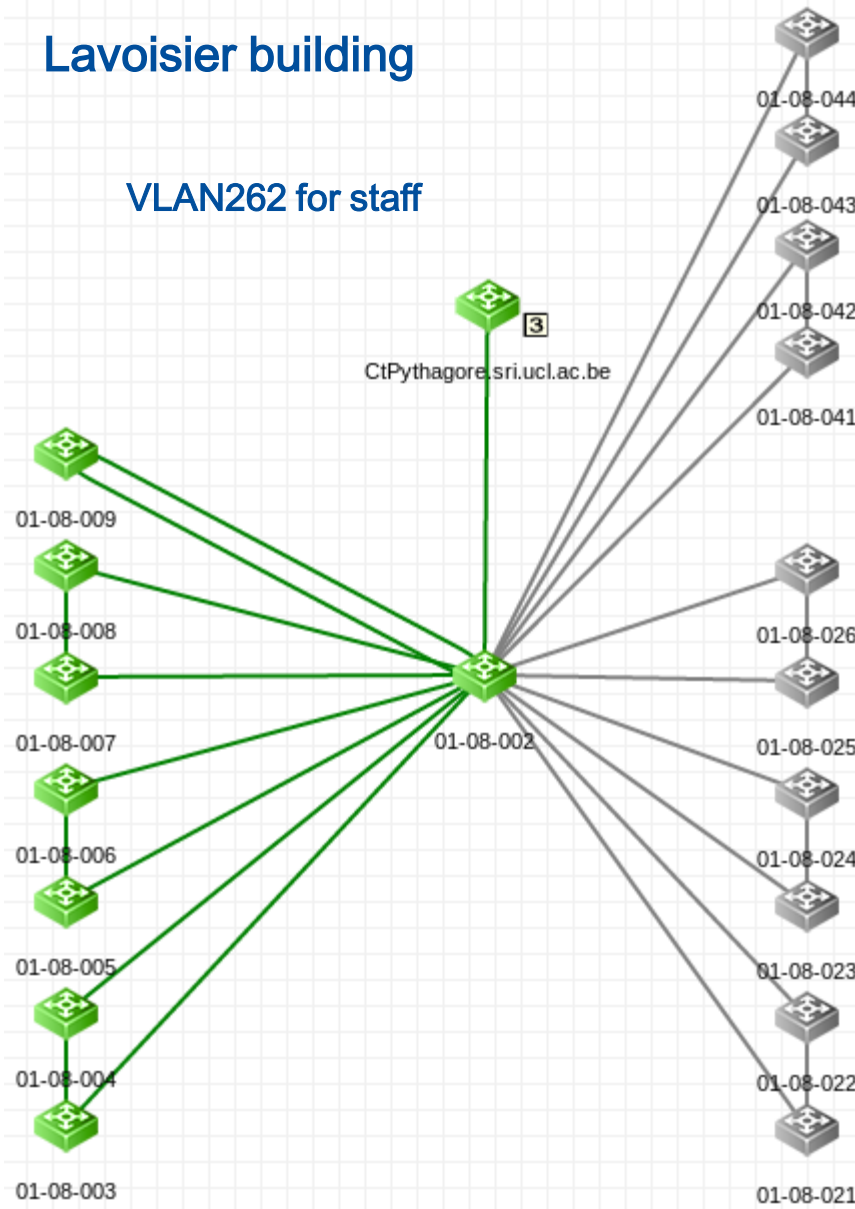
Printers

IP phones

...

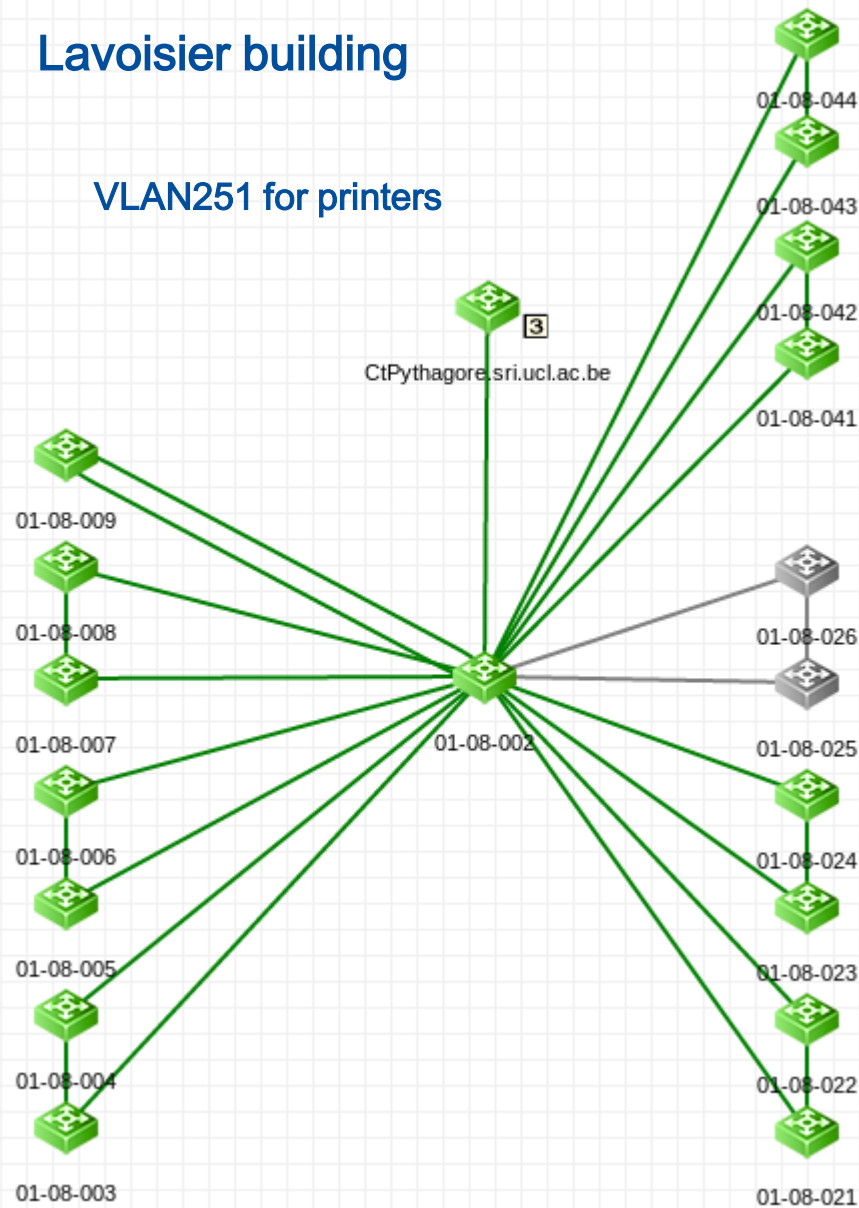
Lavoisier building

VLAN262 for staff



Lavoisier building

VLAN251 for printers



QoS

- 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 50Mbits/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 are applied on specific networks

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

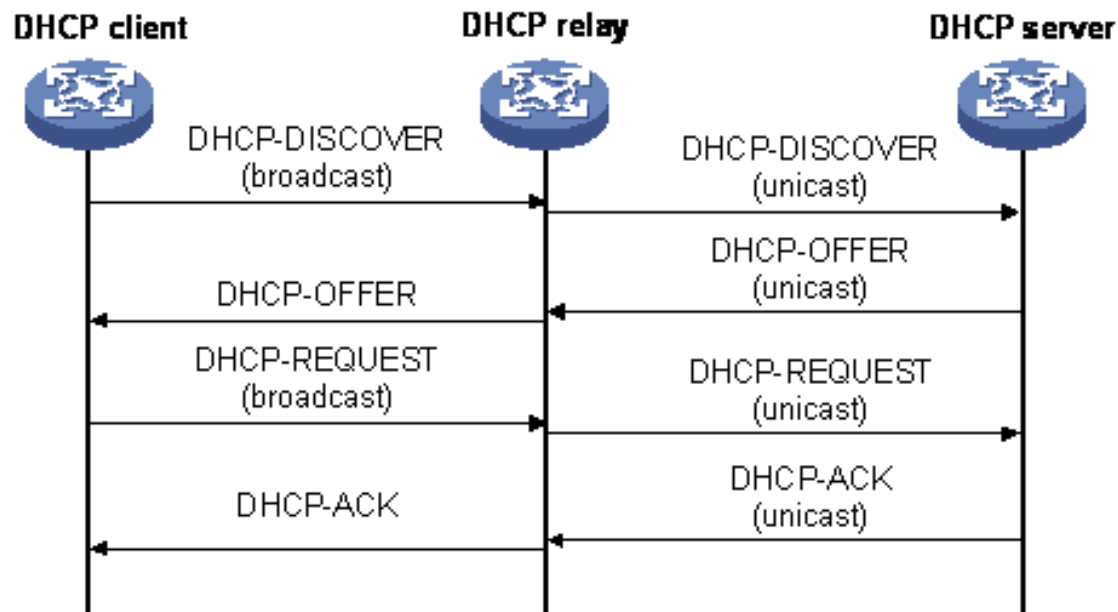
IPv6 address	Link-Layer addr	Interface	vlan	prvl	age	state	Time left
ND FE80::FAB1:56FF:FECB:10A5	F8B1.56CB.10A5	Gi1/0/2	238	0005	4mn	REACHABLE	24 s try 0
ND 2001:6A8:3081:4160:F803:99A6:37CA:53DF	E8EA.6A00.159B	Gi1/0/38	225	0005	237mn	STALE	73544 s

Address assignment

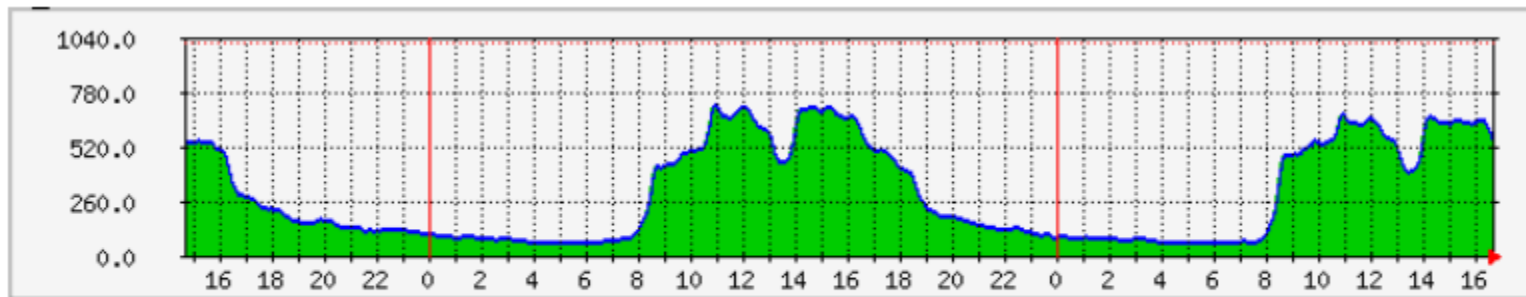
- Avoid manually assigned addresses:
 - generates a lot of configuration burden
 - prone to human error
- Unable to dynamically renumber a network
- Exceptions exist for network devices and specific servers

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

LLN
DC1



NS1

LLN
DC2



NS2

Woluwe



NS3

Belnet



NS1



NS2

-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.
-uclouvain.be.	604800	IN	NS	ns1.sri.ucl.ac.be.
-uclouvain.be.	604800	IN	NS	ns2.sri.ucl.ac.be.
-uclouvain.be.	604800	IN	NS	ns1.belnet.be.

;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:

-ns1.sri.ucl.ac.be.	604800	IN	A	130.104.1.1
-ns2.sri.ucl.ac.be.	604800	IN	A	130.104.1.2
-ns3.sri.ucl.ac.be.	604800	IN	A	130.104.254.1
-ns1.sri.ucl.ac.be.	604800	IN	AAAA	2001:6a8:3081:1::53
-ns2.sri.ucl.ac.be.	604800	IN	AAAA	2001:6a8:3081:2::53
-ns3.sri.ucl.ac.be.	604800	IN	AAAA	2001:6a8:3082:1::53

DNS

- Two different views:

 - one for the external world

 - DNS servers respond only for UCL's domains

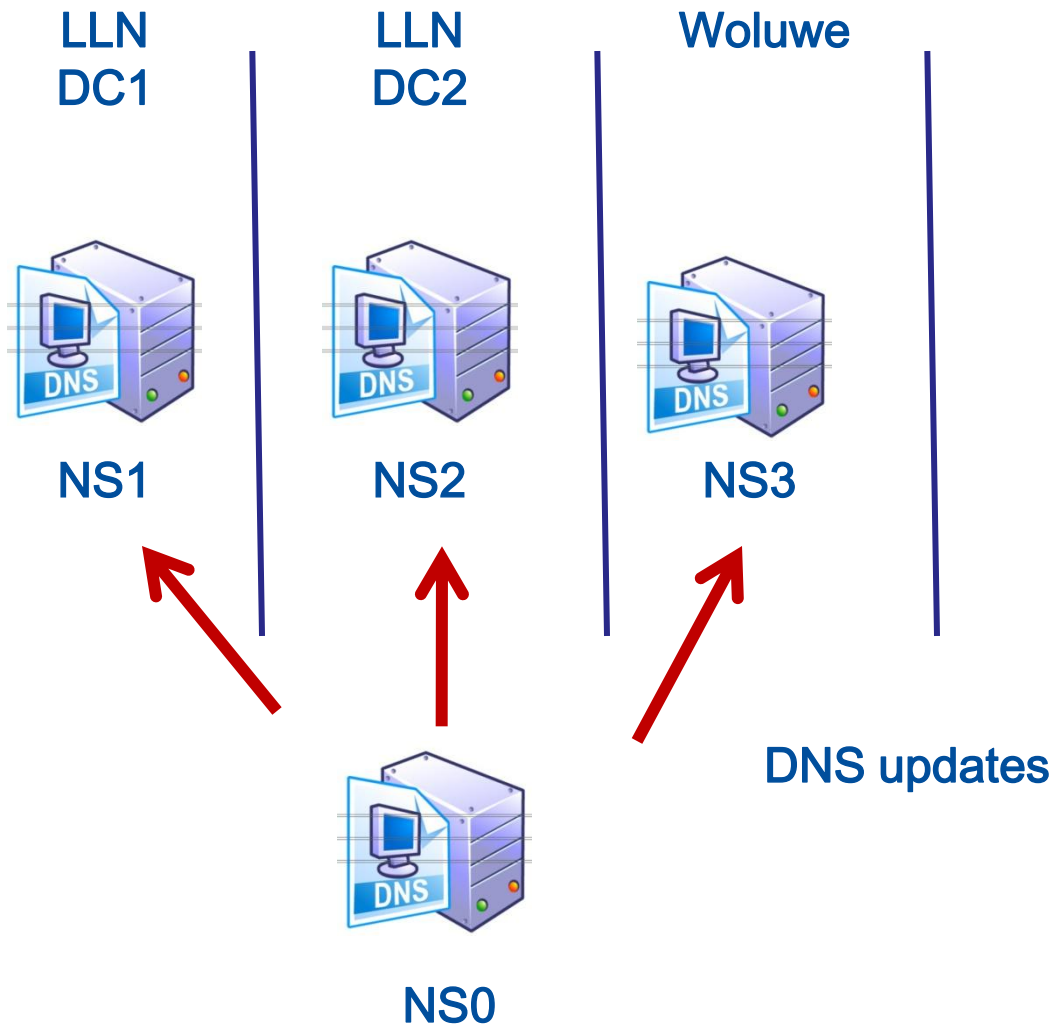
 - one for the internal network

 - DNS servers respond for all domains

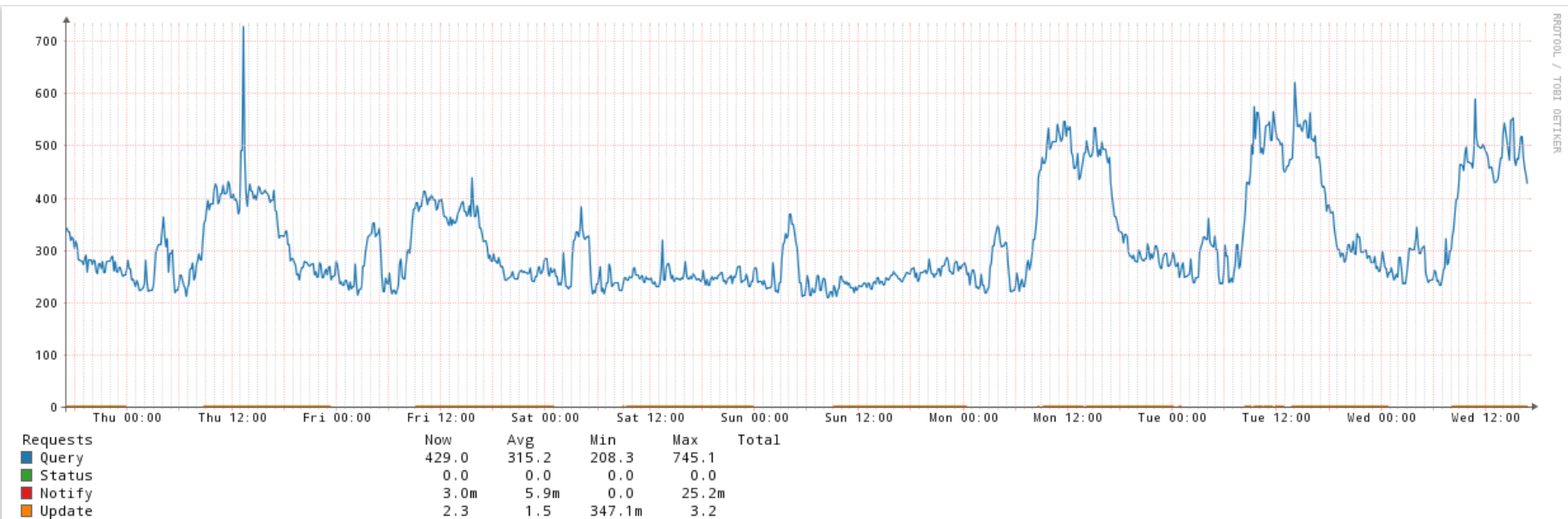
 - recursive DNS

DNS - security

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



DNS monitoring



Nbr of incoming DNS requests per second on NS1

Monitoring tools

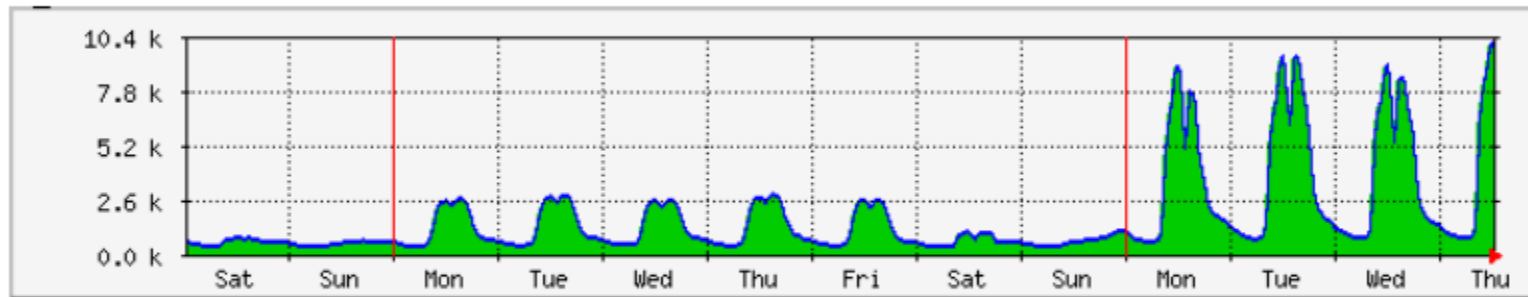
- Essential to see, detect and understand
 - what happened
 - what's happening
 - what will happen
- Used for proactive and reactive action during:
 - incidents
 - capacity planning
 - design
- Uses SNMP, netflows, syslog and/or CLI to collect data ⁶⁹

Management tools

- Essential to be able to scale
- Examples:
 - configuration backup automation
 - software update automation
 - automated configuration deployment
 - ...

Monitoring

Graphique hebdomadaire (sur 30 minutes : Moyenne)

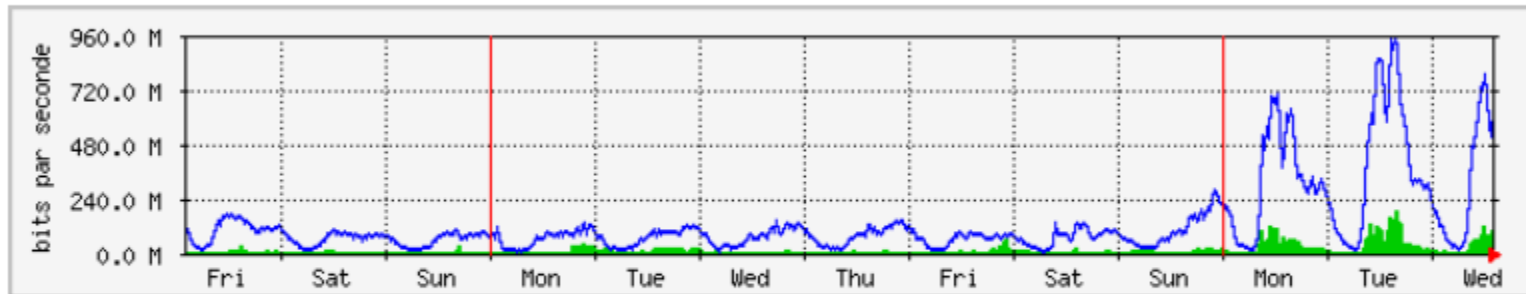


	Max	Moyenne	Actuel
Clients:	10 kClients	1715 Clients	9652 Clients
Sortie	10 kClients	1715 Clients	9652 Clients

Total number of simultaneous WiFi clients

Monitoring

Graphique hebdomadaire (sur 30 minutes : Moyenne)

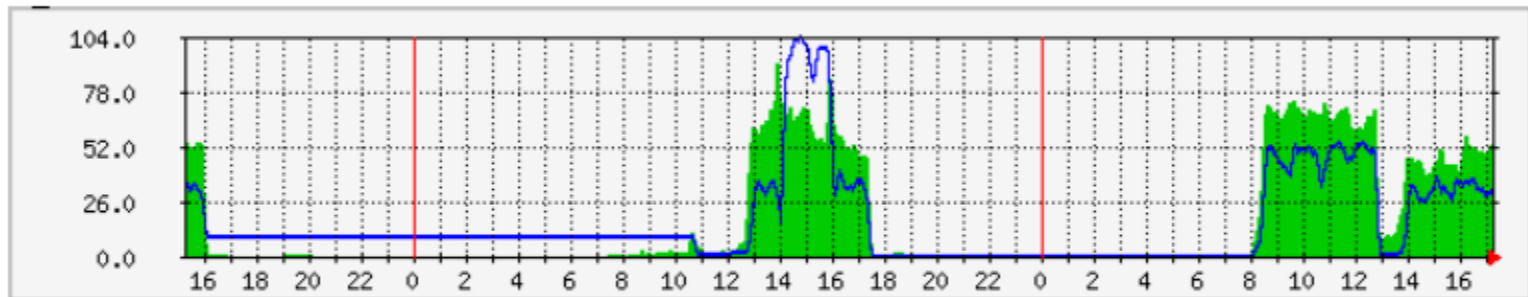


	Max	Moyenne	Actuel
Entrée	185.8 Mb/s (1.9%)	14.3 Mb/s (0.1%)	105.5 Mb/s (1.1%)
Sortie	949.8 Mb/s (9.5%)	126.0 Mb/s (1.3%)	627.7 Mb/s (6.3%)

Student's bandwidth usage on WiFi

Monitoring

Graphique quotidien (sur 5 minutes : Moyenne)

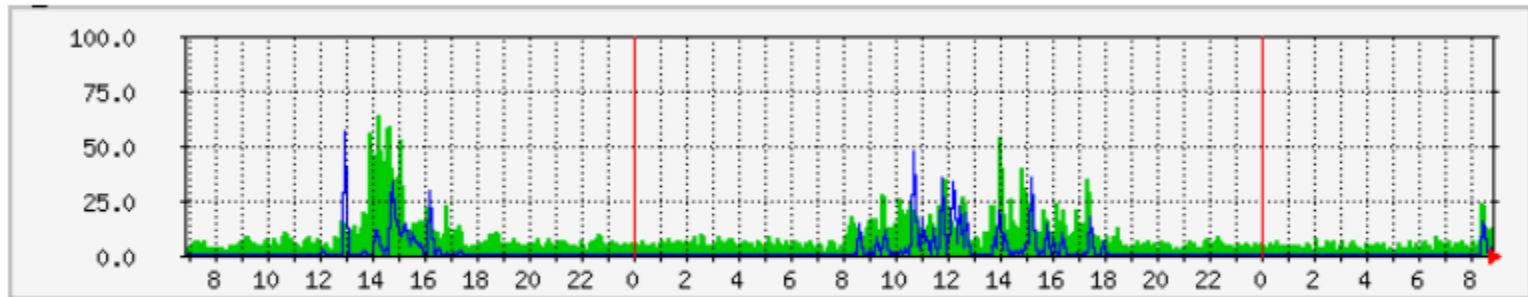


	Max	Moyenne	Actuel
2.4Ghz:	91 Clients	20 Clients	53 Clients
5Ghz:	104 Clients	19 Clients	32 Clients

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

Monitoring

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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