After reading the paper on NetPerf I now understand a bit of its usage and why it is useful. It seems to be a great tool for measuring network performance between a server and host or some similar setup. However, I have noticed a pattern in having read all the reports. With the exception of TCPDump, none of these utilities come packed with most standard Linux distributions. Moreover, once you get these utilities installed you often have to go through some additional configuration in order to maximize the usefulness of the utility.

Something that stood out for me in reading this paper, as well as some of the others, is that there is little or no explanation of acronyms that are used. I realize that in the computer science field we have acronyms for everything but I think that, more often than not, you should still spell it out once for the reader so that everyone is on the same page. Personally I have very limited experience with networking so I am unfamiliar with most of the acronyms and terminology that are considered common place.

Aside from that I found this paper to be very informative. It outlined the major functions of the command fairly well and gave a rundown of the more useful arguments for the command and how they can be used to tailor your test to a specific need. Having finished reading this paper I could certainly sit down at a terminal and run some basic tests using NetPerf and understand the results that I would get back.