

Swisscom: SRv6 Network Incident Network Analytics **Postmortem**

Describes an incident in terms of

what happened,

which operational metrics where available,

which analytical metrics described the symptoms and

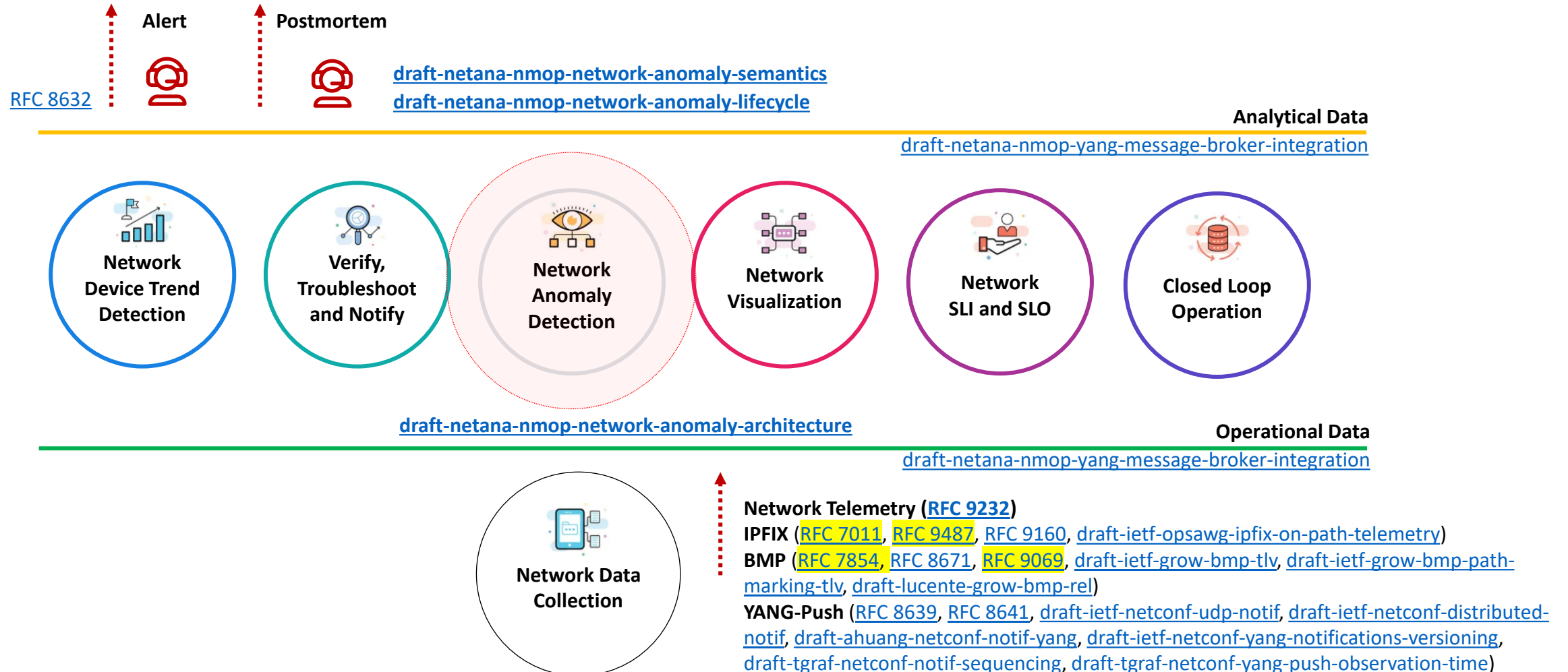
what improvements in the network anomaly detection system and network telemetry protocols are proposed.

thomas.graf@swisscom.com

27. October 2024

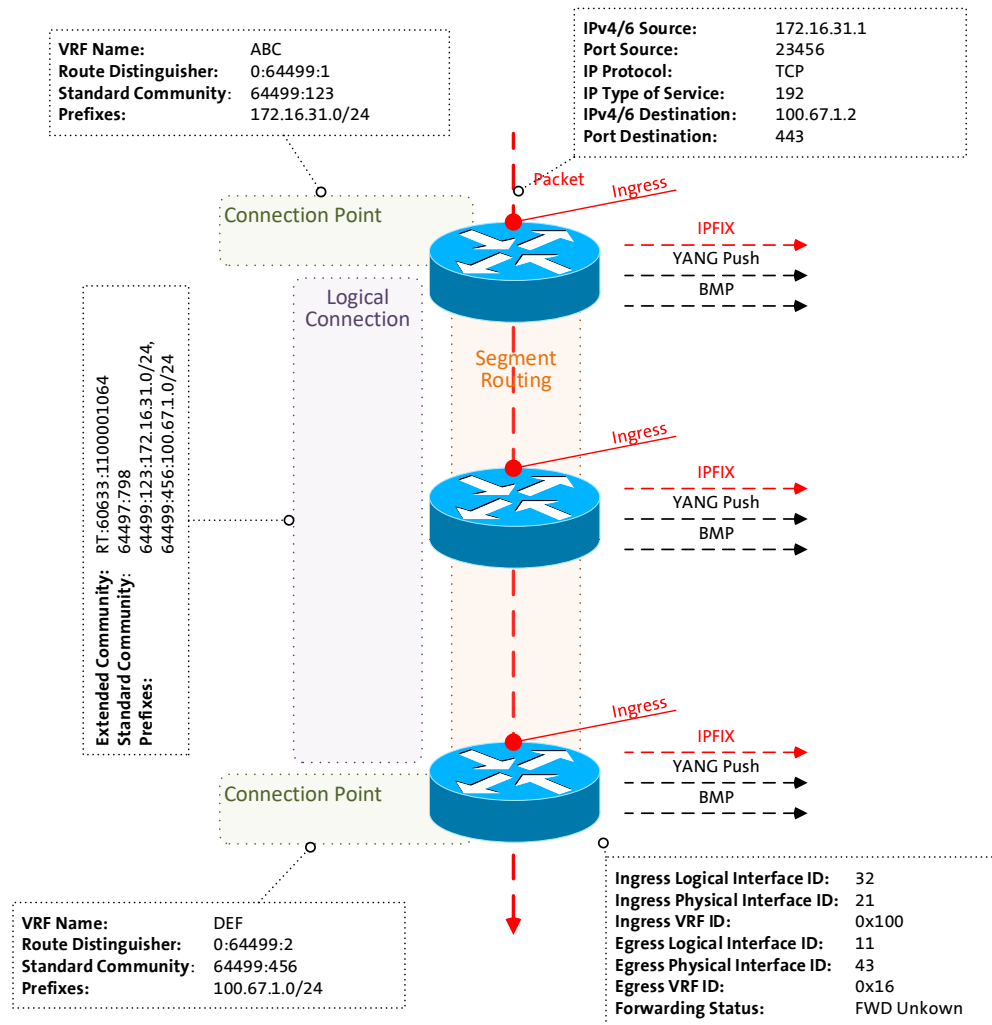
Data Mesh organizes Data in Organizations

Enables Network Analytics use cases



Monitoring L3 VPN's with IPFIX, BMP and YANG Push

From Connectivity Service to Realtime Network Analytics



- > **Connectivity Service perspective**, Connection Points are connected through Logical Connections.
- > **From a BGP control-plane perspective**, IPv4/6 unicast prefixes in VRF's are tagged with BGP standard communities.
 - > One BGP standard community to identify the Logical Connection. One BGP standard community to identify each Connection Point.
 - > When IPv4/6 prefixes are exported from VRF's, a BGP route-distinguisher, BGP extended community route-targets and a SRv6 VPN SID for the IPv6 next-hop are allocated.
- > **From a forwarding plane perspective**, when IPv4/6 unicast traffic is received from the edge at the SRv6 PE, a lookup is performed, the SRv6 VPN SID is obtained and IPv6 next-hop is added when forwarded to the core.
- > **Swisscom collects** MPLS and SRv6 provider data plane, IPv4/6 unicast customer data-plane in IPFIX and at provider edge BGP VPNv4/6 unicast **in production** to perform real-time data correlation.

Problem Statement and Motivation

How it is being addressed in which document

When operational or configurational changes in connectivity services are happening, the objective is to detect interruption at network operation faster than the users using those connectivity services

In order to achieve this objective, automation in network monitoring is required. This automation needs to monitor network changes holistically by monitoring all 3 network planes simultaneously and detect whether that change is service disruptive.

Through network incidents postmortems we network operators learn and improve so does network anomaly detection and supervised and semi-supervised machine learning. With more and more incidents the postmortem process demands automation and with the standardization of labeled network incident collaboration among network operators, vendors and academia is facilitated.

Network Anomaly Detection



- [draft-ietf-nmop-network-anomaly-architecture](#) describes the motivation and architecture and the relationship to other two documents.
- [draft-netana-nmop-network-anomaly-semantics](#) defines Symptom semantics to enable standardized data exchange to validate results with network engineers and improve supervised and semi-supervised machine learning systems.
- [draft-netana-nmop-network-anomaly-lifecycle](#) describes on managing the lifecycle process, in order to facilitate network engineers to interact with the network anomaly detection system to refine the detection abilities over time.

August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation Post Maintenance Window Analysis



Cosmos Bright Lights **Anomaly Detection Results for 15 L3 VPN's Traversing SRv6 Core**



Maintenance Window with 15 configuration steps started on August 14th 00:04 and ended at 01:12. These configuration steps involved: IS-IS overload-bit on ABR, ABR IS-IS L1/2 to L2/L2 and PE L1 to L2 migration, IS-IS locator summarization.



Throughout the maintenance window, in overlay topology changes, traffic volume and flow count changes, forwarding plane drops and customer data plane TCP congestion were measured and observed but not alerted. **In SRv6 underlay, forwarding plane drops were measured and observed but not alerted.**



Network operation center **was alerted.** 10 VOIP service calls were dropped, and mobile subscriber control plane was interrupted. Both platform teams were notified **but did not find causality.**



At 01:51, the maintenance window implementers informed network operation center that all configuration changes were performed, and no connectivity service impact was observed.



At 10:22, network operation center was being asked wherever connectivity service impact was visible and reasoning behind.



At 11:12, network operation center confirmed that connectivity service impact is visible and most likely being related with performed maintenance window.



During Post Maintenance Window Analysis, connectivity service impact on 3 previous maintenance windows, August 6th, August 7th and August 13th were discovered.

August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation

Network Telemetry Coverage



IPFIX configured on P and PE SRv6 nodes on SRv6 and IPv4/6 VRF unicast enabled interfaces. Capturing L3 IPv4/6 and L2 Ethernet overlay customer data plane **and underlay SRv6 provider data plane metrics on SRv6 enabled interfaces**, and IPv4/6 and L2 Ethernet overlay customer data plane metrics on IPv4/6 VRF unicast enabled interfaces.

-> **Shape**, means that we are engaged in IETF standardization, vendor implementations and running code. IPv4/6 unicast customer data plane visibility is in **vital**, SRv6 data plane visibility is in **applied**, On-Path delay is in **operational** stage.



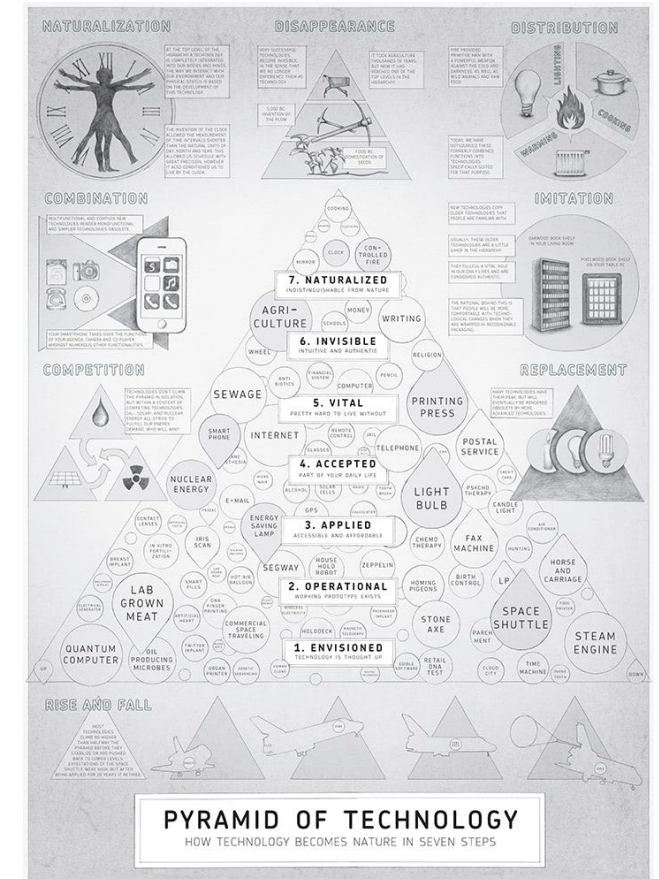
BMP Adj-RIB In post-policy on BGP VPNv4 /6 and IPv4/6 VRF unicast peers and Local-RIB on all RIB's configured on SRv6 PE's. BMP Adj-RIB In post-policy on BGP VPNv4 /6 peers on Route Reflectors configured.

-> **Shape**, means that we are engaged in IETF standardization, vendor implementations and running code. BMP Local RIB data plane visibility is in **applied**, BMP Path Marking is in **operational** stage.



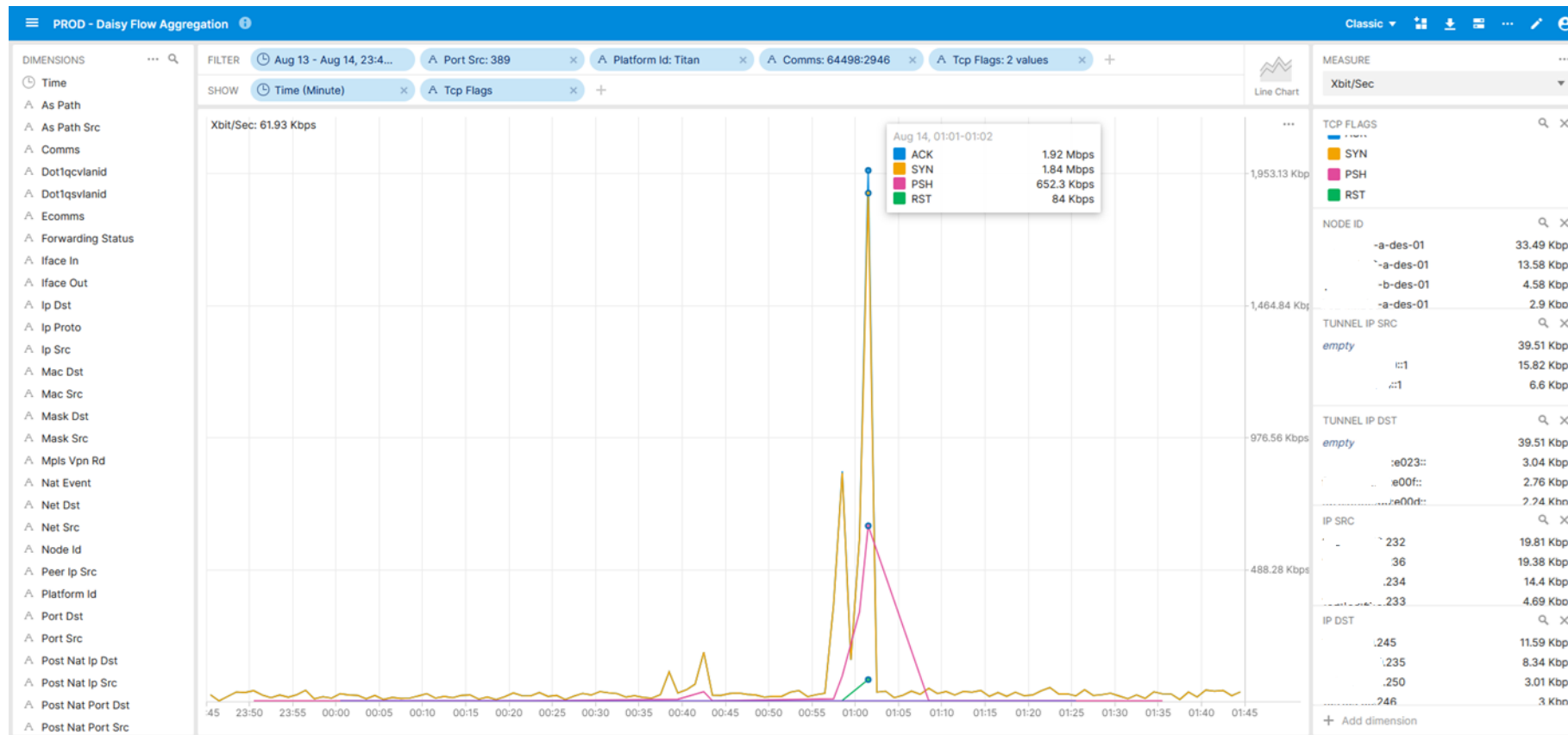
YANG Push Legacy on most nodes enabled but not relevant for this use case.

-> **Take**, means that current YANG-Push legacy implementation is used without any vendor code change and is in **accepted** stage. However, IETF YANG-Push is **shape** and is in **operational** state.

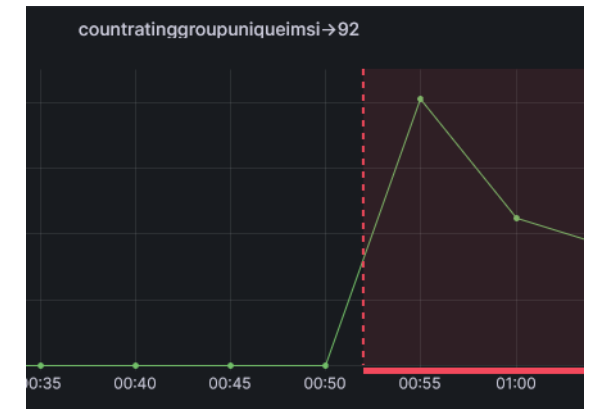


August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation

Mobile Subscriber Management Control Plane



SRv6 forwarding plane and customer data plane. Shows on a particular L3 VPN the amount of TCP SYN and RST **from L4 port 389** were originated and through which PE nodes and with which SRv6 SID's the traffic was forwarded with. Remark: IE6 tcpControlBits is a none key field.

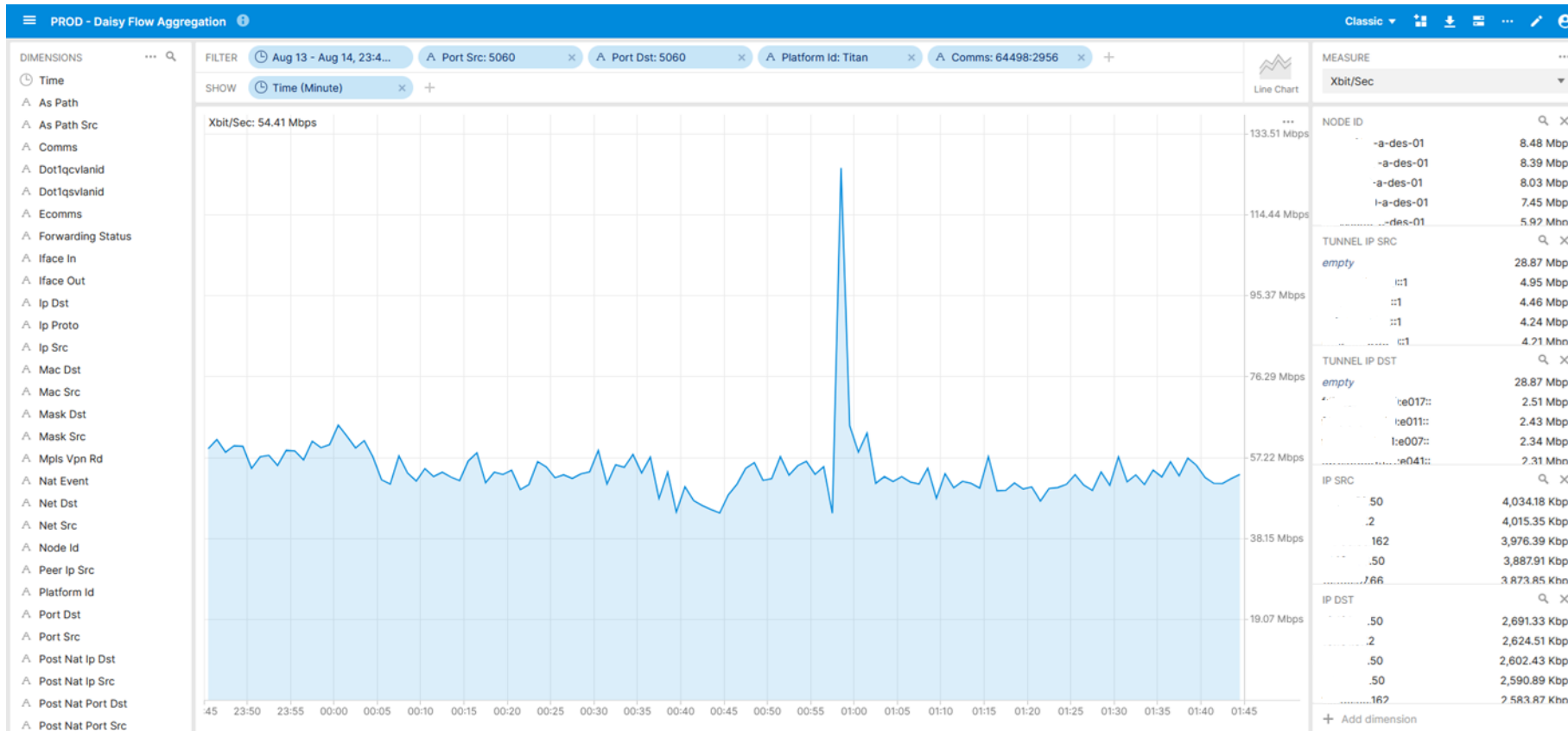


Mobile Subscriber Management Control Plane Overlay **Congestion**

Resulted in Mobile Fallback
Subscriber Session Count

August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation

Mobile Subscriber Management Control Plane



SRv6 forwarding plane and customer data plane. Shows on a particular L3 VPN the amount of traffic **between L4 port 5060** and **through which PE nodes** and **with which SRv6 SID's** the traffic was forwarded with.

VOIP SIP Signaling Overlay **Congestion**

August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation L3 VPN Overlay Topology Change

PROD - Daisy BMP Control Plane

Classic

DIMENSIONS

Time

Time (Minute)

Node Id

Log Type

Time, Node Id, Log Type

Distinct Prefix

Overall

286.00

Aug 14, 00:45-00:46

85.00

-des-01

85.00

Aug 14, 00:46-00:47

85.00

-des-02

85.00

update

85.00

-des-01

7.00

update

7.00

Aug 14, 00:54-00:55

85.00

-des-02

85.00

update

85.00

Aug 14, 00:56-00:57

85.00

-des-01

85.00

update

85.00

-des-01

85.00

update

85.00

-des-02

85.00

update

85.00

Aug 14, 00:57-00:58

161.00

-des-01

161.00

update

161.00

withdraw

161.00

MEASURE

Distinct Prefix

BGP RIB

loc

286.00

adj_in_post

85.00

RD

1:10.187.97.22:66

33.75 k

1:10.187.97.36:1

33.73 k

1:10.187.97.22:0

26.00 k

1:10.187.97.25:0

26.00 k

1:10.187.97.36:2

26.00 k

1:10.187.97.33:1

16.65 k

0:6837:2215

13.00 k

0:6837:2214

12.95 k

1:10.187.97.33:2

11.96 k

ECOMMS

RT: :1100110164

286.00

?

14.00

PEER IP

0.0.0.0

286.00

BGP NEXTHOP

::1

159.00

::1

85.00

72

63.00

::1

40.00

::1

40.00

::1

3.00

Add dimension

BMP BGP Local-RIB **L3 VPN**
topology change for a
particular BGP route-
distinguisher. Only best path is
exported due to
implementation limitation.
Shows in time frame 00:57-58
that **prefixes were removed**
from the VRF routing table on
a particular PE node. Leading
to potential blackholing.

BGP Overlay VRF Endpoint **Topology Change**

August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation

64497:64378 SRv6 L3 VPN – Operational Network Telemetry Metrics



Logical Connection
64497:64378 SRv6 L3
VPN Overlay
Operational Metrics

Logical Connection
64497:64378 SRv6 L3
VPN Overlay **and**
Underlay Operational
Metrics

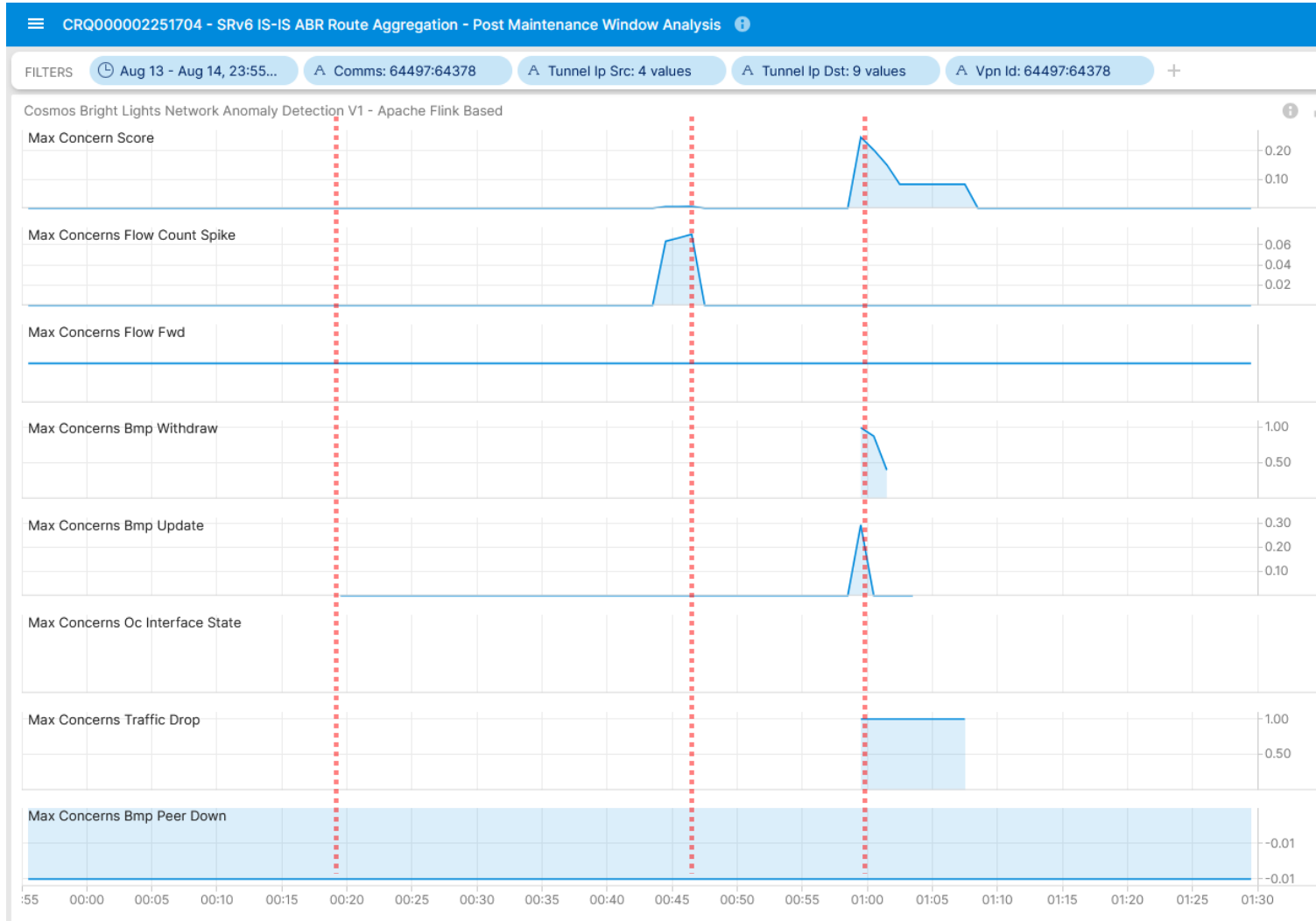
August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation

64497:64378 SRv6 L3 VPN – Anomaly Detection Live

Concern Score: 0.25
Flow Count Spike: 0.07
Missing Traffic: 0.22
Traffic Drop: 1.00

BMP Update/Withdrawal: 0.29/ 1.00

*Real-Time Streaming
under Development*



**BMP route-monitoring
Update/Withdraw check recognized
topology change.**



BMP peer Down/Up check did not
apply.



Interface Down/Up check did not apply.



**Traffic Drop spike check recognized
traffic drop due to topology change.**



**Missing Traffic check recognized traffic
loss.**



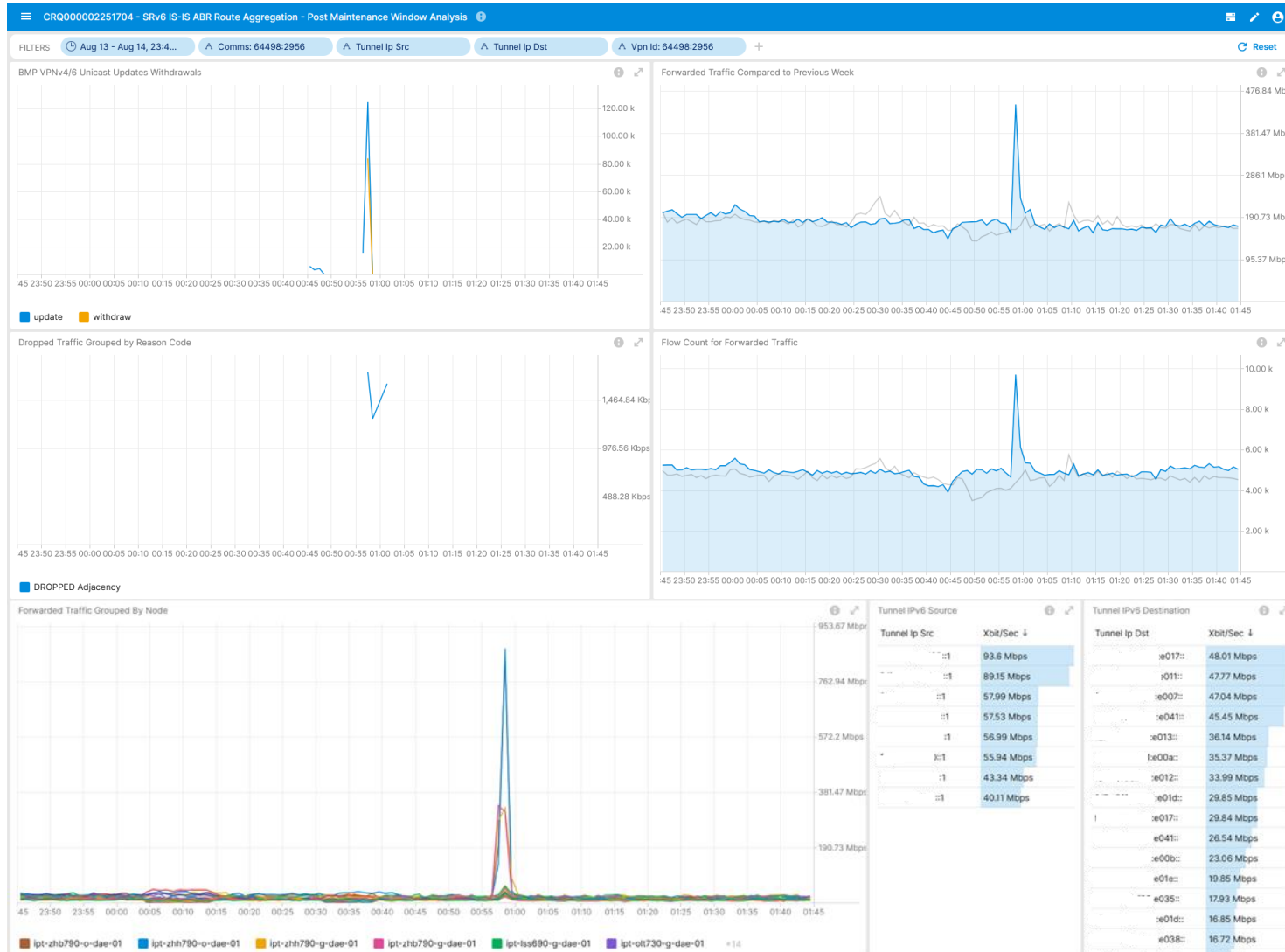
**Increased or decreased Flow Count
check recognized congestion.**



**Overall: 4 out of 6 checks have
detected the BGP topology change.
Real-time streaming implementation
exceeds expectations.**

August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation

64497:2956 SRv6 L3 VPN – Operational Network Telemetry Metrics



Logical Connection
64498:2956 SRv6 L3
VPN Overlay
Operational Metrics

Logical Connection
64498:2956 SRv6 L3
VPN Overlay **and**
Underlay Operational
Metrics

August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation

64497:2956 SRv6 L3 VPN – Anomaly Detection **Live**

Concern Score: **0.08**

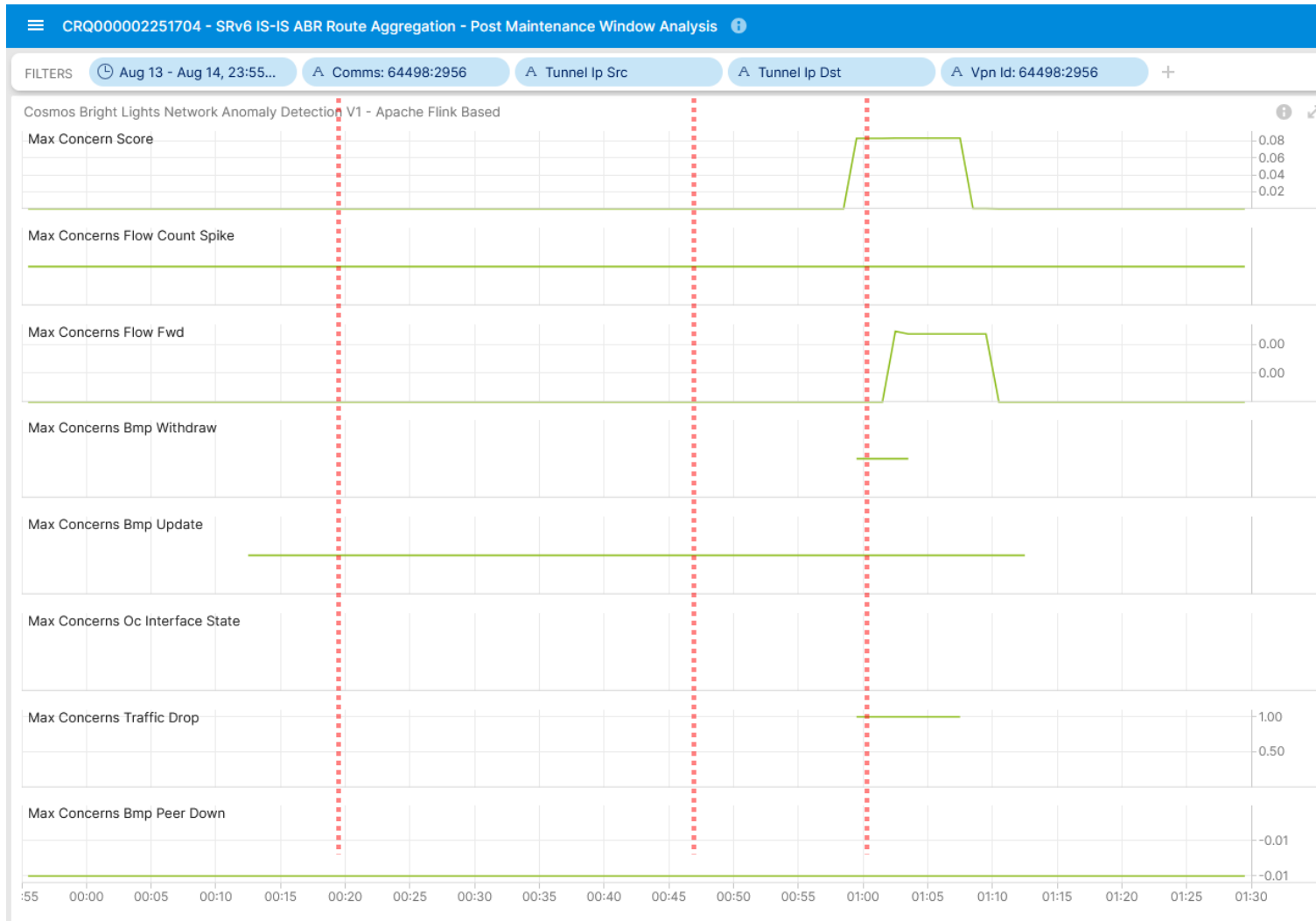
Flow Count Spike: **0.00**

Missing Traffic: **0.00**

Traffic Drop: **1.00**

BMP Update/Withdrawal: **0.00/ 0.00**

*Real-Time Streaming
under Development*



**BMP route-monitoring
Update/Withdraw check did not
recognize topology change.**



**BMP peer Down/Up check did not
apply.**



Interface Down/Up check did not apply.



**Traffic Drop spike check recognized
traffic drop due to topology change.**



**Missing Traffic check did not recognize
traffic blackholing.**



**Increased or decreased Flow Count
check did not recognized congestion.**



**Overall: 1 out of 6 checks have
detected the BGP topology change.
Real-time streaming implementation.
Auto profiling under implementation.**

August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation

64497:2956 SRv6 L3 VPN – Anomaly Detection **Replay**

Concern Score: **0.12**
Flow Count Spike: **0.00**
Missing Traffic: **0.12**
Traffic Drop: **1.00**
BMP Update/Withdrawal: **0.00/ 0.46**

*Real-Time Streaming
under Development*



**BMP route-monitoring
Update/Withdraw check did not
recognize topology change.**



BMP peer Down/Up check did not
apply.



Interface Down/Up check did not apply.



**Traffic Drop spike check recognized
traffic drop due to topology change.**



**Missing Traffic check recognized traffic
blackholing.**



**Increased or decreased Flow Count
check did not recognized congestion.**



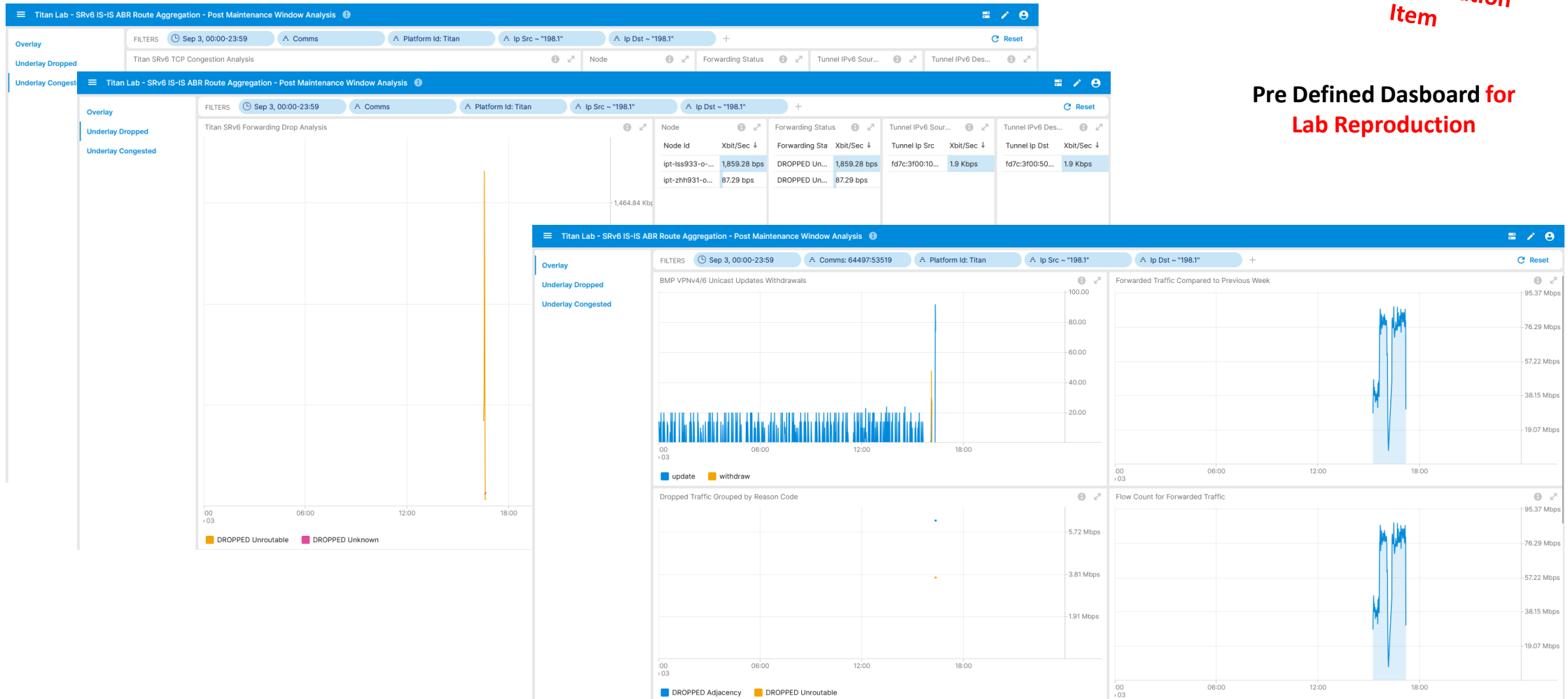
**Overall: 1 out of 6 checks have
detected the BGP topology change.
Real-time streaming implementation.
Auto profiling exceeds expectations.**

August 14th, SRv6 IS-IS ABR Route Aggregation

Lab Repro In Progress

*Reproduction Partial
Successful
Identified Root Cause
and Configuration
Item*

**Pre Defined Dashboard for
Lab Reproduction**



What to do next?

- Establish a network topology and Network Telemetry lab reproduction and verify configuration change with collected operational metrics.
-> Showing first results
- SRv6 Mobile Connectivity NRE REP-8 Preparation and Execution
-> Has started

What went well?

- Work in progress Cosmos Bright Lights real-time streaming Anomaly Detection exceeded in 2 out of 6 cases expectations, **matching 100% our intend. Alert notifications were sent 120-180 seconds after operational metrics in the network were observed.** 60 seconds variable delay is due to 2 step flow aggregation process. The other 4 cases would have also worked as intended if auto profiling feature would have been implemented already.
- Based on experience in Seamless MPLS-SR migration, indirect visibility on provider edge is not sufficient to monitor core. We derived the necessity to monitor underlay, however had to compromise in SRv6 limiting to forwarding plane only, which works exceptionally well, and unfortunately not monitoring IS-IS control plane on day 1 since innovation curve was too high to ensure network being monitored in all aspects.
- Anycast fast failover from ZHH to OLT with pre cached BMP collected BGP routing table avoided that undesired underlay routing topology change had negative impact on the Network Telemetry data collection.
- Same dashboard with different data cubes **helped to reproduce the issue in the lab more easily and identified a configuration error in the IS-IS redistribution.**

What could be improved?

- False positive due to partially missing profiling (work in progress) for flow aggregation. Consider profiling for BMP update/withdrawals as well.
- Missing IS-IS control plane visibility. This would have helped to understand the routing topology state changes. Cisco IOS XR does not support BGP-LS in BMP Local-RIB. At IETF, two proposals, [draft-raszuk-lsr-imp](#) and [draft-gu-opsawg-network-monitoring-igp](#) have been proposed to export IGP LSDB directly without redistributing to BGP-LS, which for SRv6 is very desirable due to SRv6 feature dependency on BGP-LS.
- Missing Forwarding plane path visibility ([Passive Hybrid Type 1](#)). This would have helped to understand the exact forwarding path for each packet.
- With SRv6 next-hop attribute ([SRv6 Endpoint Behaviors](#)) in data collection decoded, changes in VPNv4/6 unicast paths would have been visible. Reducing the 1min granularity in TSDB would have helped to detect race condition.
- The connectivity service, the network relationship, was not taken into account; **none of the involved connectivity service incident parties were able to understand that their activity is related to each other.**
- Observing configuration state change with Transaction ID ([draft-ietf-netconf-transaction-id](#), [draft-ietf-netconf-configuration-tracing](#)) would have helped to understand which config change contributed to which topology change.