

# Finding Anomalies in Time-Series using Visual Correlation for Interactive Root Cause Analysis

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# Motivation

- Computer networks are very important for the daily life and today's economy.
- Keeping them *secure* and available is crucial.
- Many different threats exist<sup>1</sup>:
  - Cyber Crime
  - Hacktivism
  - Cyber Warfare
  - Cyber Espionage



Source: PEER1 Hosting/Jeff Johnston

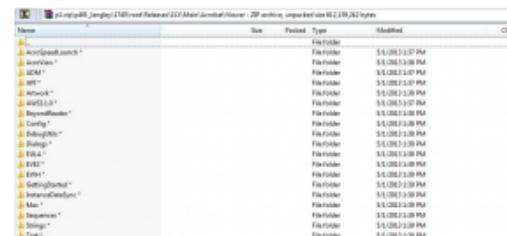
1: according to <http://hackmageddon.com/>

# Motivation II

## 03 Adobe To Announce Source Code, Customer Data Breach OCT 13

**Adobe Systems Inc.** is expected to announce today that hackers broke into its network and stole source code for an as-yet undetermined number of software titles, including its **ColdFusion** Web application platform, and possibly its **Acrobat** family of products. The company said hackers also accessed nearly three million customer credit card records, and stole login data for an undetermined number of Adobe user accounts.

KrebsOnSecurity first became aware of the source code leak roughly one week ago, when this author — working in conjunction with fellow researcher **Alex Holden**, CISO of **Hold Security LLC** — discovered a massive 40 GB source code trove stashed on a server used by the same cyber criminals believed to have hacked into major data aggregators earlier this year, including LexisNexis, Dun & Bradstreet and **Kroll**. The hacking team's server contained huge repositories of uncompiled and compiled code that appeared to be source code for ColdFusion and Adobe Acrobat.



*A screen shot of purloined source code stolen from Adobe, shared with the company by KrebsOnSec*

**Source:** [krebsonsecurity.com](http://krebsonsecurity.com)

## Adobe Data Leak

- 40GB of source code.
- 2.9 million credit card and password records.

## Wanted

- Ability to detect such incidents.
- If an incident is discovered, what services are involved?

# Motivation III



Source: [www.jolyon.co.uk](http://www.jolyon.co.uk)

## Approach:

- Incidents like security breaches and data theft should be detectable in network traffic data (**anomalies**).

## Challenges:

- Large amount of data.
- Define and search for anomalies.
- Scalable visualization.

# Outline

- **Related Work**

*Network Monitoring*

- **Data**

*Gathering, Processing, Modeling*

- **Visualization**

*Design, Properties*

- **System**

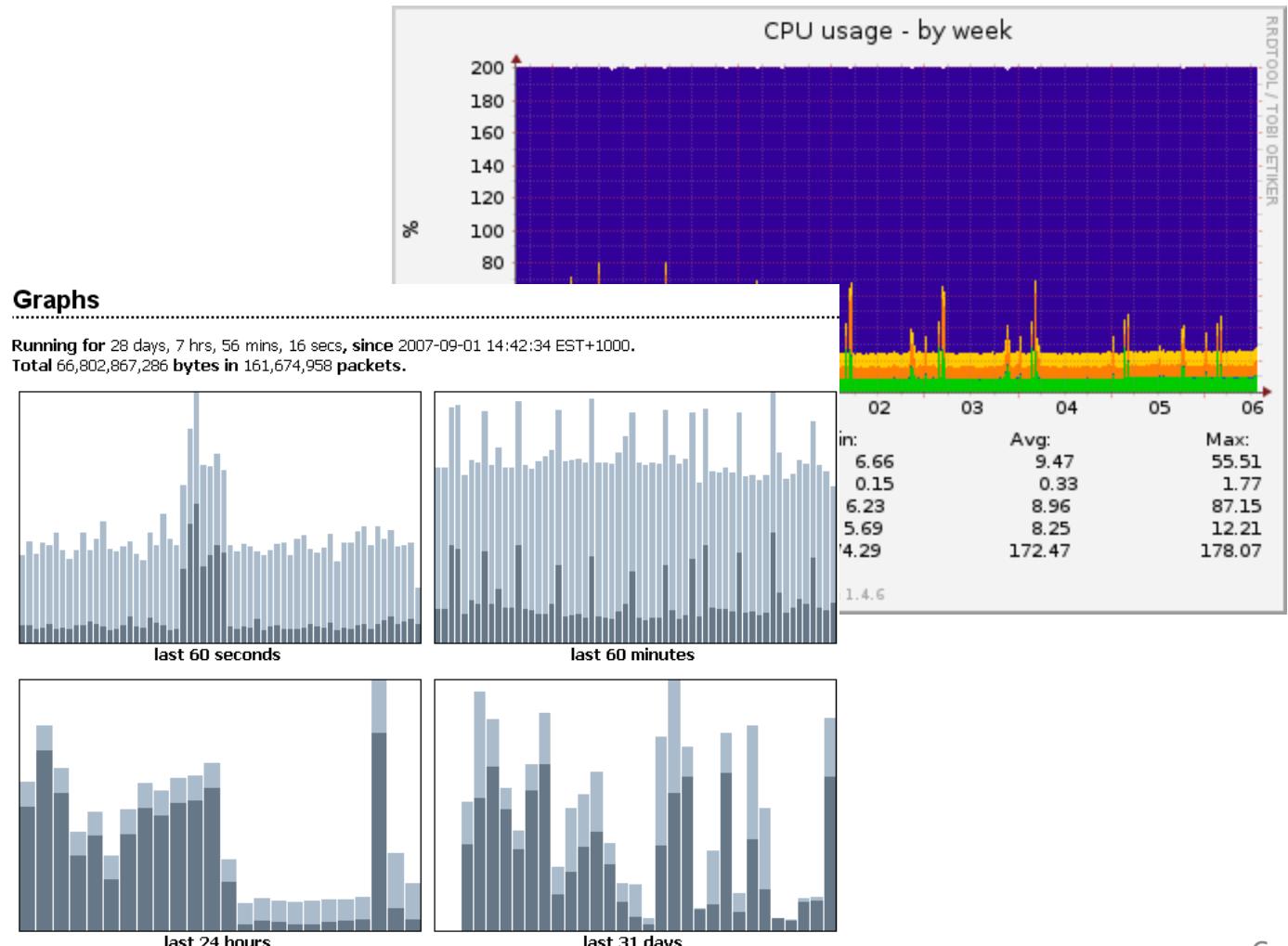
*Architecture, Usage*

- **Conclusion**

*Summary, Future Work*

# Related Work – Network Monitoring

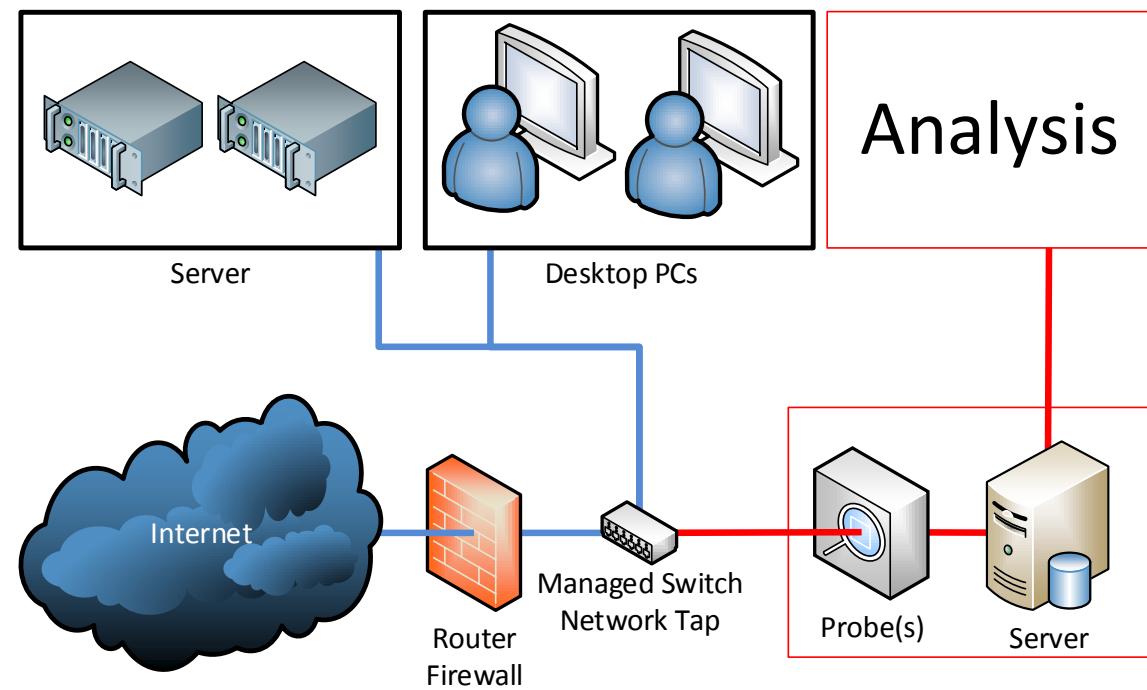
- Infrastructure and service monitoring.
- Network graphing.
- Manually defined thresholds trigger alarms.
- Usually no modelling or prediction.



# Data

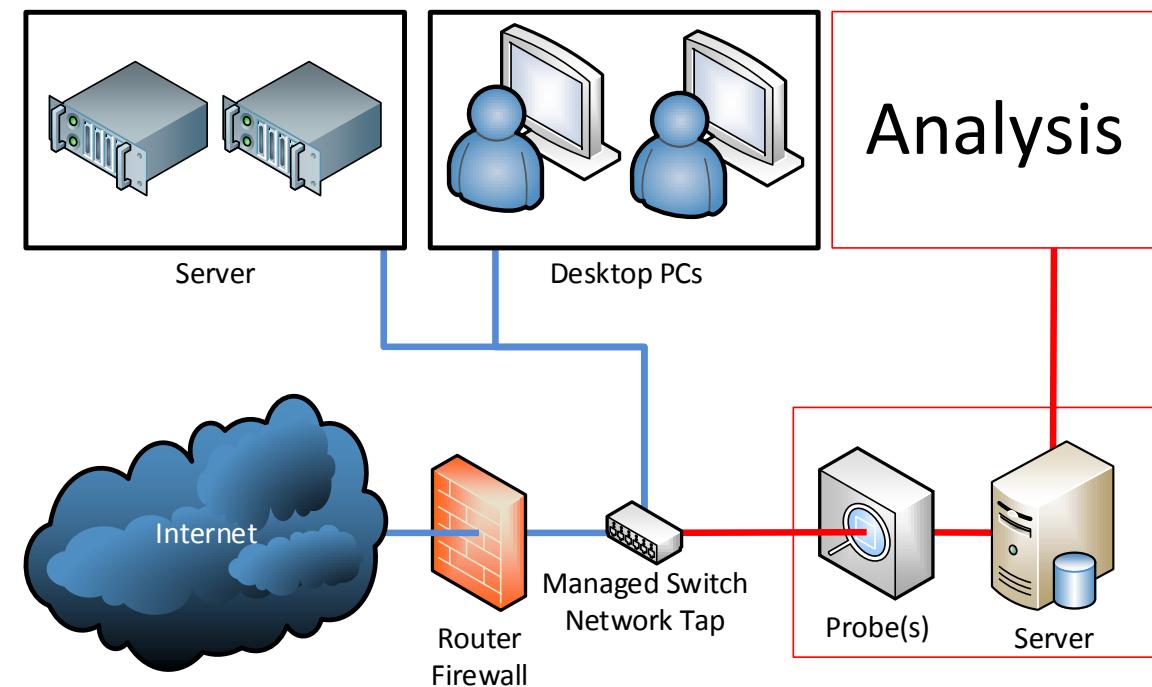
# Data

- Data is gathered via *probes* analyzing network flows.
- A probe contains a number of different *descriptors*.
- Descriptors describe a specific property of a protocol, application, ...
- If a descriptor matches, a numeric counter is incremented.



# Data II

- Network with 30 workstations and 20 regular users.
- 11 month of data.
- Counter transmission interval: 5 minutes.
- Self developed, high performance time-series store.



# Data III - Processing

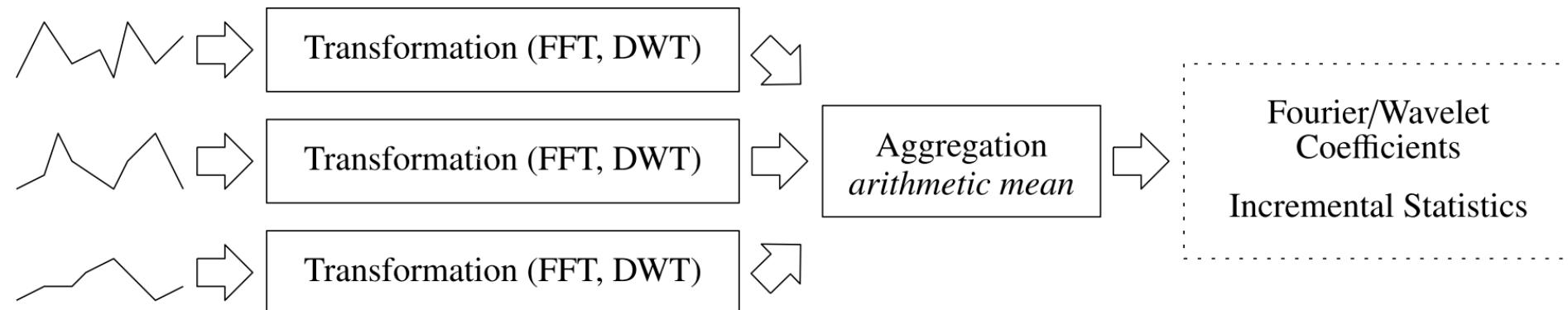
- Data restoration
  - Linear interpolation of missing values.
- Re-sampling with a fixed interval.
  - Continuous time-series.
- Incremental statistics computation.
  - Min, Max, Mean, Variance per day
- Storage with indices over time and time-series.

**Leads to:** consistent data set with no missing values.

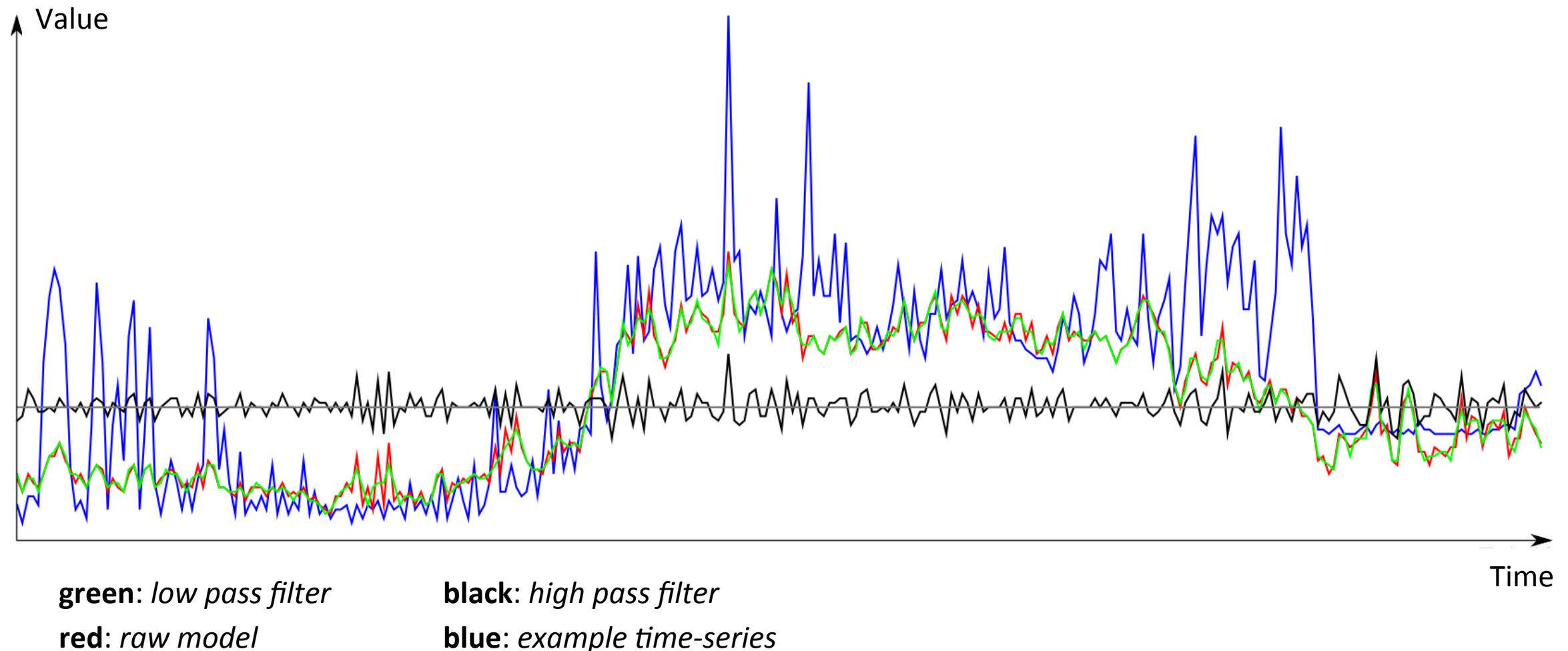
# Data IV – Model

Both, Fourier and Wavelet Transformation can be used to decompose time-series data.

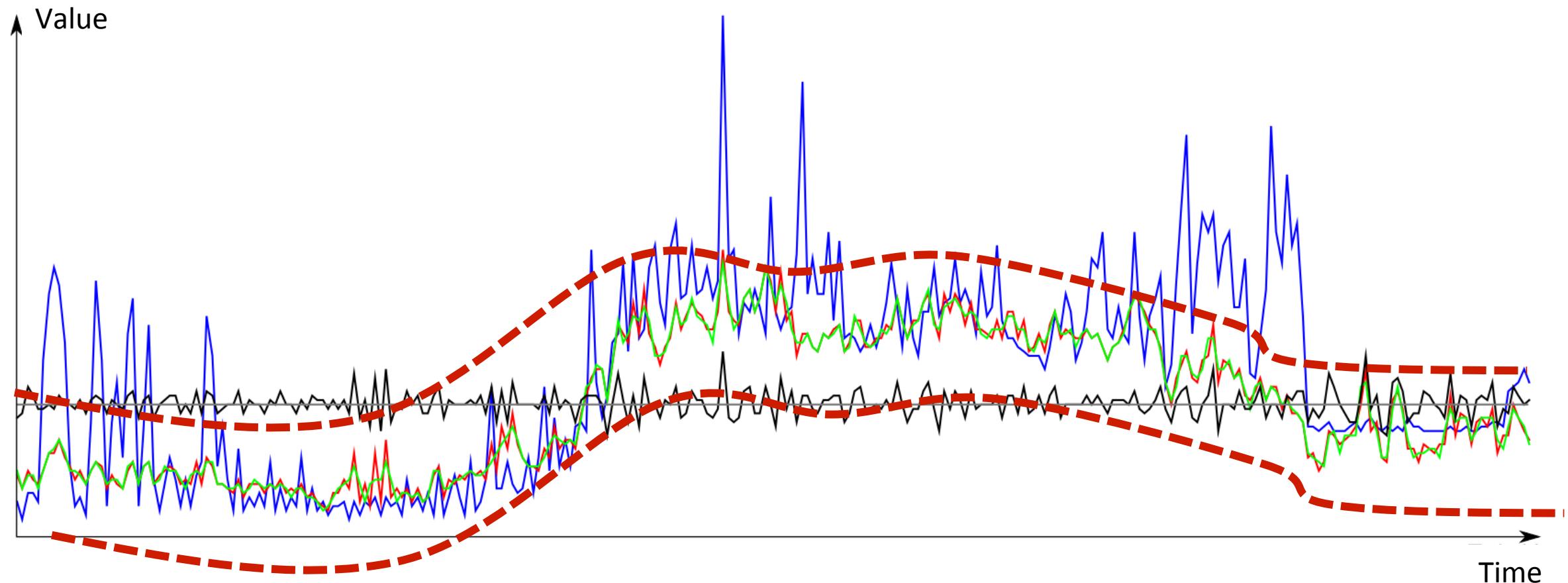
- **Fourier Transformation:** frequency domain, but no locality in time.
- **Wavelet Transformation:** locality in time, efficient.



# Data IV – Model



# Data IV – Model & Anomalies



Define a time-span as *anomalous*, when it lies outside some borders.

# Visualization

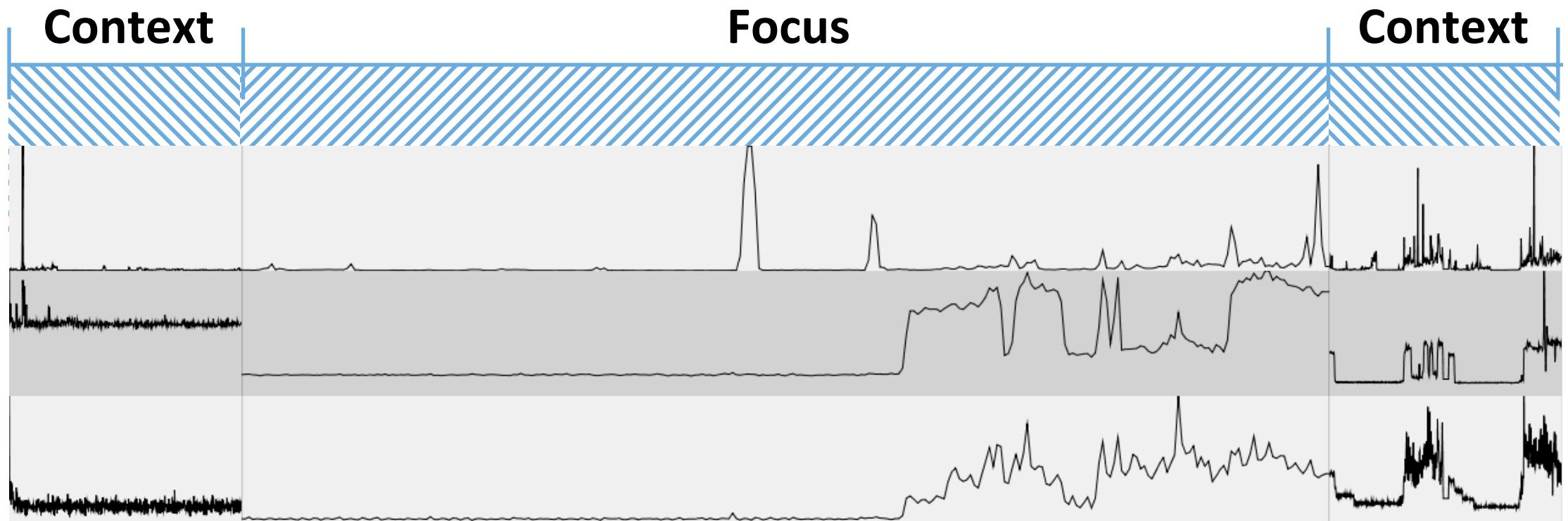
# Visualization – Line Chart

- Line charts are widely used for not only time-series displays.
- Easy to interpret, easy to compare, well-known to analysts.

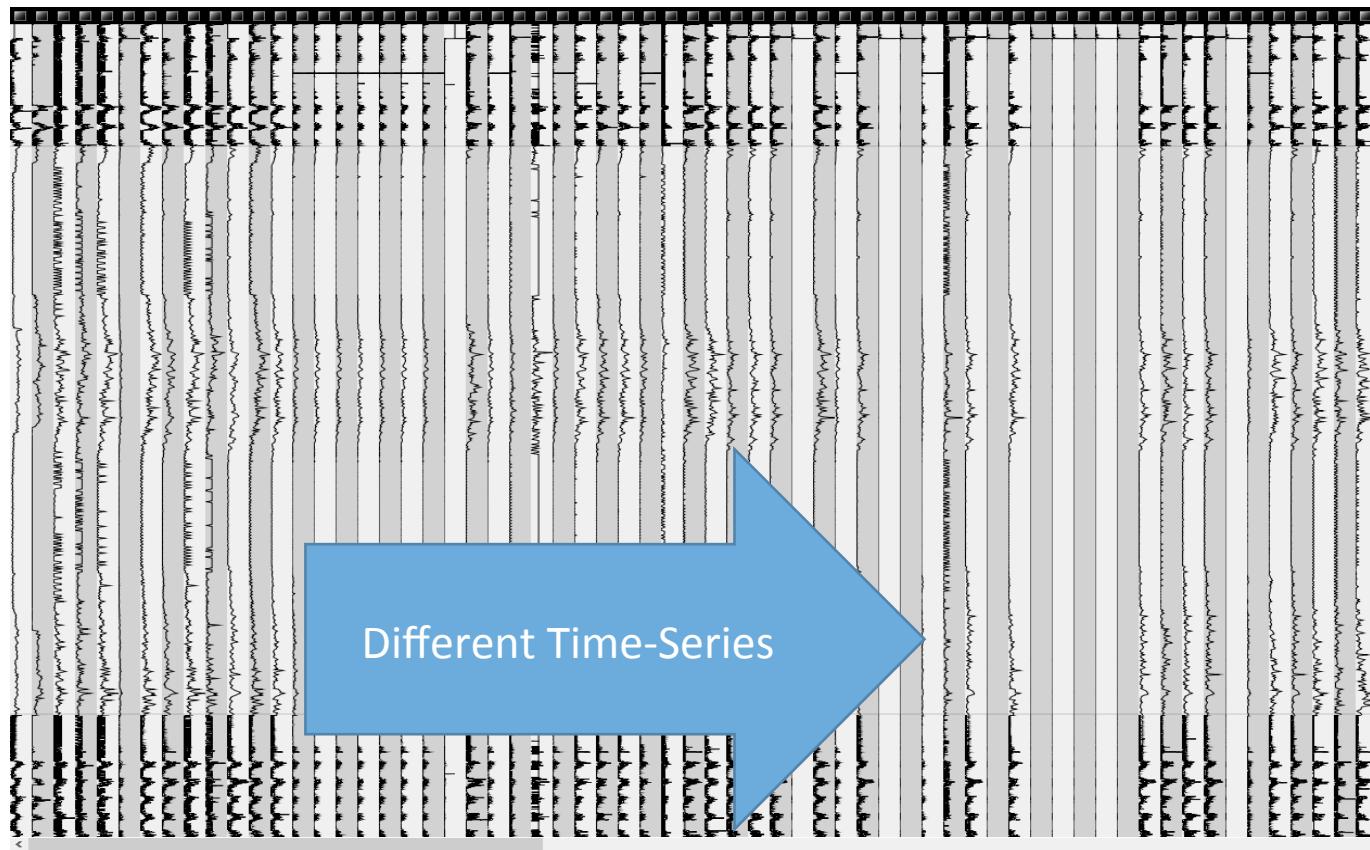
## Our Modifications:

- Focus plus Context.
- Rotated view to foster visual, pre-attentive correlation.
- Space efficient representation on a standard PC screen.
- Scalable to any screen size.

# Visualization II – Focus + Context



# Visualization III – Rotated Line Chart

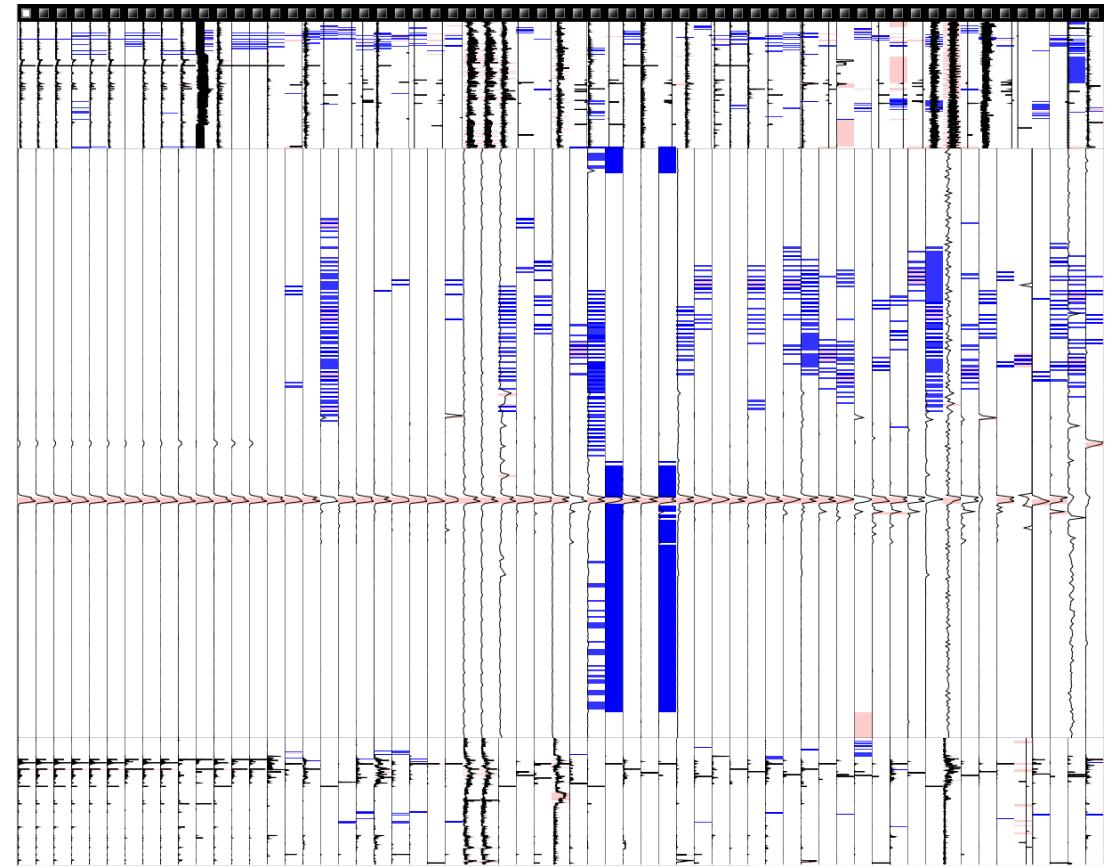


Idea:

- Weaken the intent to go along the time-axis and follow a series.
- Attempt to guide the analyst to comparison based on time-spans.

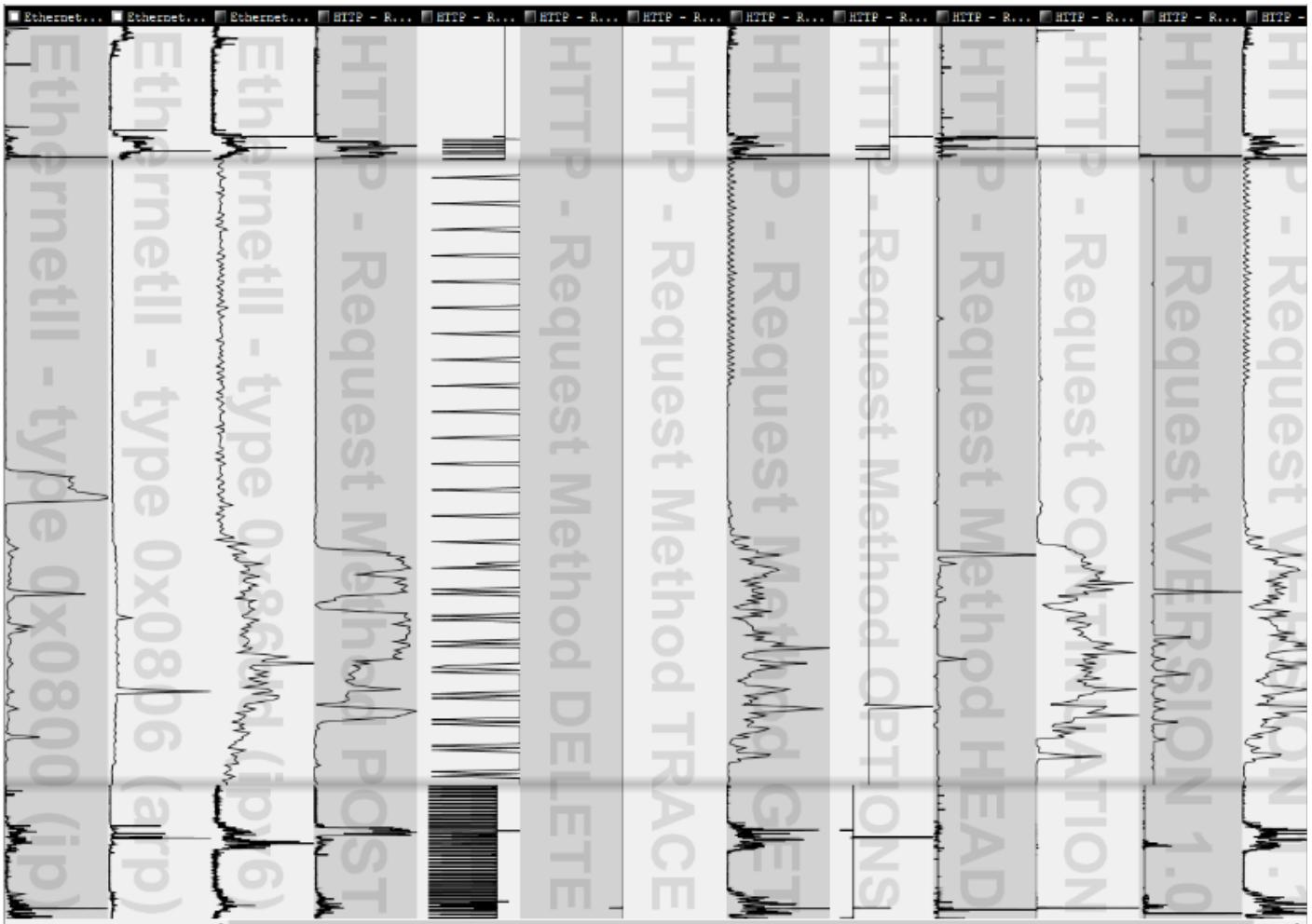
# Visualization IV – Line Chart and Anomalies

- Background of the line charts used for anomaly display.
- **Red:** value above model and threshold
- **Blue:** value below model and threshold



# Visualization V

- Visual Options  
width, height, colors, focus/  
context area size, pinning, in-  
place comparison, scaling,  
ordering, ...
- Interaction  
browsing via mouse-wheel,  
zooming and querying based on  
mouse selection
- Synchronization  
location and changes in time  
visual options





# System

# System

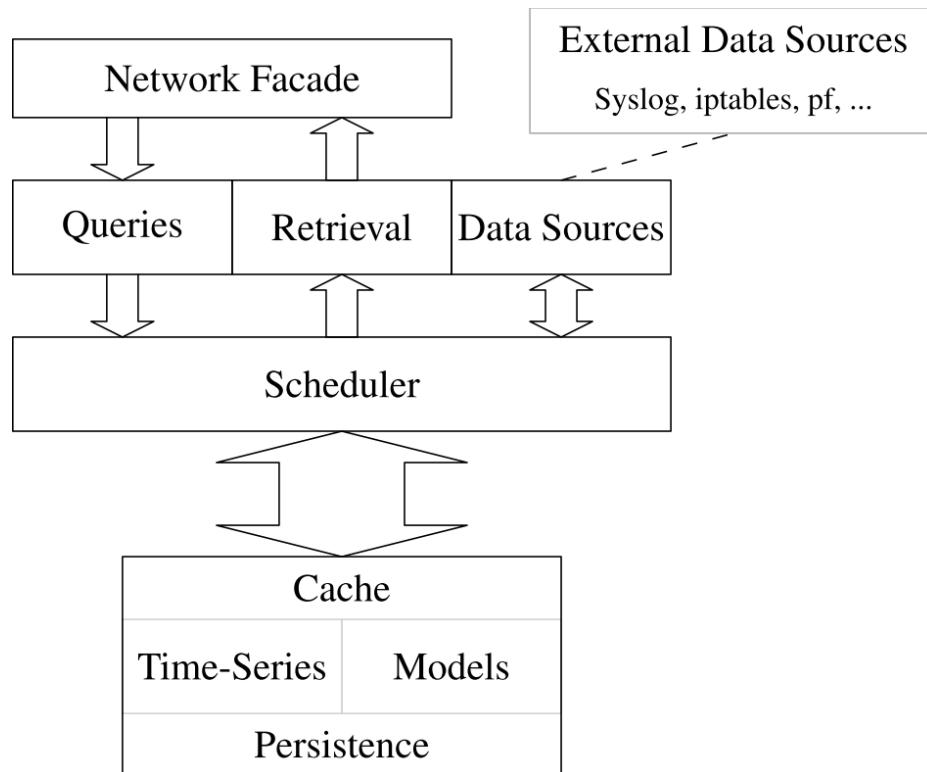
Two main components:

- Server
  - Time-series storage.
  - Analytics backend.
- Client
  - Time-series and visualization framework.
  - Multi-screen and multi-window support.
  - Access to the analytics backend of the server.

*Third component:*

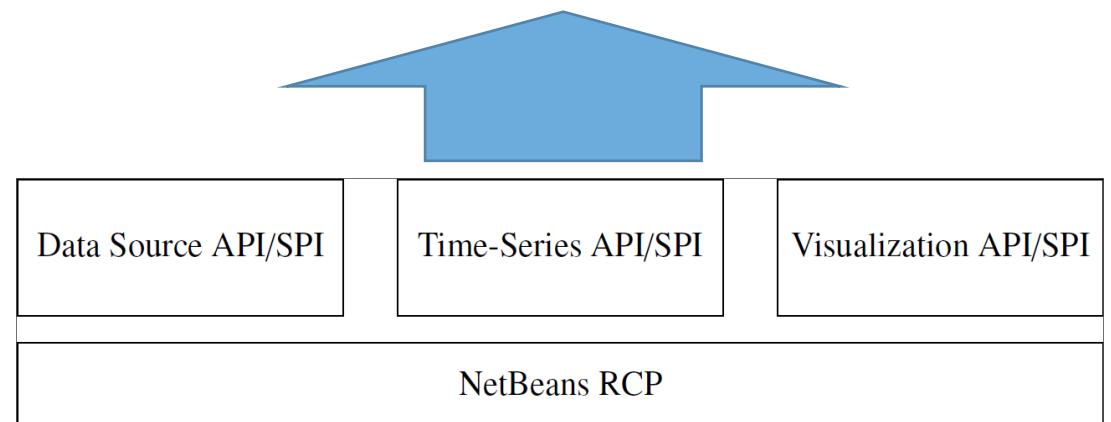
- Network traffic analysis framework (probes).

# System II



**Server Components**

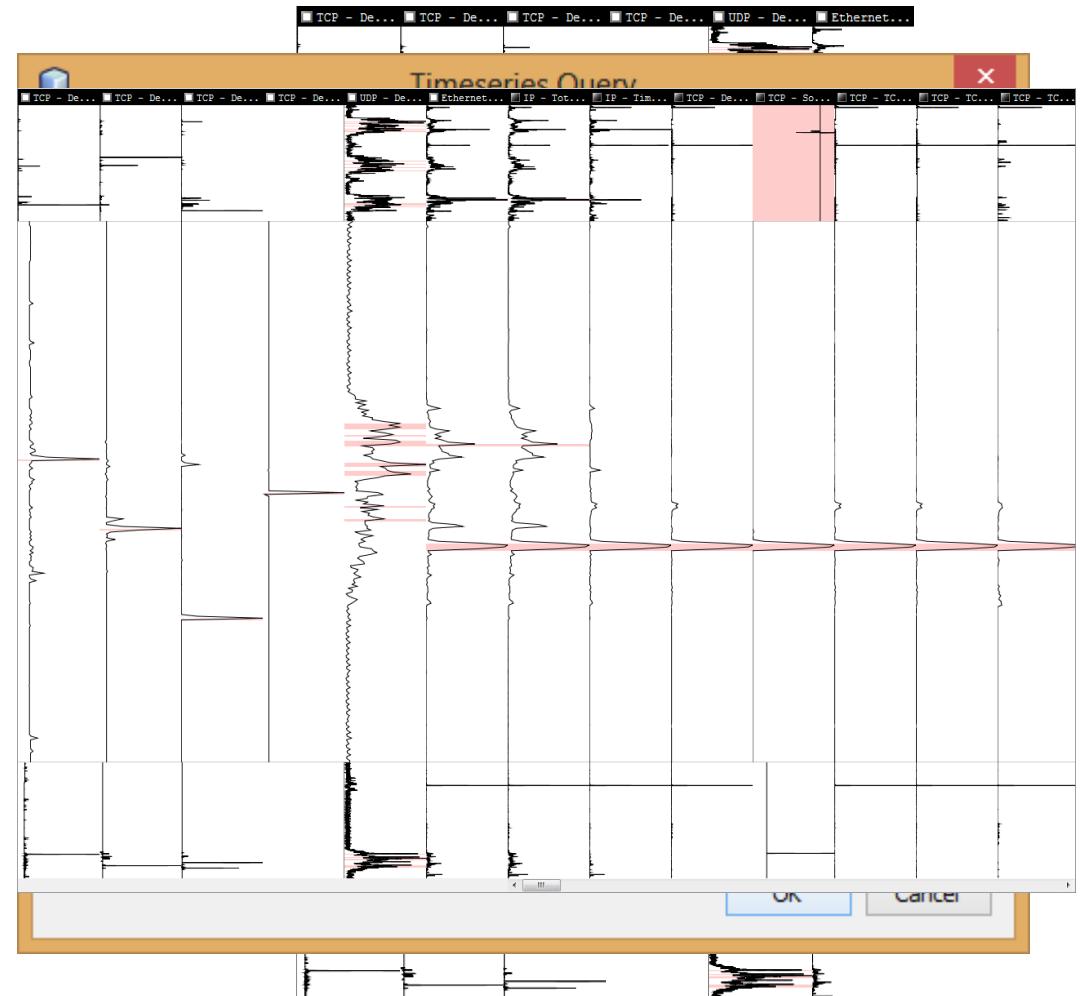
Analysis, Visualizations, Dashboards, ...

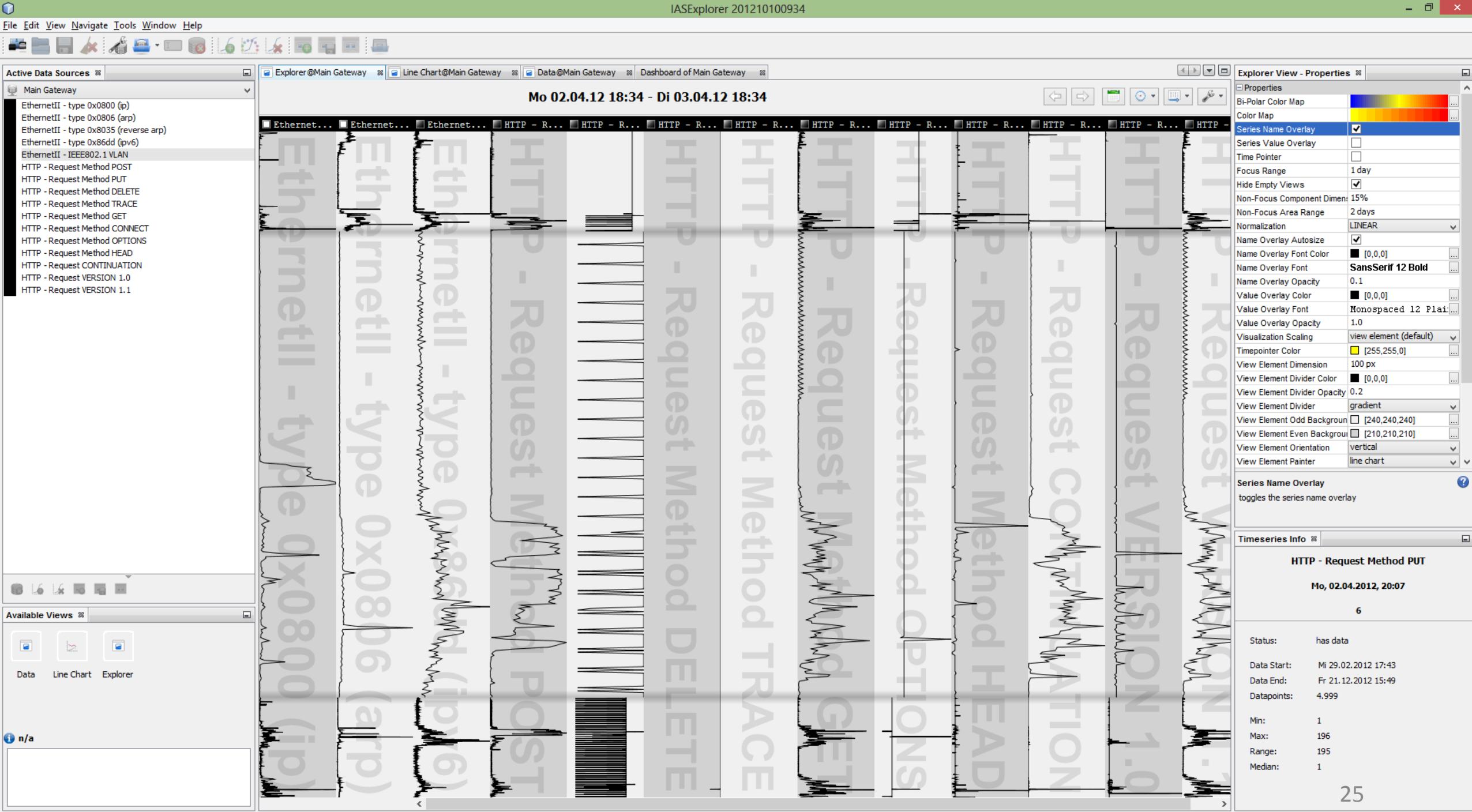


**Client Components**

# System III – Root Cause Analysis

1. Browse through time-series.
2. Find interesting time spans.
3. Formulate a similarity query.
4. Inspect the query results.
5. (*go at 1 if necessary*)
6. Start more detailed analysis in other tools, if necessary.





# Conclusion

Framework for time-series processing, containing:

- Time-series modelling.
- Scalable time-series analysis.
- Scalable time-series visualization.

## Future Work:

- Evaluate the line charts (rotation).
- Show the usefulness in a real world use-case with interesting data.
  - WIP: DNA Sequence Alignment Browser/Exploration.
- More Automatic methods.

Thank you very  
much for your attention!

## Questions?

For more information  
about our work  
please contact

**Florian Stoffel**

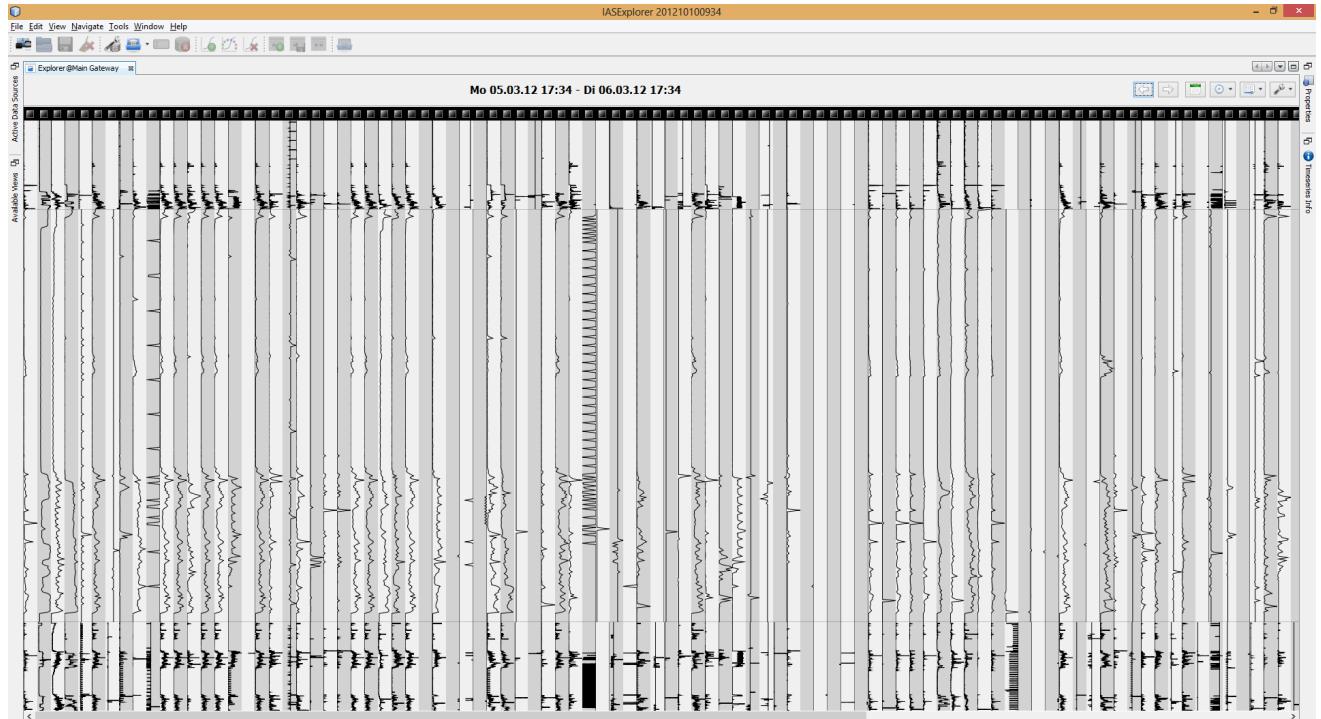
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<http://vis.uni-konstanz.de/>



# Dataset Details

- *transmission id*
  - id of the data transmission
- *descriptor id*
  - id of the descriptor
- *Counter*
  - counter reading of the descriptor
- *transmission time*
  - time of insertion
- Duration
  - data gathering interval
- Status
  - transmission status

transmission_id	descriptor	counter	time	duration	status
16925	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:03:51	300	ok
16926	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:04:20	300	ok
16927	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:08:51	300	ok
16928	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:09:20	300	ok
16929	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:13:51	300	ok
16930	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:14:20	300	ok
16931	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:18:51	300	ok
16932	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:19:20	300	ok
16933	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:23:51	300	ok
16934	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:24:20	300	ok