

# NFQL: A Swiss-Army Knife of Efficient Flow-Record Processing

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**Abstract**—Cisco’s NetFlow protocol and IETF’s IPFIX open standard have contributed heavily in pushing IP flow export as the de-facto technique for sending traffic patterns. These patterns have the potential to be used for billing and mediation, bandwidth provisioning, detecting malicious attacks and network performance evaluation. However, understanding these patterns requires sophisticated flow analysis tools that can mine them for such a usage. We recently proposed a framework design that can cap such flow-records to their full potential. In this paper, we introduce Network Flow Query Language (NFQL), a holistic approach to an efficient implementation of the design. NFQL can process flow records, aggregate them into groups, apply absolute (or relative) filters, invoke Allen interval algebra rules, and merge group records in matter of minutes. The implementation has been underpinned by suite of exhaustive benchmarks against contemporary flow-processing tools.

## I. INTRODUCTION

## II. DESIGN

## III. IMPLEMENTATION

### A. Filter

### B. Grouper

#### 1) Group Aggregations:

### C. Group Filter

### D. Merger

### E. Ungrouper

## IV. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

## V. RELATED WORK

## VI. CONCLUSION

The NFQL conclusion goes here [1]

## REFERENCES

- [1] V. Marinov and J. Schönwälder, “Design of a Stream-Based IP Flow Record Query Language,” in *Proceedings of the 20th IFIP/IEEE International Workshop on Distributed Systems: Operations and Management: Integrated Management of Systems, Services, Processes and People in IT*, ser. DSOM ’09. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 2009, pp. 15–28. [Online]. Available: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-04989-7\\_2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-04989-7_2)