



# Swisscom Network Analytics

Visibility for a closed loop operated network

swisscom

02.12.2021, Thomas Graf and Marco Tollini





**The customer knows before Swisscom that there is service interruption.**

**Unable to recognize impact and root cause when configurational or operational network changes occur.**

**Swisscom suffers reputation damage.  
We need to work together to mediate.**



**Markus Reber**  
Head of Networks at Swisscom



At IETF only 9.85% of the activities are related to network automation and monitoring.

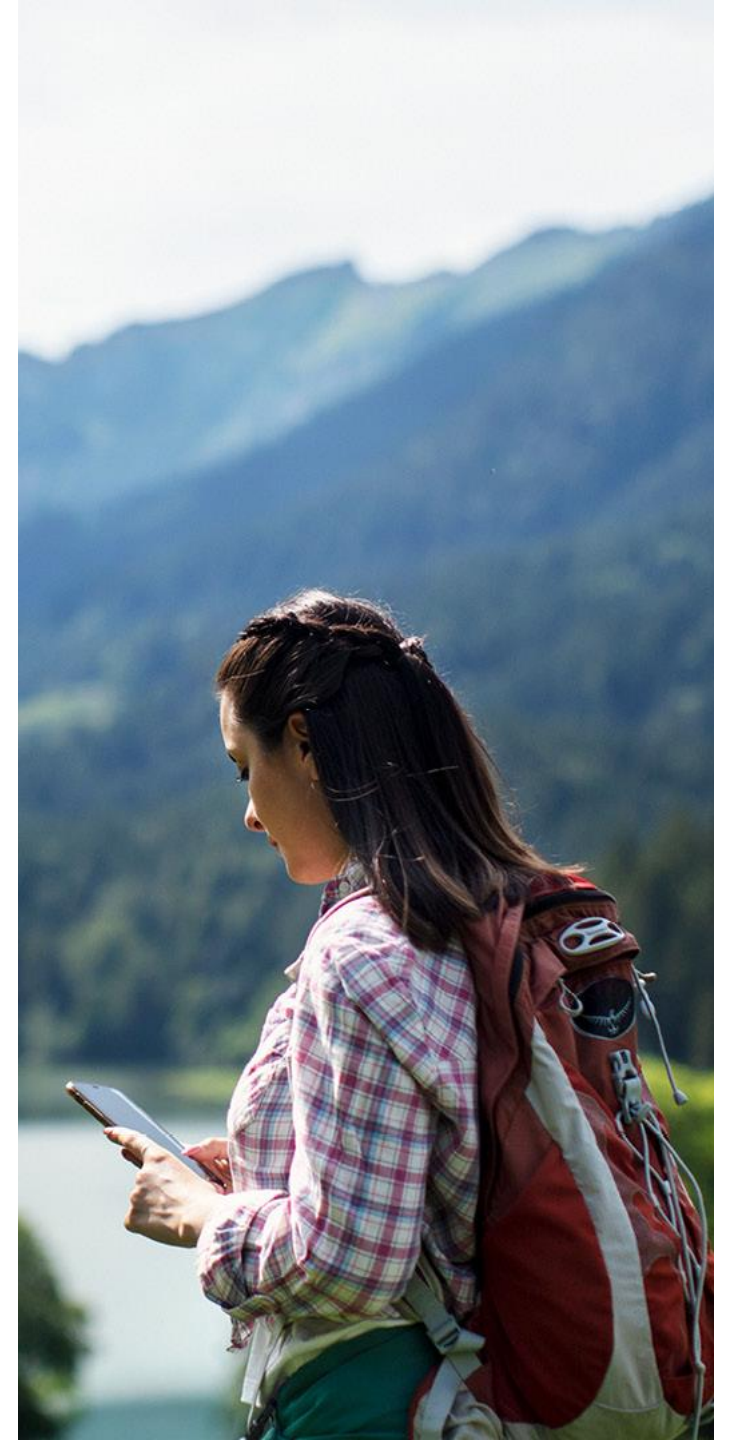
We are still using protocols designed 40 years ago to manage networks.

IP network protocols are not made to expose metrics for analytics. **IPFIX and BGP monitoring protocol are the rare exception.**



**Thomas Graf**

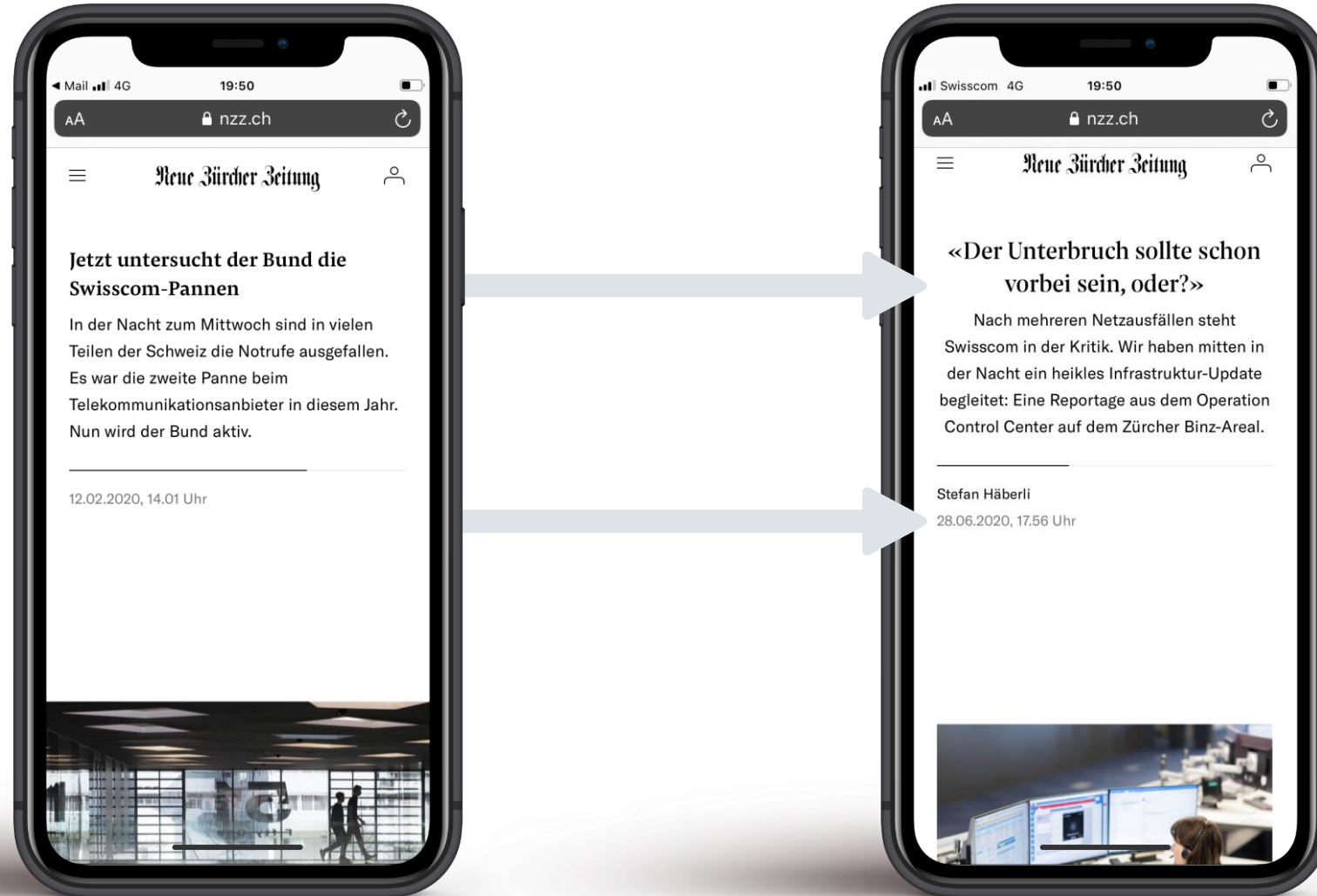
Distinguished Network Engineer  
and Network Analytics Architect at Swisscom





# Network Analytics Transformed Swisscom Media Reporting

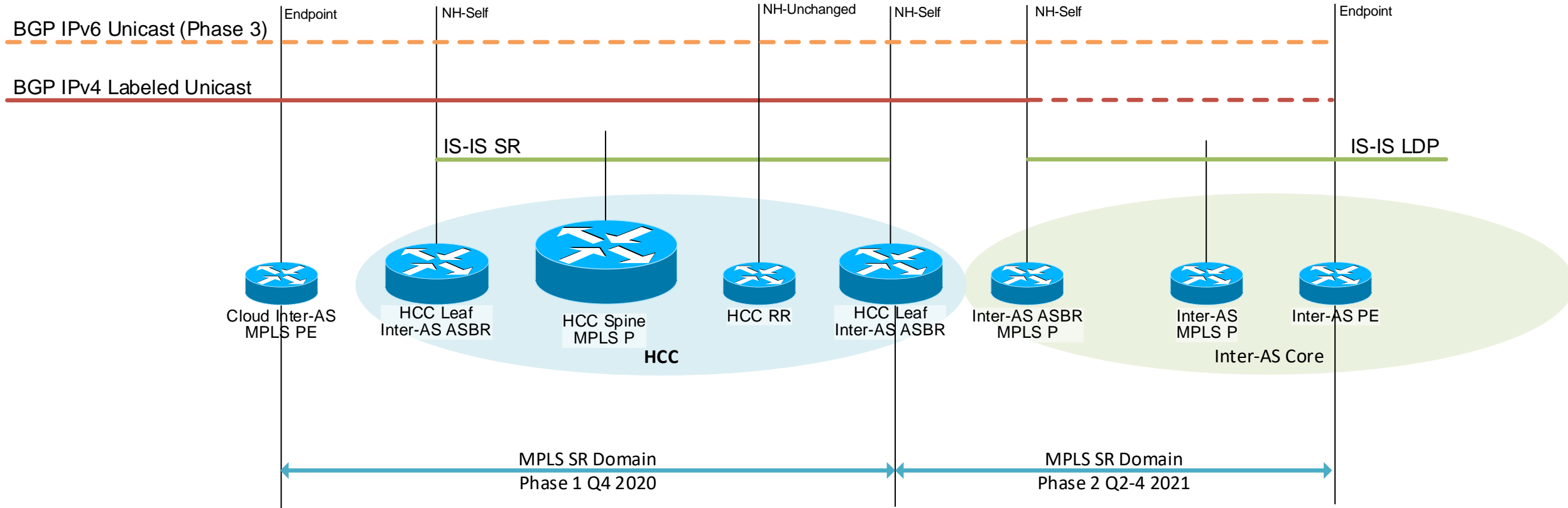
Why networks and data lakes need to become one





# Transition to Segment Routing

## From MPLS over MPLS-SR to SRv6

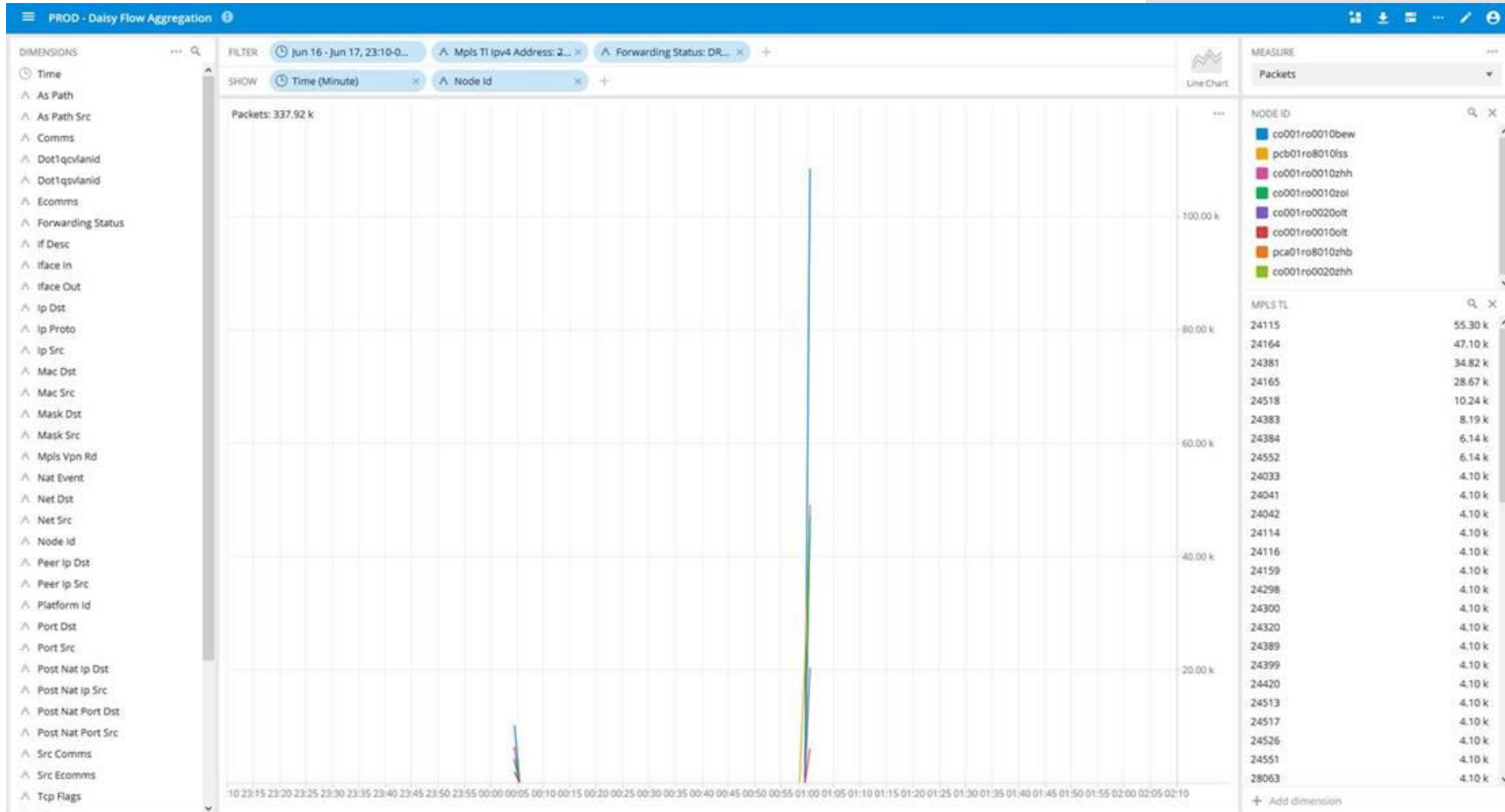


Segment Routing **reduces the amount of routing protocols, simplifies forwarding-plane monitoring while enabling traffic engineering with closed loop and increase scale.**



# 337'920 Packets Dropped

Successfully migrated to a 3 label stack

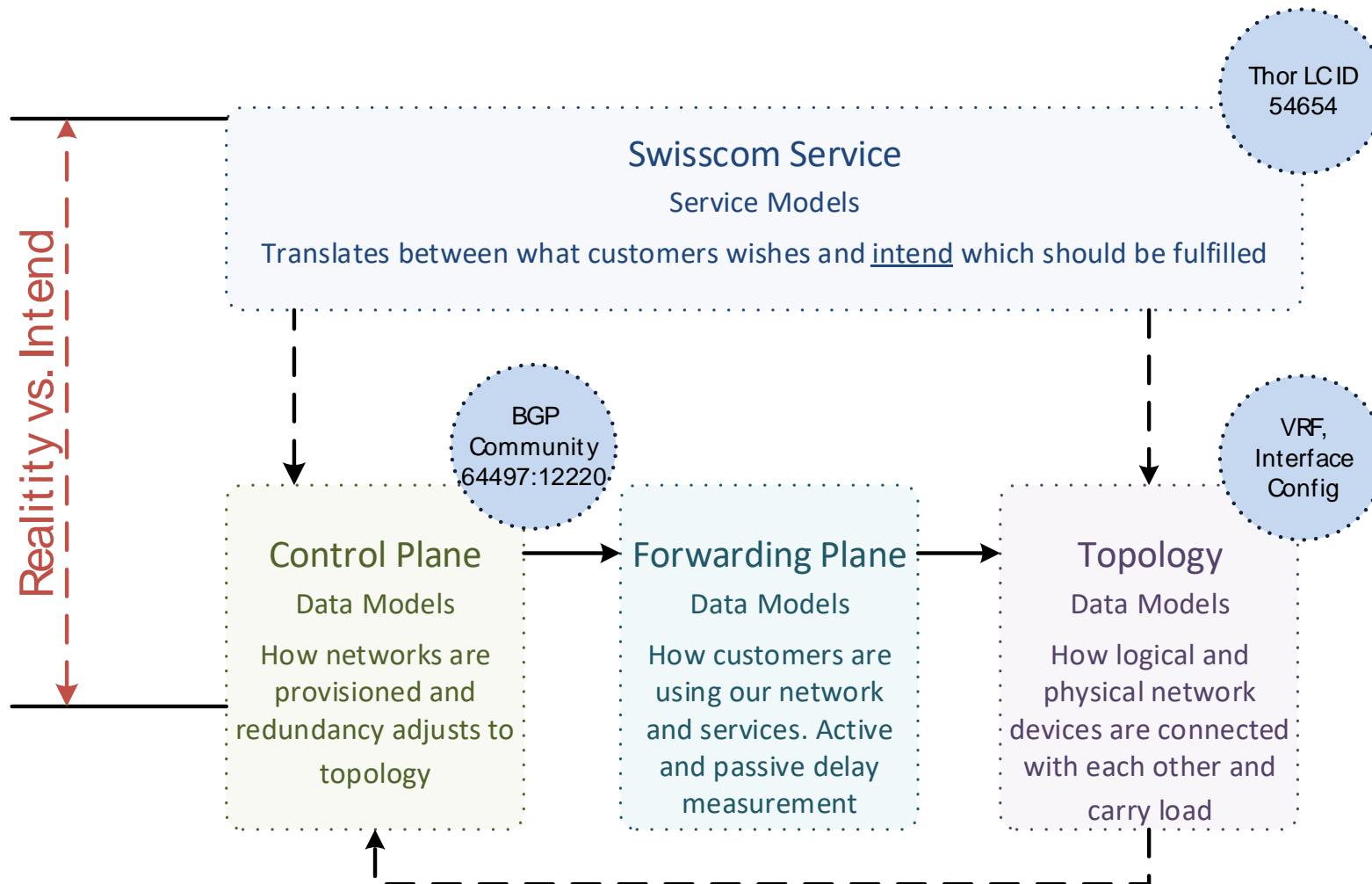






# Data Collection with Network Telemetry

*Structured metrics enable informed decision-making*



## Network Telemetry:

- > A data collection framework where the network device pushes its metrics to Big Data.

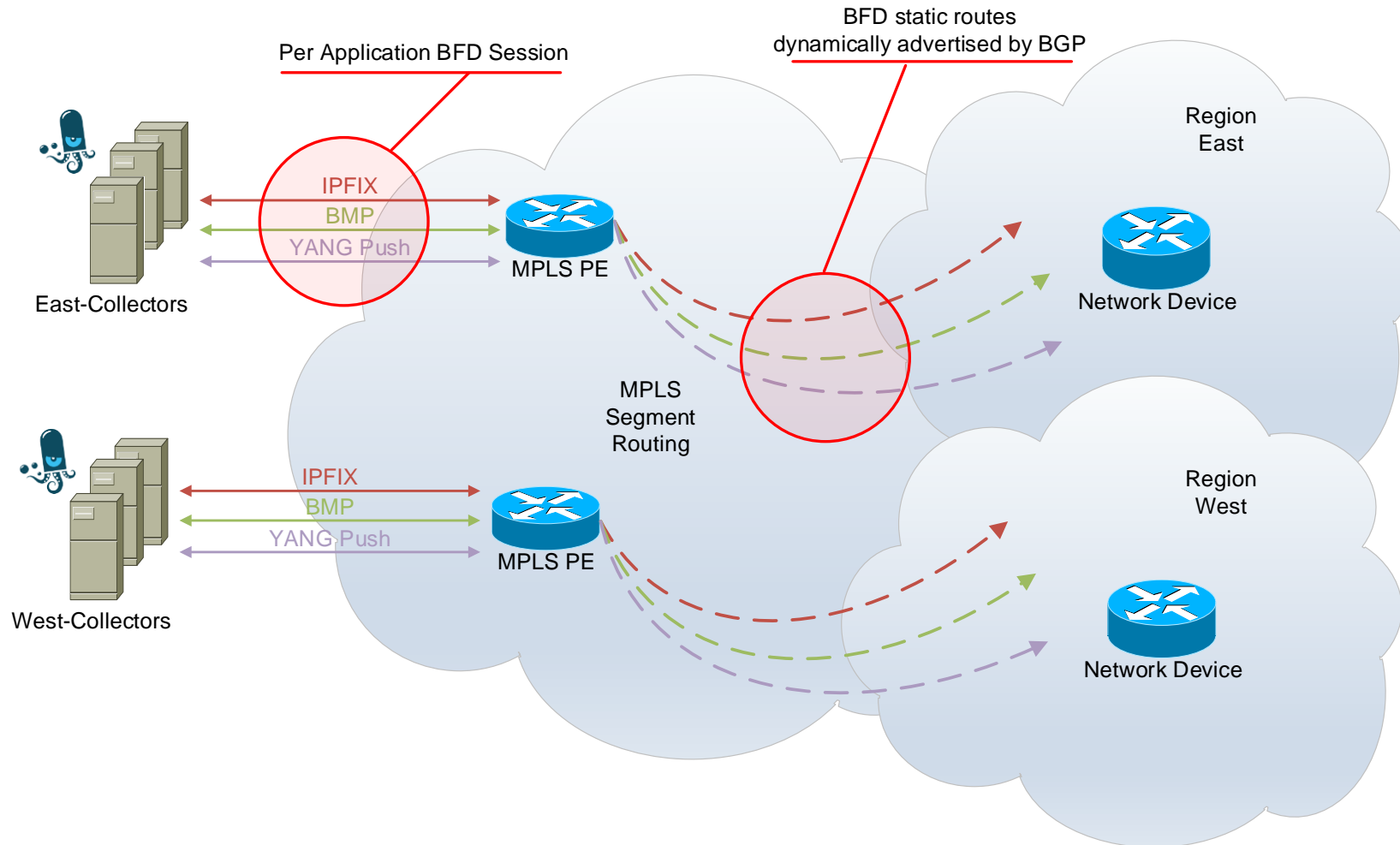
## Data Modelling:

- > Key for Big Data correlation to understand and react in the right context
  - > Are interface drops bad?
  - > How should we react?



# Network Distribution with BFD / Anycast

Add as many servers as possible where you need them



- Each collection service is represented by an anycast service loopback address on the network.
- Depending if collection processes are running, service loopback installed in RIB with BFD static route and advertised by BGP at MPLS PE .
- Balances metrics from network devices to collectors depending on location **with 2 tuple hash (SRC/DST IP address)**.

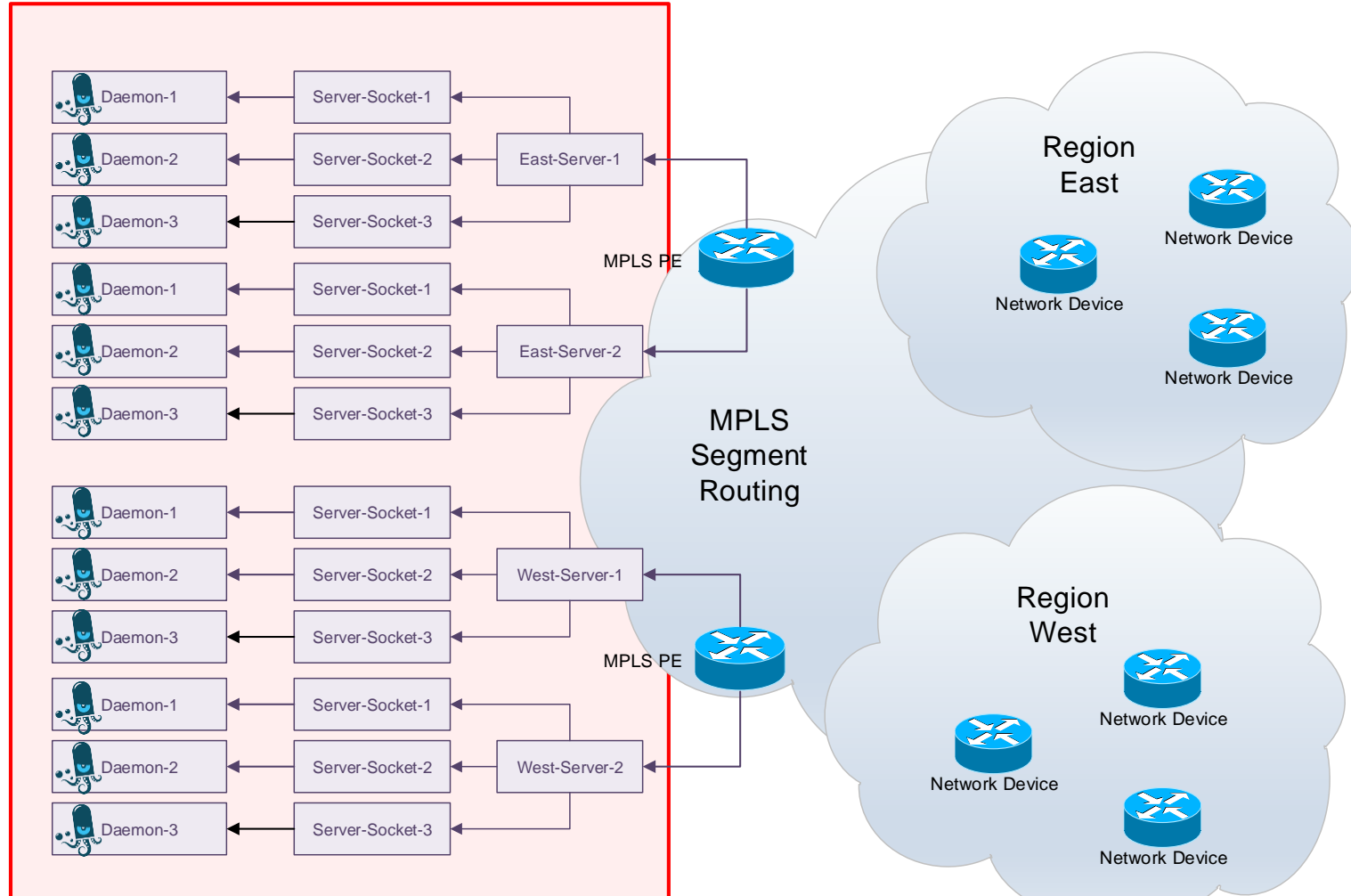




# Process Distribution with SO\_REUSEPORT

Add as many daemons as possible where you need them

Linux Kernel SO\_REUSEPORT Loadbalancing

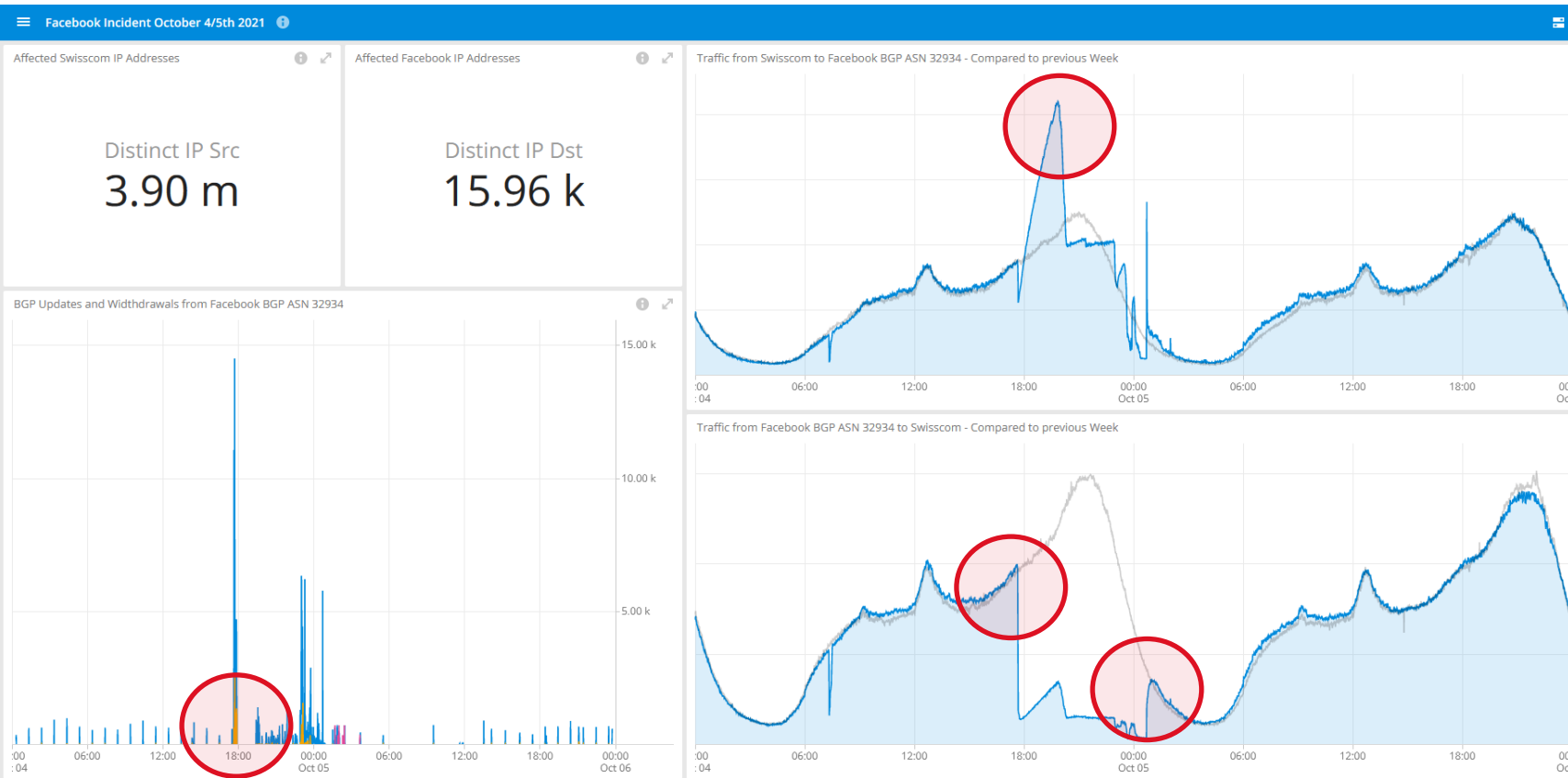


- The Linux network socket is a bottleneck on servers with high connection/transaction rates.
- Linux kernel function SO\_REUSEPORT allows infinite amount of network sockets per Layer4 port.
- Distributes metrics within server **with 2 tuple hash (SRC/DST IP address)** to daemons.
- Finite scale per server at lowest cost. CPU/memory resources per server is the only limitation factor.



# Facebook Incident October 4/5th

## The Swisscom perspective



At 17:39 prefixes from Facebook BGP ASN 32934 where withdrawn. Outbound traffic steadily increased twofold until 20:20. Inbound traffic decreased by 85%.



Between 19:25 and 00:51, BGP updates and withdrawals where received.

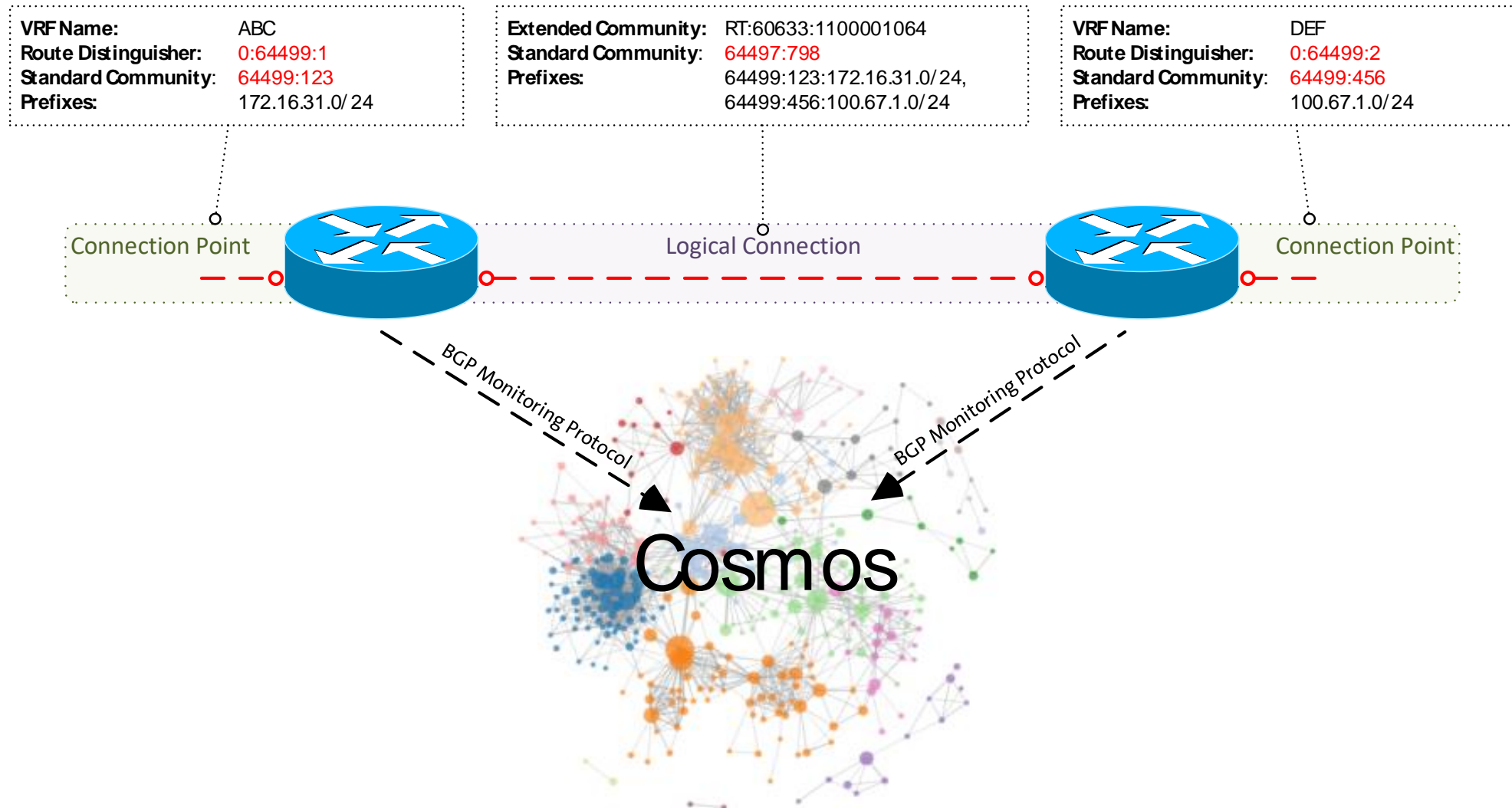


At 00:41 traffic rate restored to normal.



# Visualizing Layer 3 VPN Topologies

Bringing Network Engineers visibility into topology changes





# The earth isn't flat, so are our networks

BGP Communities are defining VPN's and Endpoints. Let's Visualize!

PROD - Daisy BMP Control Plane

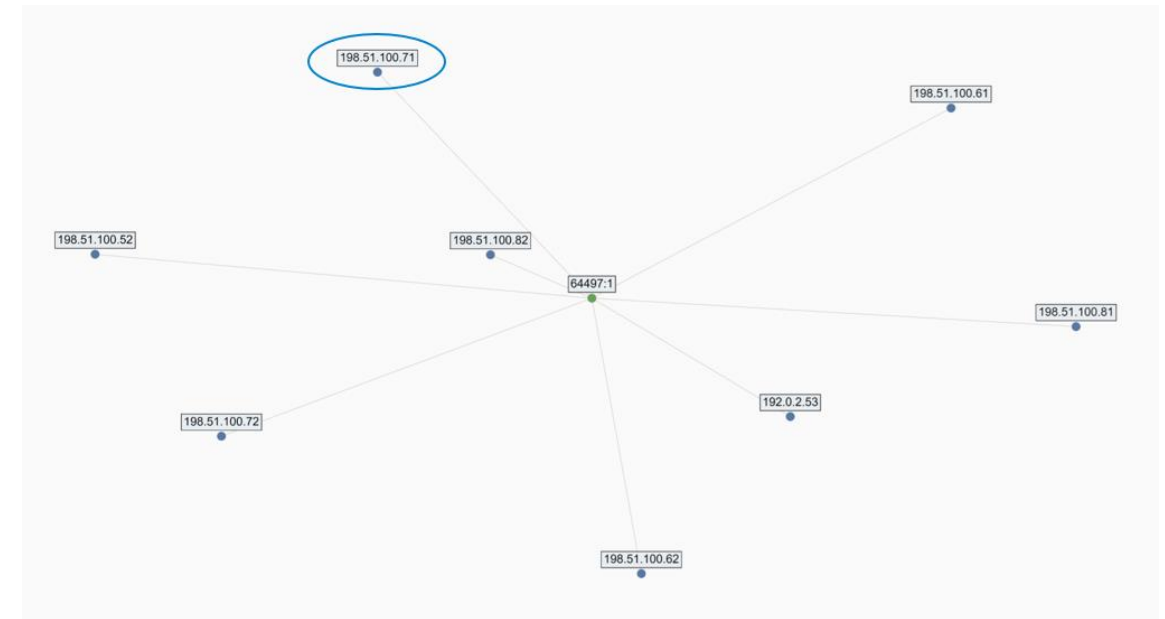
FILTER: Latest 6 hours, Comms: 64497:25

SHOW: Node id, Ip Prefix, Log Type

Node id, Ip Prefix, Log Type	Count
Overall	5,488
pc001ro1060bew	2,744
138.187.124.32/31	20
update	20
138.187.124.34/31	20
update	20
138.187.124.40/31	20
update	20
138.187.124.42/31	20
update	20
10.92.0.192/29	16
update	16
10.92.0.200/29	16
update	16
10.92.140.0/22	16
update	16
10.92.148.0/22	16
update	16
10.92.152.0/24	16
update	16
10.92.153.0/24	16
update	16
10.92.154.0/24	16
update	16
10.92.200.0/24	16

A **table** showing  
the **event** changes per node

VS.



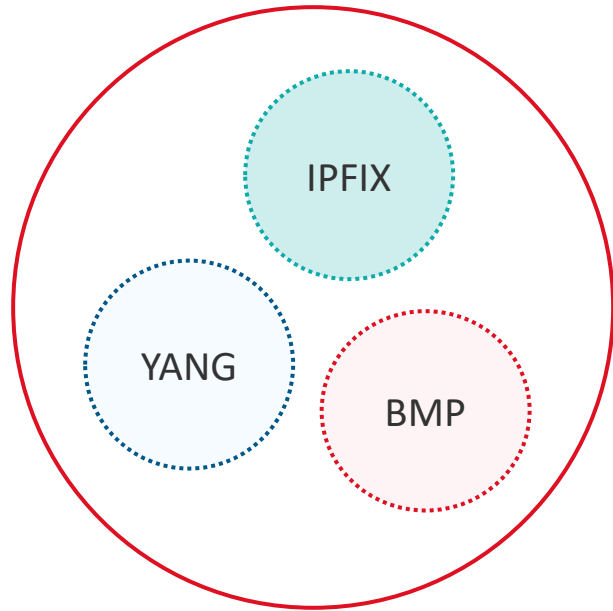
The Layer3 **topology** visualization showing  
the **state** changes per endpoint



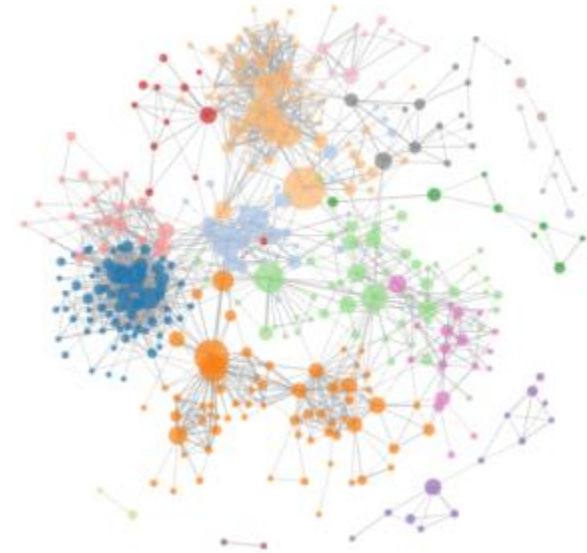
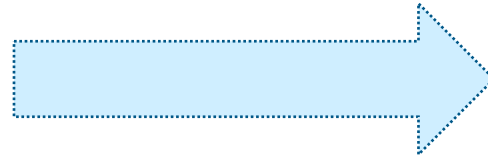


## Objective of the project

Mapping the network, aiming for the stars



**Network Telemetry Protocols**

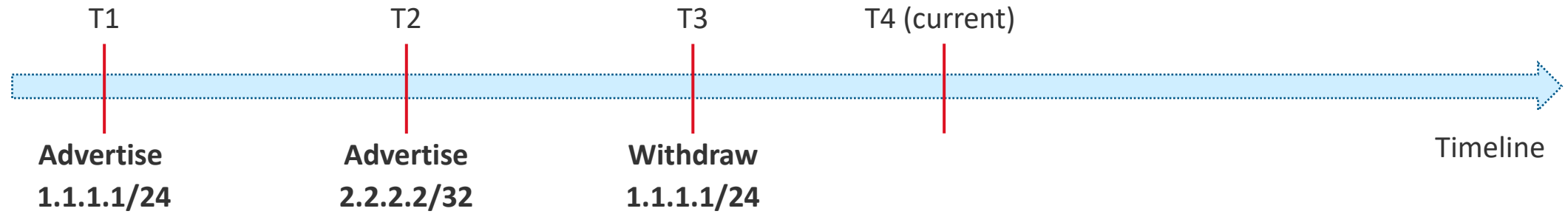


**Network Visualization**



# Event Based BGP Monitoring Protocol

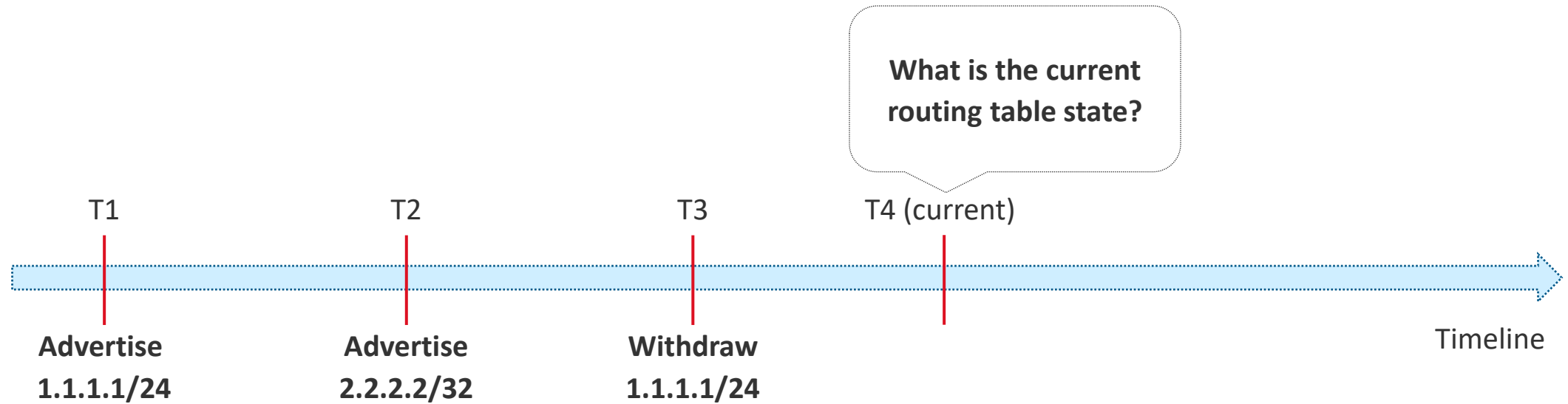
BGP updates and withdrawals from the network





## Challenge 1 – Obtaining the current BGP routing table

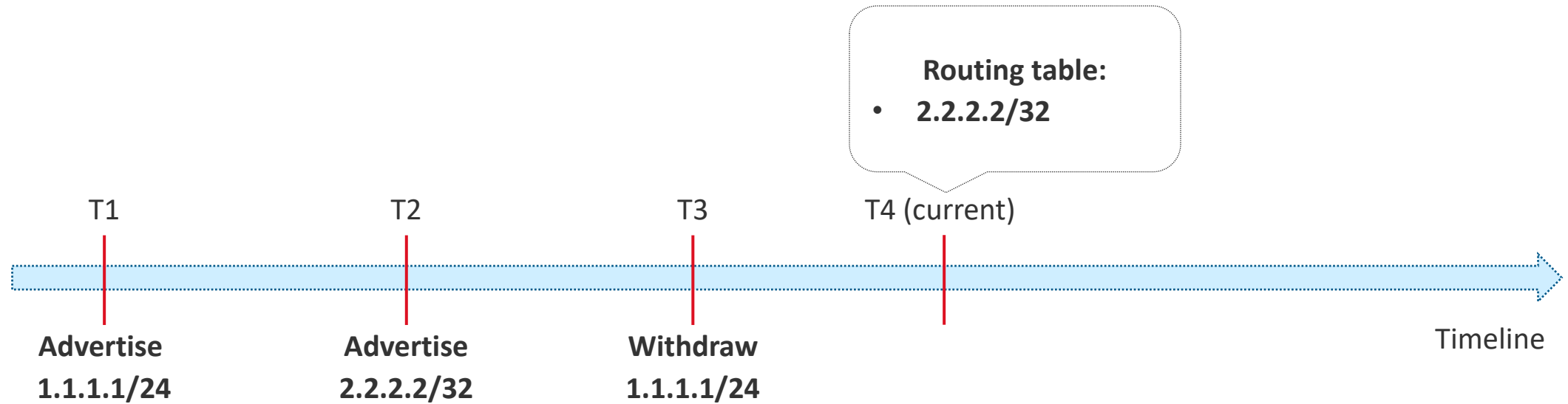
Keeping track of the changes





## Challenge 1 – Obtaining the current BGP routing table

Keeping track of the changes

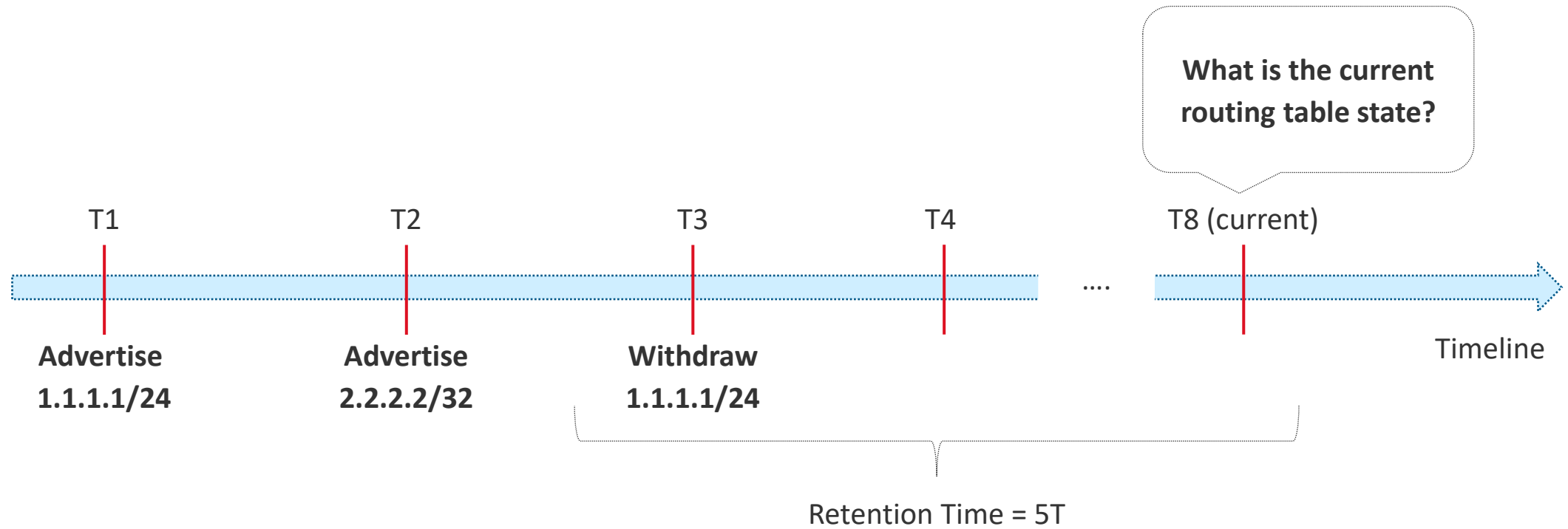






## Challenge 2 – Retention time

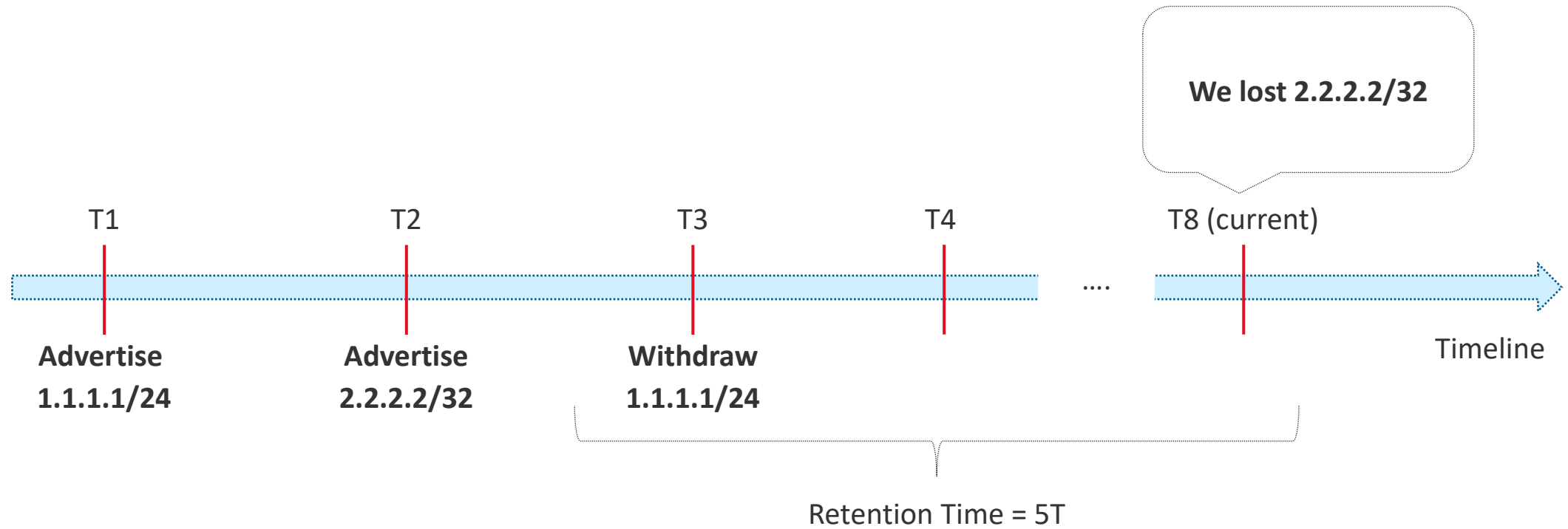
Do we have all the information?





## Challenge 2 – Retention time

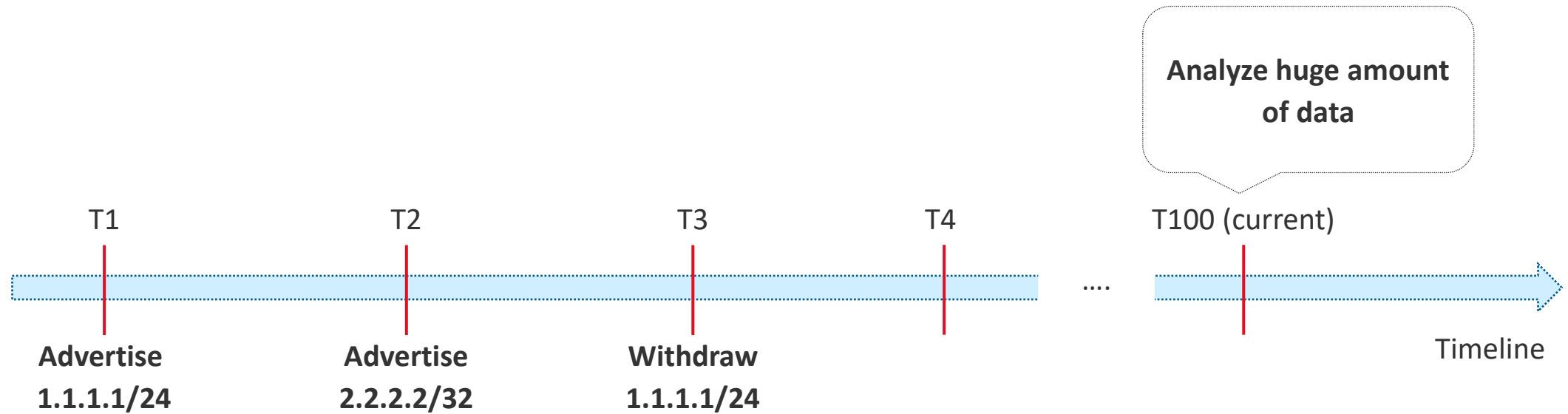
Do we have all the information?





## Challenge 3 – Computation Time

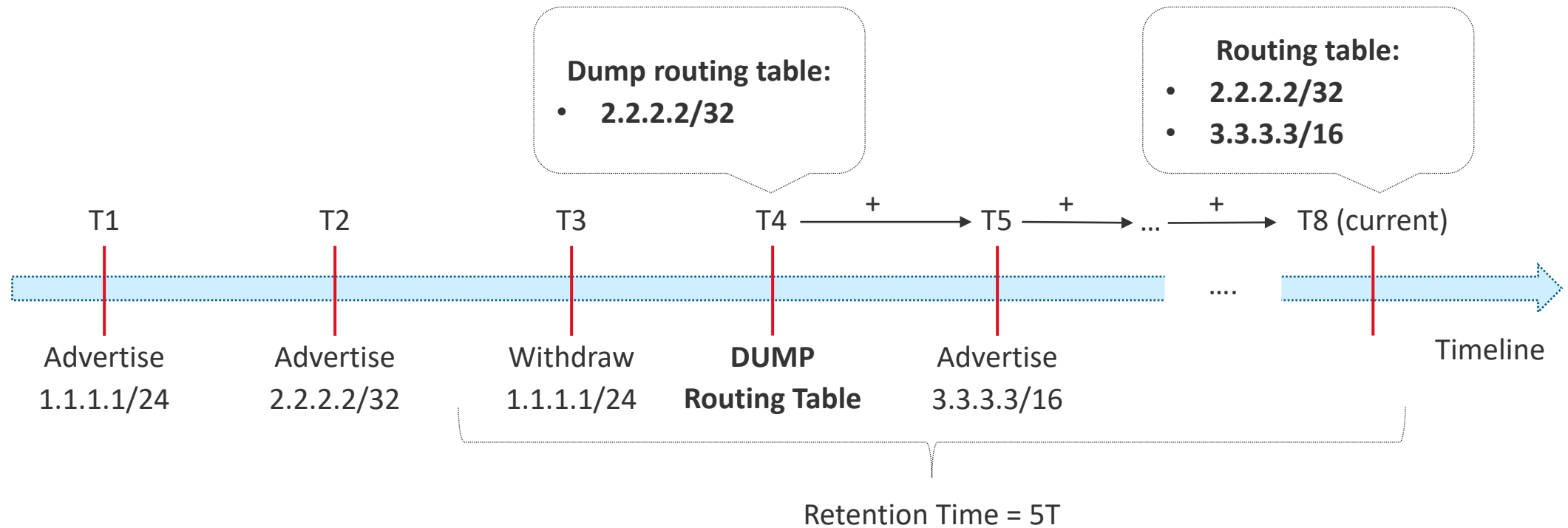
Are we able to merge all the information?





## Solution - Transforming events to state

How did a BGP RIB look at a given time and how did it change over time?



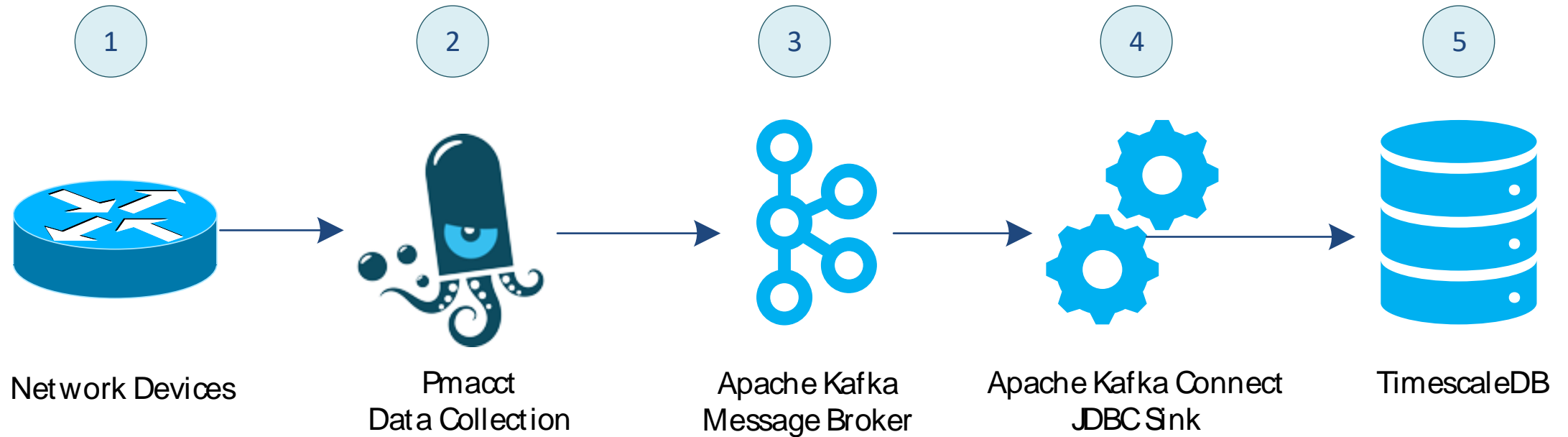
**Key:** Dump Interval  $\leq$  Retention Time





# Network Visualization Data pipeline

Realtime, what else?



Cosmos

🕒 2021-05-29 10:40:38

Select VPN ▾

Select visualization ▾

Active Filters

Place your filters here

All Filters

Search

Playback



🕒 Speed

🖼️ Resolution

5						
Current						
1				No data loaded		
0						

🕒 2021-05-29 10:40:38

Now

1 Minute

5 Minutes

15 Minutes

1 Hour

2 Hours

6 Hours

12 Hours

Yesterday

2021-05-29

10:40:38

« < 2021 May > »

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

25 26 27 28 29 30 1

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

30 31 1 2 3 4 5

Now

OK

5

Current

1

0

No data loaded

Cosmos

🕒 2021-05-29 10:40:38

Select VPN



64497:1

64497:2

64497:3

64497:33

Search

Playback



🕒 Speed

📺 Resolution

5

Current

1

0

No data loaded



# Cosmos

🕒 2021-05-29 10:40:38

64497:1



Select visualization



VPN Topology

VPN Routing Topology

Peering Topology

List

afi

asgp

as\_path

as\_path\_id

bgp\_id

bgp\_nexthop

bmp\_msg\_type

bmp\_router

bmp\_router\_port

comms

ecomms

event\_type

ip\_prefix

is\_filtered

is\_in

is\_loc

is\_out

is\_post

label

lcomms

local\_ip

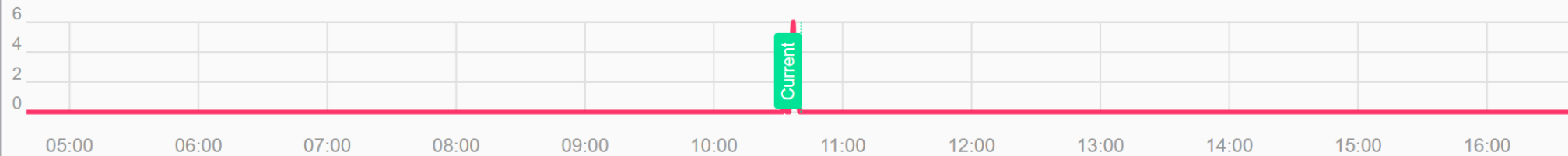
local\_port

local\_pref

log\_type

med

● All ● Filtered



# Cosmos

🕒 2021-05-29 10:40:38

64497:1

VPN Topology

Active Filters

Place your filters here

All Filters

Search

afi

aigp

as\_path

as\_path\_id

bgp\_id

bgp\_nexthop

bmp\_msg\_type

bmp\_router

bmp\_router\_port

comms

ecomms

event\_type

ip\_prefix

is\_filtered

is\_in

is\_loc

is\_out

is\_post

label

lcomms

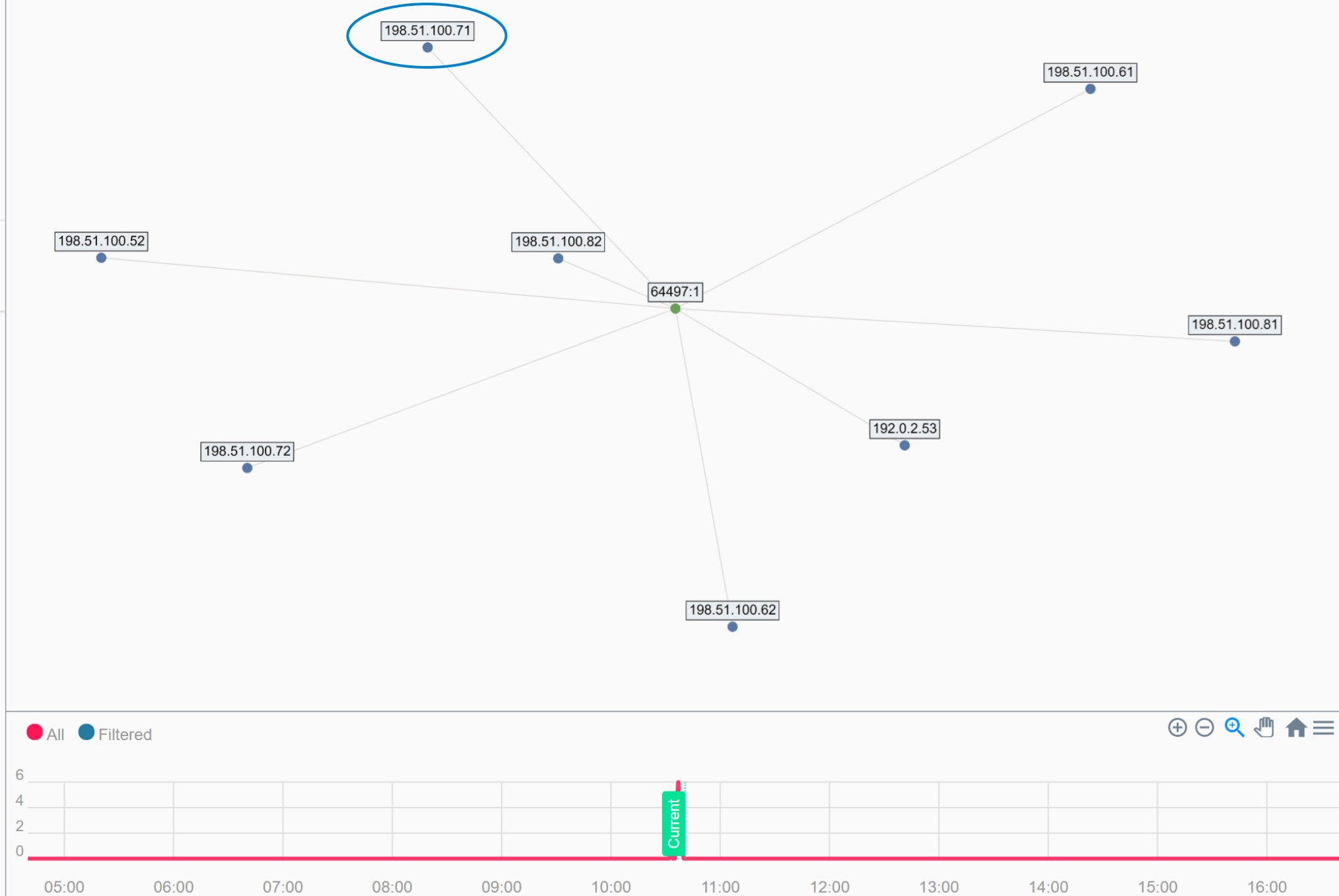
local\_ip

local\_port

local\_pref

log\_type

med



# Cosmos

🕒 2021-05-29 10:40:38

64497:1

VPN Topology

Active Filters

Place your filters here

All Filters

Search

afi

aigp

as\_path

as\_path\_id

bgp\_id

bgp\_nexthop

bmp\_msg\_type

bmp\_router

bmp\_router\_port

comms

ecomms

event\_type

ip\_prefix

is\_filtered

is\_in

is\_loc

is\_out

is\_post

label

lcomms

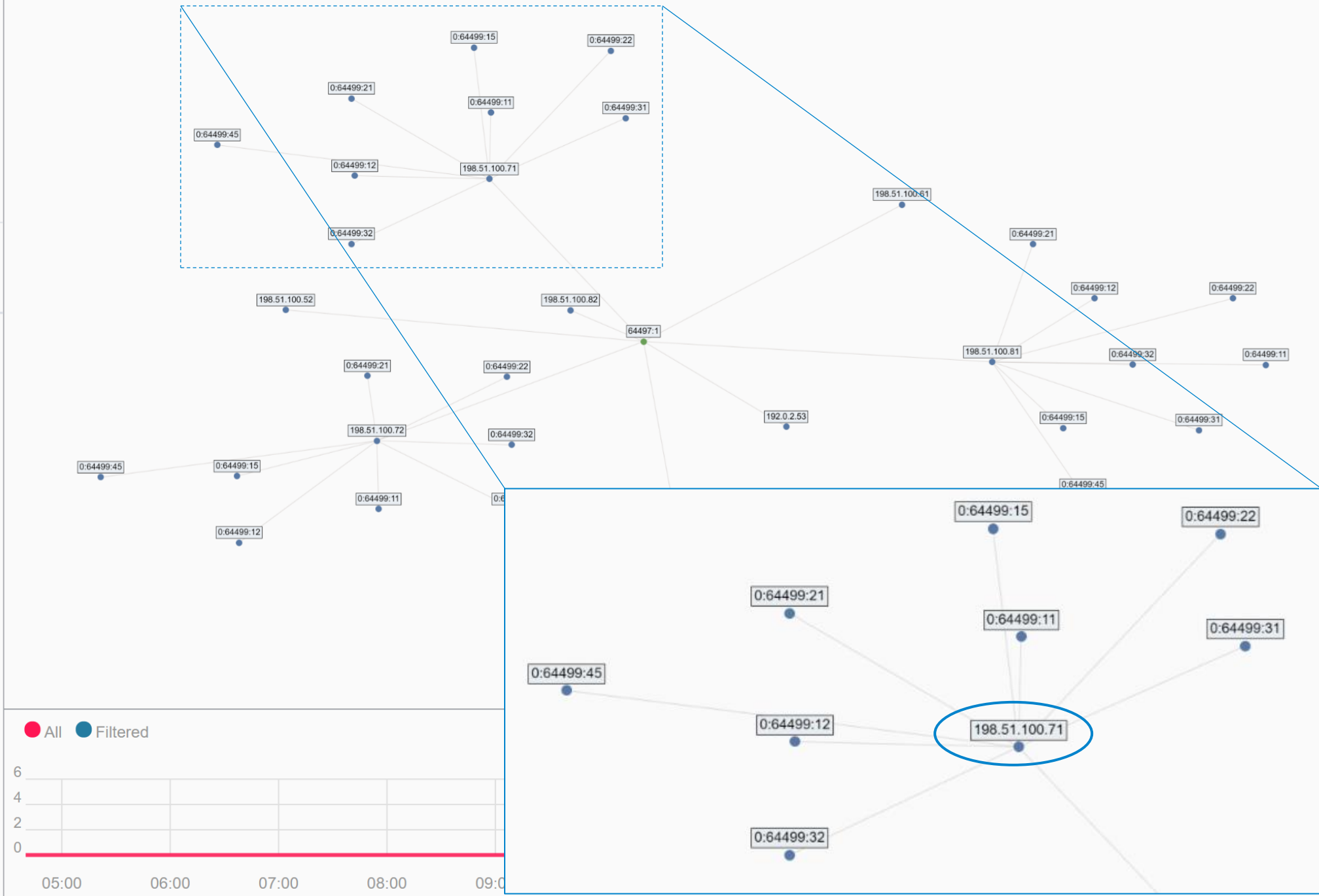
local\_ip

local\_port

local\_pref

log\_type

med





# VPN Topology view

*The macro view of a VPN*

VPN	Loopback	RD	RD Origin
1	10.10.0.1	A	bmp
2	10.10.0.2	B	bmp
1	10.10.0.3	C	bmp
1	10.10.0.3	D	bmp
1	10.10.0.4	E	bgp

## Steps:

- > Calculate Router Table of each router
- > Filter by VPN and RD Origin
- > Select needed data



# VPN Topology view

*The macro view of a VPN*

VPN	Loopback	RD	RD Origin
1	10.10.0.1	A	bmp
<del>2</del>	<del>10.10.0.2</del>	<del>B</del>	<del>bmp</del>
1	10.10.0.3	C	bmp
1	10.10.0.3	D	bmp
<del>1</del>	<del>10.10.0.4</del>	<del>E</del>	<del>bgp</del>

## Steps:

- > Calculate Router Table of each router
- > Filter by VPN and RD Origin
- > Select needed data



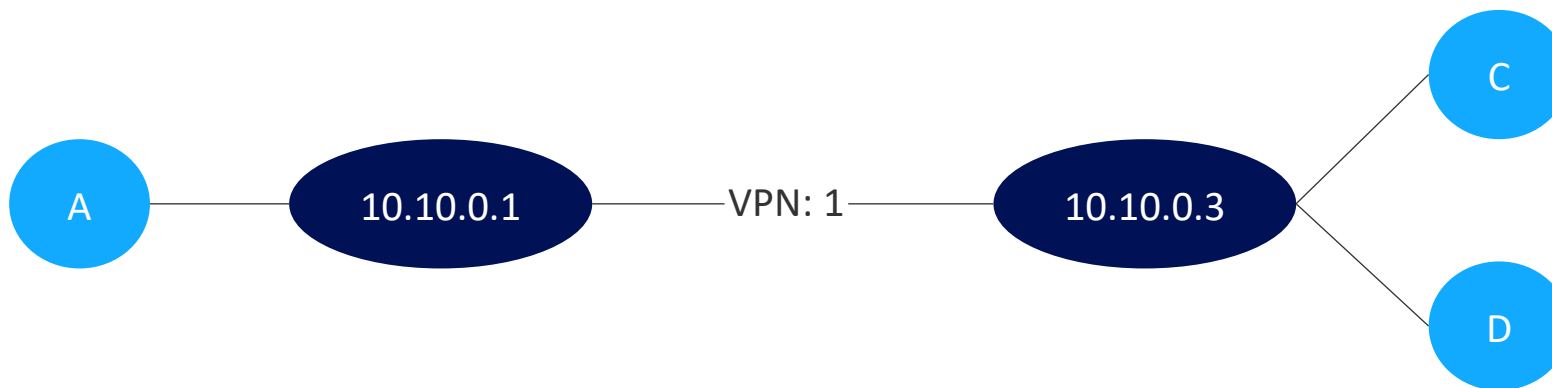
# VPN Topology view

*The macro view of a VPN*

VPN	Loopback	RD	RD Origin
1	10.10.0.1	A	bmp
2	10.10.0.2	B	bmp
1	10.10.0.3	C	bmp
1	10.10.0.3	D	bmp
1	10.10.0.4	E	bgp

## Steps:

- > Calculate Router Table of each router
- > Filter by VPN and RD Origin
- > Select needed data



# Cosmos

🕒 2021-05-29 10:40:38

64497:1

VPN Routing Topology

Active Filters

Place your filters here

All Filters

Search

afi

aigp

as\_path

as\_path\_id

bgp\_id

bgp\_nexthop

bmp\_msg\_type

bmp\_router

bmp\_router\_port

comms

ecomms

event\_type

ip\_prefix

is\_filtered

is\_in

is\_loc

is\_out

is\_post

label

lcomms

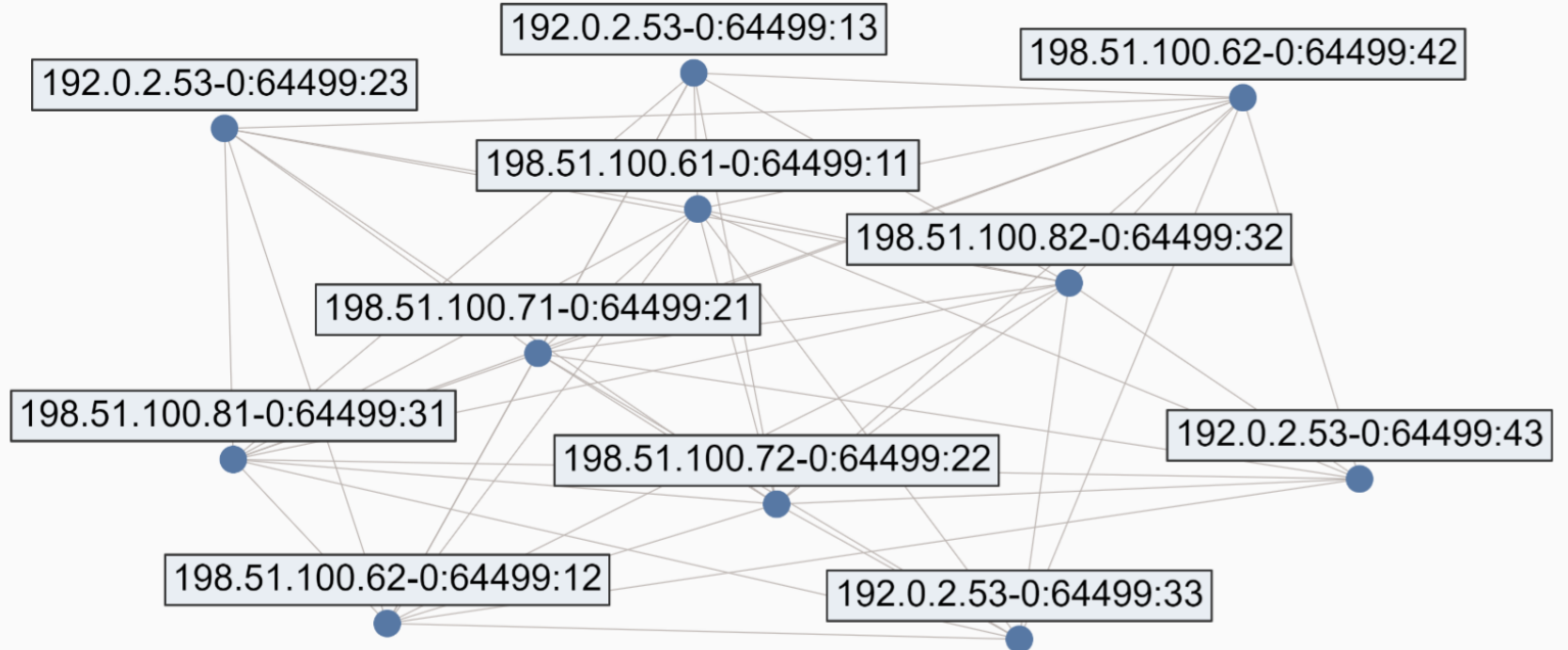
local\_ip

local\_port

local\_pref

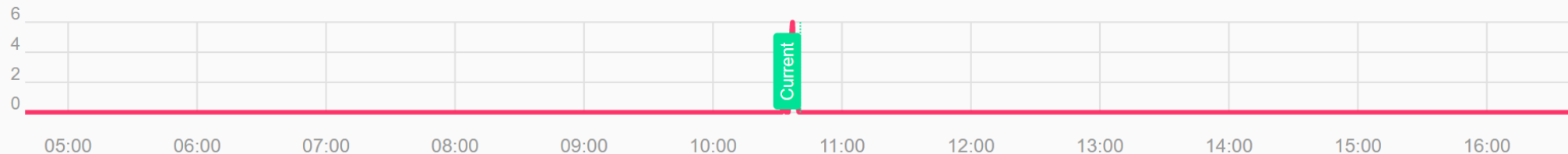
log\_type

med



● All ● Filtered

⊕ ⊖ 🔍 🖱️ 🏠 ☰



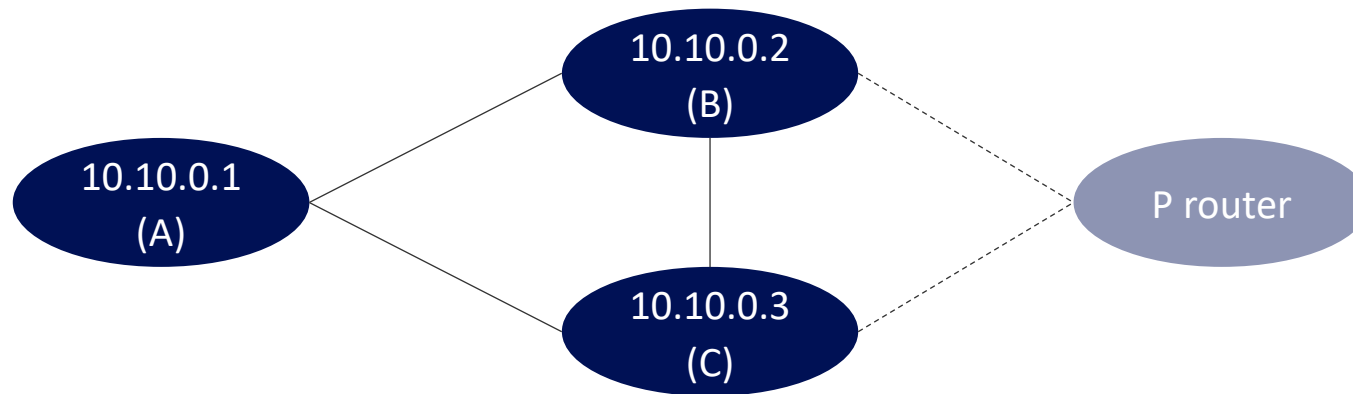




# VPN Routing Topology view

*The routing view of a VPN*

VPN	Loopback	RD	Next hop	Type
1	10.10.0.1	A	10.10.0.1 (self)	out
1	10.10.0.2	B	10.10.0.1	local
1	10.10.0.3	C	10.10.0.1	local
1	10.10.0.2	B	10.10.0.2 (self)	out
1	10.10.0.3	C	10.10.0.2	local



## Steps:

- > Calculate Routing Table of each router
- > Filter by VPN
- > Find all routers which are advertising routes with next-hop self
- > Find all routers which are importing locally the routes
- > Join on different loopback but equal next-hop

# Cosmos

🕒 2021-05-29 10:42:00

64497:1

Peering Topology

Active Filters

Place your filters here

All Filters

Search

afi

aigp

as\_path

as\_path\_id

bgp\_id

bgp\_nexthop

bmp\_msg\_type

bmp\_router

bmp\_router\_port

comms

ecomms

event\_type

ip\_prefix

is\_filtered

is\_in

is\_loc

is\_out

is\_post

label

lcomms

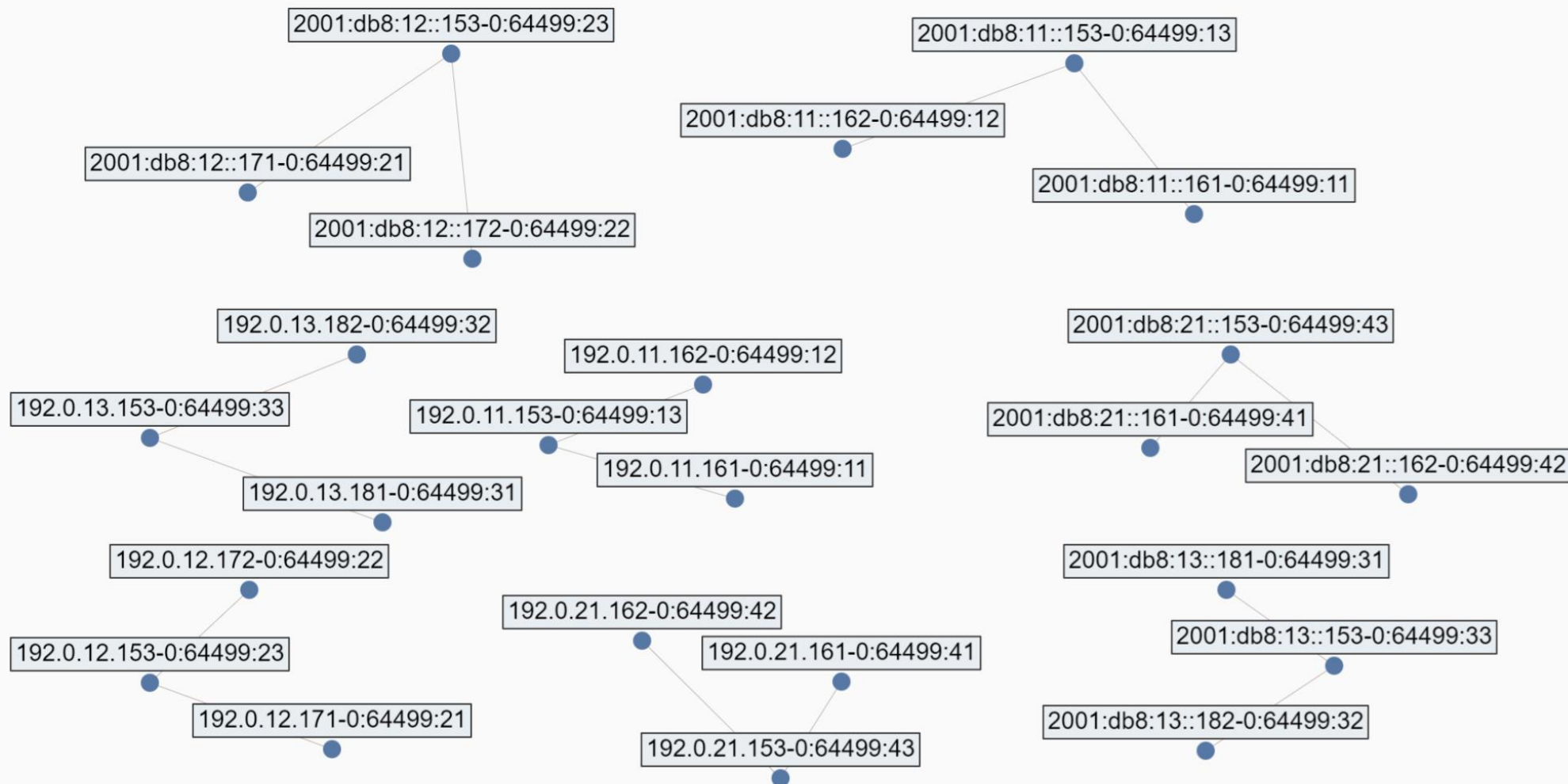
local\_ip

local\_port

local\_pref

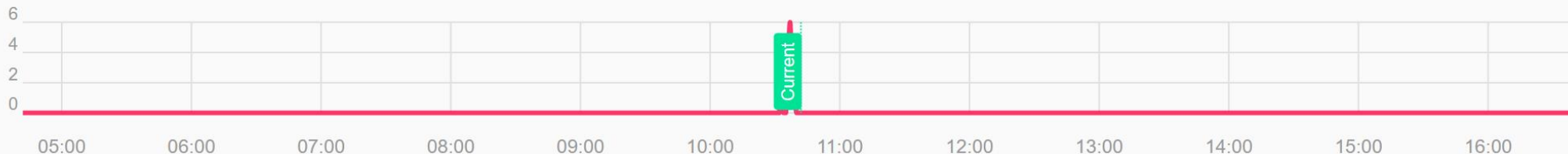
log\_type

med



● All ● Filtered

⊕ ⊖ 🔍 🖱️ 🏠 ☰

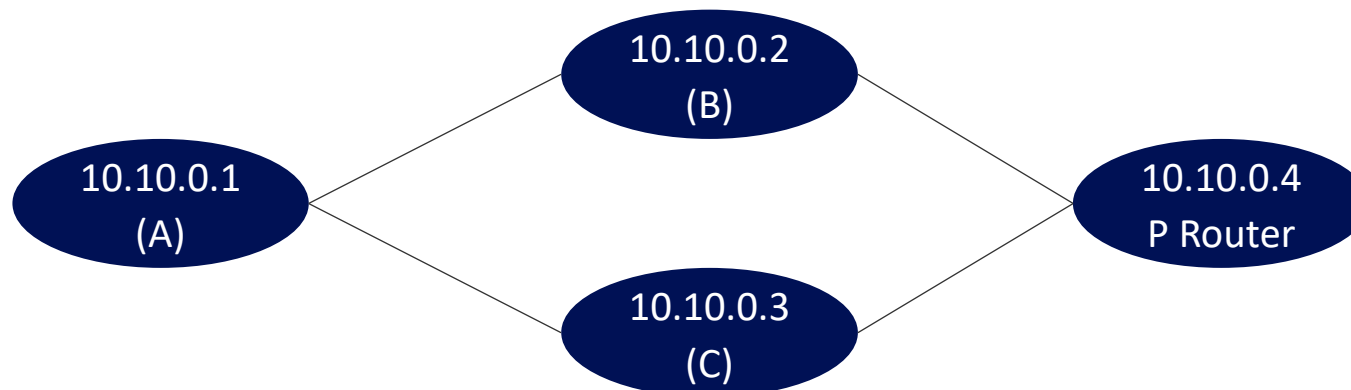




# Peering Topology view

*The peering view of a VPN*

Loopback	RD	Local IP	Peer IP
10.10.0.1	A	190.10.0.1	190.10.0.2
10.10.0.2	B	190.10.0.2	190.10.0.1
10.10.0.1	A	190.10.0.1	190.10.0.3
10.10.0.3	C	190.10.0.3	190.10.0.1
10.10.0.4		190.10.0.4	190.10.0.2
10.10.0.2		190.10.0.2	190.10.0.4
10.10.0.4		190.10.0.4	190.10.0.3
10.10.0.3		190.10.0.3	190.10.0.4



## Steps:

- > Calculate Routing Table of each router
- > Filter by VPN
- > Get all loopbacks participating the VPN
- > Filter peer up events by loopbacks
- > Join twice the generated peer up table to create connection on:  
a.LocalIP = b.PeerIP and  
a.PeerIP = b.LocalIP

# Cosmos

🕒 2021-05-29 10:40:38

64497:1 ▾

List ▾

## Active Filters

Place your filters here

## All Filters

Search

afi aigp as\_path

as\_path\_id bgp\_id

bgp\_nexthop bmp\_msg\_type

bmp\_router bmp\_router\_port

comms ecomms event\_type

ip\_prefix is\_filtered is\_in

is\_loc is\_out is\_post label

lcomms local\_ip local\_port

local\_pref log\_type med

View: bmp\_router × rd × ip\_prefix × bgp\_nexthop × comms ×

bmp\_router ▴ ▾

rd ▴ ▾

ip\_prefix ▴ ▾

bgp\_nexthop ▴ ▾

comms ▴ ▾

192.0.2.53

0:64499:13

2001:db8::10/128

2001:db8:11::153

64496:299, 64496:1001, 64497:1, 64499:10

192.0.2.53

0:64499:13

2001:db8::10/128

::1

64496:299, 64496:1001, 64497:1, 64499:10

192.0.2.53

0:64499:13

2001:db8::15/128

2001:db8:11::144

64496:299, 64496:1001, 64497:1, 64497:2, 64499:15

192.0.2.53

0:64499:13

2001:db8::20/128

2001:db8:11::144

64496:299, 64496:1001, 64496:1033, 64497:1, 64499:20

192.0.2.53

0:64499:13

2001:db8::30/128

2001:db8:11::144

64496:299, 64496:1001, 64496:1033, 64497:1, 64499:30

192.0.2.53

0:64499:13

2001:db8::40/128

2001:db8:11::144

60633:1033, 64496:299, 64496:1001, 64497:1, 64497:2, 64499:40

192.0.2.53

0:64499:13

2001:db8::40/128

2001:db8:11::161

60633:1033, 64496:299, 64496:1001, 64497:1, 64497:2, 64499:40

192.0.2.53

0:64499:13

2001:db8::40/128

2001:db8:11::162

60633:1033, 64496:299, 64496:1001, 64497:1, 64497:2, 64499:40

● All ● Filtered

⊕ ⊖ 🔍 🖱️ 🏠 ☰

6  
4  
2  
0

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

Current



## We need Network Analytics to meet the challenge

Maximize Uptime. Networks are using BGP to steer traffic and ensure redundancy.

With millions of routes in thousands of routing contexts and ten thousands of route-policies, to predict high availability, is for humans with CLI almost impossible.

- > Which connection points are supposed to be highly available and are not?
- > When a router or link is turned off for maintenance, which router or link will take over?
- > Do all routers and links which are on standby have enough capacity to take over?
- > When a route-policy is changed, how will the BGP attributes be affected in a logical connection and how will it affect the route propagation across the network?



# BMP Covering all RIB's

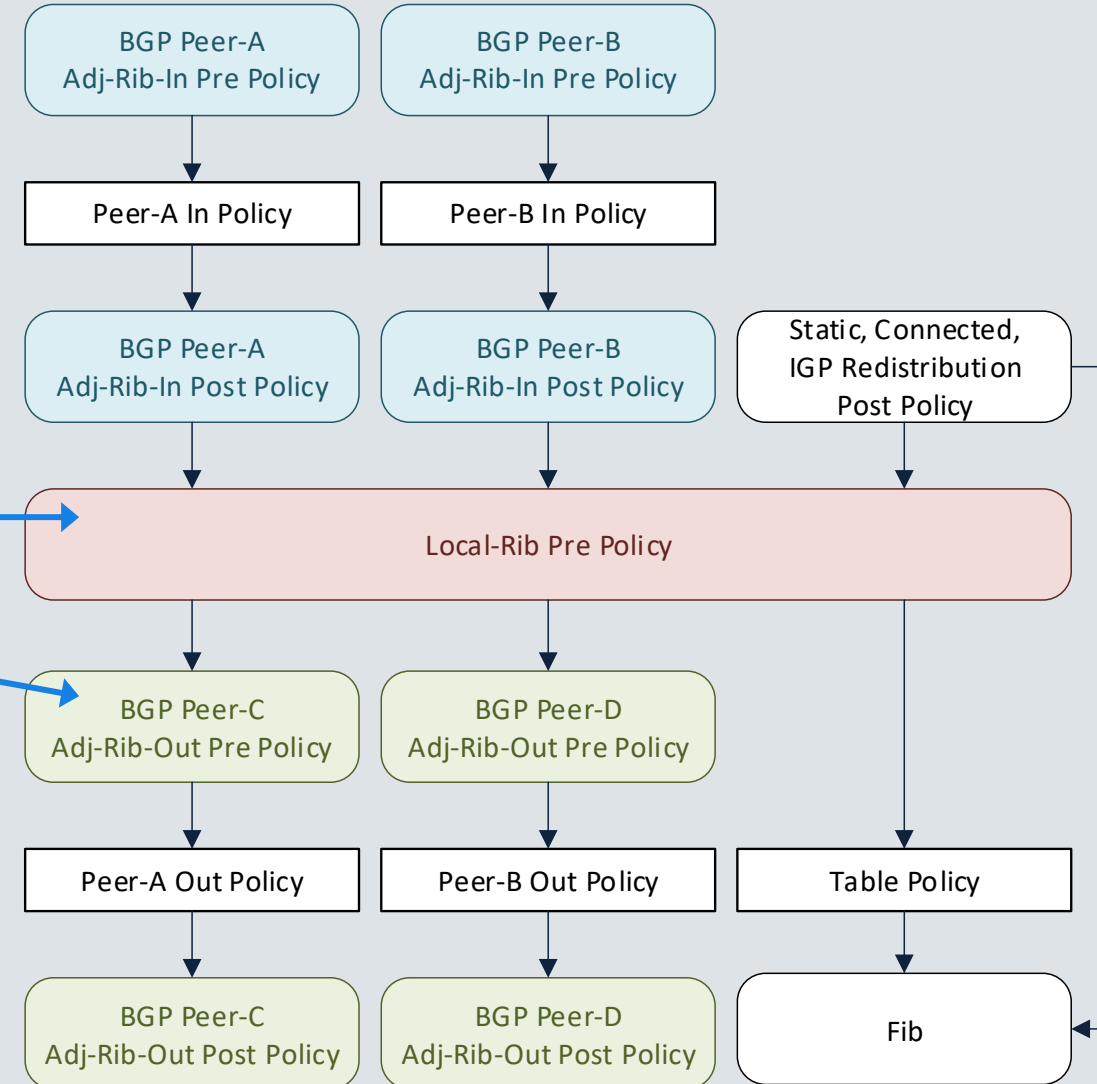
Extends much needed RIB coverage

**BGP route exposure without BMP is a challenge of the first order:**

- > Only best path is exposed (missing best-external and ECMP routes)
- > Next-hop attribute not preserved all the time (allpaths)
- > Filtering between RIB's not visible

- **Support for Local RIB in BGP Monitoring Protocol**  
<https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-grow-bmp-local-rib>
- **Support for Adj-RIB-Out in BGP Monitoring Protocol**  
<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8671>

Adj-RIB-Out an RFC since November 2019. Local RIB will follow soon. Juniper, Huawei and Nokia have public releases available supporting both. Cisco has test code available but haven't released yet.







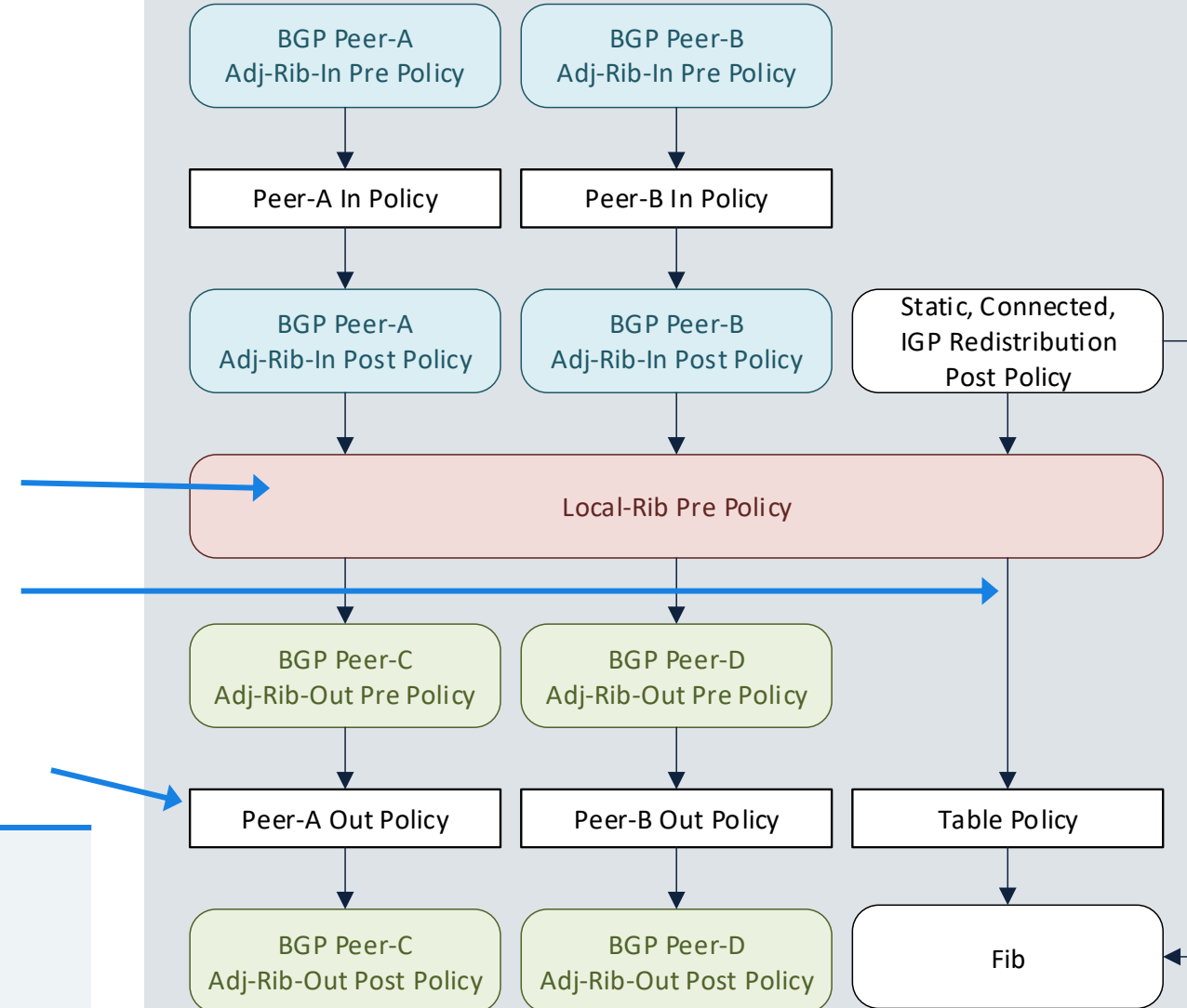
# BMP with extended TLV support

Brings visibility into FIB's and route-policies

**Knowing all the routes in all the RIB's brings the new challenge**

- > That we don't know how they are being used in the FIB/RIB (which one is best, best-external, ECMP, backup)
- > That we don't know which route-policy permitted/denied/changed which prefix/attribute
- **TLV support for BMP Route Monitoring and Peer Down Messages**  
<https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-grow-bmp-tlv>
- **Support for Enterprise-specific TLVs in the BGP Monitoring Protocol**  
<https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-lucente-grow-bmp-tlv-ebit>
- **BMP Extension for Path Marking TLV**  
<https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-cppy-grow-bmp-path-marking-tlv>
- **BGP Route Policy and Attribute Trace Using BMP**  
<https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-xu-grow-bmp-route-policy-attr-trace>

For IETF 108 Hackathon, IETF lab network with Big Data integration has been further extended to collaborate development research with ETHZ, INSA, Imply, Huawei and pmacct (open source data-collection by Paulo Lucente).







# IPFIX Covering Segment Routing For MPLS-SR and SRv6

## Segment Routing coverage in IPFIX bring visibility for:

- > Which routing protocol provided the label in MPLS-SR.
- > The IPv6 Segment where the packet is forwarded to in SRv6.
- > The IPv6 Segments where the packet is going to be forwarded through in SRv6.

- **Export of MPLS Segment Routing Label Type Information in IPFIX**  
<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-opsawg-ipfix-mpls-sr-label-type>
- **IPFIX export of Segment Routing IPv6 information**  
<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-patki-srv6-ipfix>

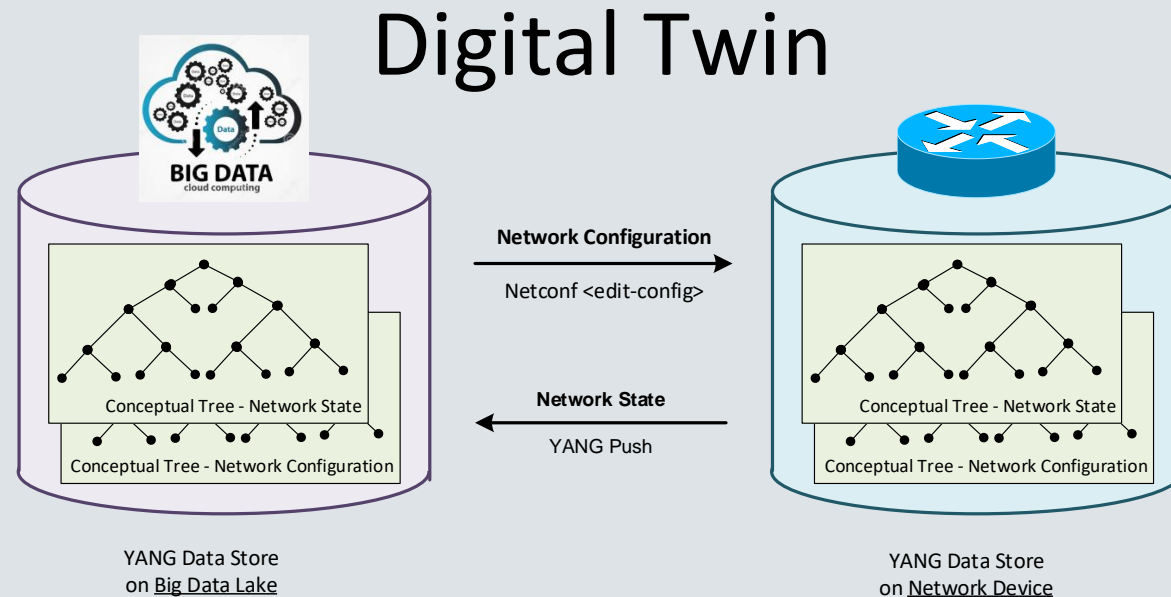
draft-ietf-opsawg-ipfix-mpls-sr-label-type at final stage at IESG.  
Driven by Swisscom. draft-patki-srv6-ipfix not being adopted yet.  
Driven by Cisco. Swisscom is going to co-author.

```
> Frame 527: 182 bytes on wire (1456 bits), 182 bytes captured (1456 bits)
> Ethernet II, Src: Cisco_ea:ad:1c (00:32:17:ea:ad:1c), Dst: Vmware_21:95:d2 (00:0c:29:21:95:d2)
> Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 138.187.57.63, Dst: 138.187.58.13
> User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 44542, Dst Port: 9991
▼ Cisco NetFlow/IPFIX
  Version: 9
  Count: 1
  SysUptime: 516154.381000000 seconds
  > Timestamp: Feb 23, 2020 13:57:18.000000000 W. Europe Standard Time
  FlowSequence: 23685
  SourceId: 0
  ▼ FlowSet 1 [id=313] (1 flows)
    FlowSet Id: (Data) (313)
    FlowSet Length: 120
    [Template Frame: 9]
    ▼ Flow 1
      > MPLS-Label1: 17002 exp-bits: 0
      > MPLS-Label2: 24622 exp-bits: 0 bottom-of-stack
      > MPLS-Label3: 0 exp-bits: 0
      > MPLS-Label4: 0 exp-bits: 0
      > MPLS-Label5: 0 exp-bits: 0
      > MPLS-Label6: 0 exp-bits: 0
      InputInt: 87
      OutputInt: 111
      Octets: 216000
      Packets: 2000
      > [Duration: 5.753000000 seconds (switched)]
      TopLabelAddr: 138.187.57.13
      SrcAddr: ::
      DstAddr: ::
      ipv6FlowLabel: 0
      IPv6 Extension Headers: 0x00000000
      SrcAddr: 10.248.4.236
      DstAddr: 10.248.4.222
      SrcPort: 0
      DstPort: 2048
      MPLS Top Label Prefix Length: 32
      TopLabelType: LDP (5)
      > Forwarding Status
        Direction: Ingress (0)
        IP ToS: 0x00
        Protocol: ICMP (1)
      > TCP Flags: 0x00
        SamplerID: 1
        Ingress VRFID: 1610612736
        Egress VRFID: 1610612736
        Padding: 0000
```



# YANG Datastores enables Closed Loop Operation

Automated data correlation – what else?



The IAB (Internet Architecture Board) at IETF took serious steps to bring automation into networks.

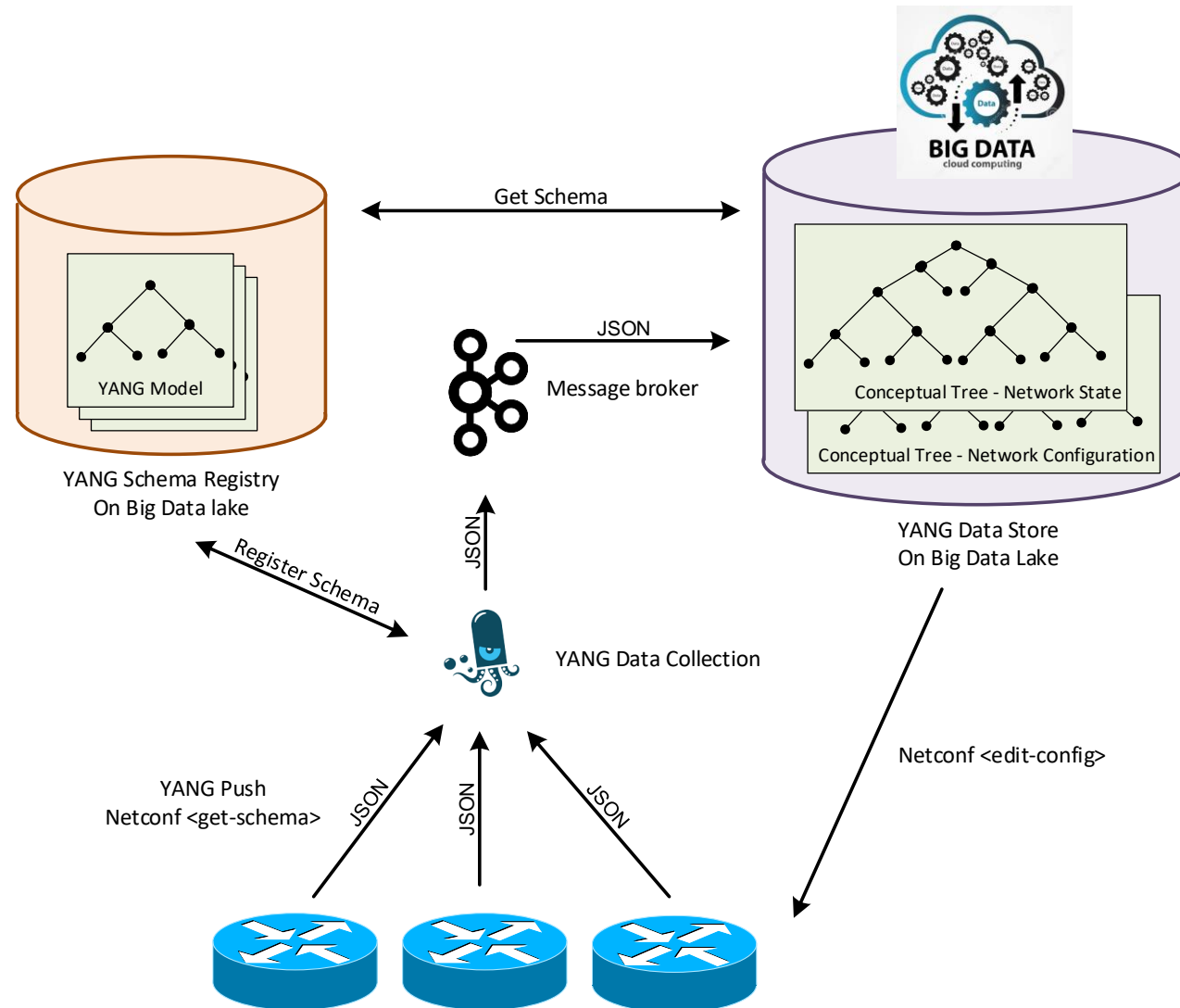
**At its core is YANG, a data modelling language which will not only transform how we managed our networks, it will transform also how we manage our services.**

**Automated networks can only run with a common data model.** A digital twin YANG data store enables a comparison between intend and reality. Schema preservation enables closed loop operation. Closed Loop is like an autopilot on an airplane. We need to understand what the flight envelope is to keep the airplane within. Without, we crash.



# When Big Data and Network become one

A simple, scalable approach to YANG push



**Simplify** YANG push network data collection with high scale and low impact. **Suited for nowadays distributed forwarding systems.**

**Preserve** YANG data model schema definition throughout the data processing chain.

**Enable automated data correlation** among device, forwarding-plane and control-plane.

**UDP-based Transport for Configured Subscriptions**

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-netconf-udp-notif>

**Subscription to Distributed Notifications**

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-netconf-distributed-notif>



# Network Telemetry Overview

## Standards matter

### Why BMP?

Well established since June 2016 among major vendors and open-source community. Future proven thanks to encapsulating BGP PDU in BMP route-monitoring messages. Provides initial RIB state by providing initial state with subsequent updates for minimal performance penalty.

### Why IPFIX?

IPFIX succeeded well because of covering all three perspectives since day one: forwarding-plane, control-plane, device. In order to enable data correlation among different perspectives, key fields from other perspectives need to be present.

### Why YANG Push?

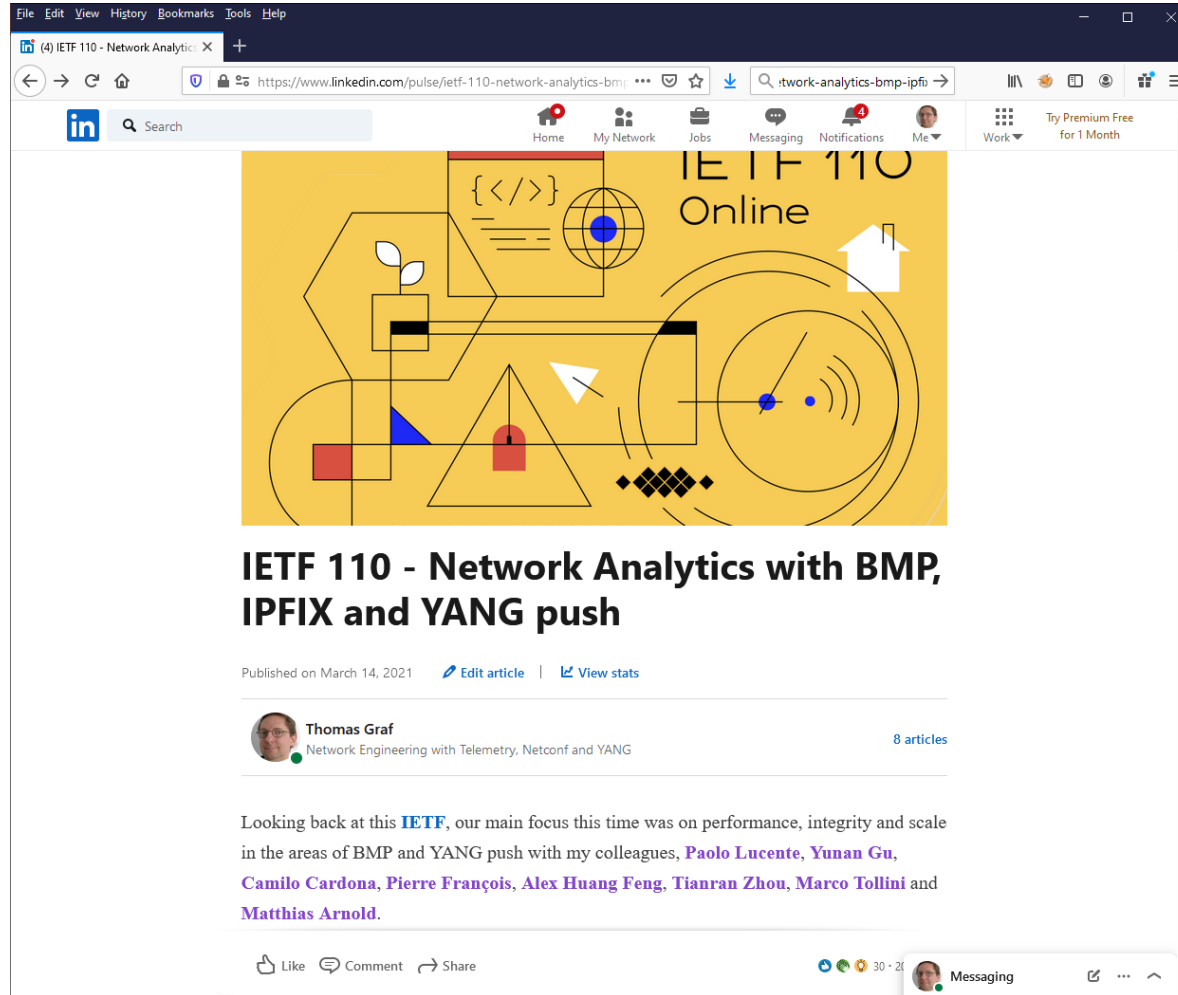
YANG is de-facto standard in network automatization since August 2016. With YANG push data-collection is going to be finally standardized and enabling closed loop operation frameworks.





# IETF 110 – Network Analytics

## With BMP, IPFIX and YANG Push



**6x BMP drafts** at GROW working group. Bringing RIB and route-policy dimensions into BMP and increase scale.



**2x YANG push drafts** at NETCONF working group.



**1x IPFIX MPLS Segment Routing draft** at OPSAWG working group.



**Running code** being tested in IETF interoperability lab at 110 hackathon.







# ETH Zürich, Master Thesis Proposal – March 2022

High Availability with BGP monitoring Protocol Data Collection

## High Availability with BGP Monitoring Protocol Data Collection

Master thesis proposal with Swisscom

### Description

Swisscom collects millions of Network Telemetry [1] metrics every second with BMP [2], IPFIX [3] and YANG push [4] from thousands of network devices. In order to meet scaling demands of the data-collection, Swisscom uses a highly distributed load-balancing scheme across servers, Linux network sockets [5] and collector daemons. To further reduce the scale demands for the Big Data analysis, IPFIX and BMP metrics are highly aggregated [6] over a specified time bin during the data-collection.

This architecture imposes that the BGP [7] RIB state, which is collected through BMP route-monitoring messages, needs to be cached at the data-collection. The preservation of BGP RIB state caching across daemons is challenging, especially if faced with reload or migration events due to software upgrades or re-balancing decisions.

During this thesis you will first learn what metrics are collected with Network Telemetry, how they relate in terms of control-plane, forwarding-plane and device characteristics and how this allows us to distinguish between measurements and different dimensions. You will also understand why network schema needs to be preserved for a metric correlation which enables network-wide visibility. Finally, you will realize how Swisscom uses (i) Anycast [8] with ECMP [9] to distribute traffic across Layer 3 links and routers; and (ii) SO\_REUSEPORT with an eBPF enhancement [10] to distribute incoming telemetry data to different collection processes on a server.

You will research and document how BMP-collected BGP RIBs (Routing Information Base) can be cached in a redundant fashion at the data collection layer, for the purpose of enriching Flow Aggregation [6], while saving persistently only the master copy at the database layer in order to avoid data duplication. Then you will implement your ideas in C and test them in a lab setup.

Experts from Swisscom, INSA [11] and Pmacct [12] will support you with a test environment and IETF level expertise in Network Telemetry data-collection, Linux network kernel and C development. You will be working in a well-supported group. Finally, you can present your thesis results at the IETF 115 GROW working group between November 5-11<sup>th</sup> 2022 to other network operators, vendors and universities.



Research and document how BMP-collected BGP RIBs (Routing Information Base) can be cached in a redundant fashion at the data collection layer for the purpose of enriching Flow Aggregation.



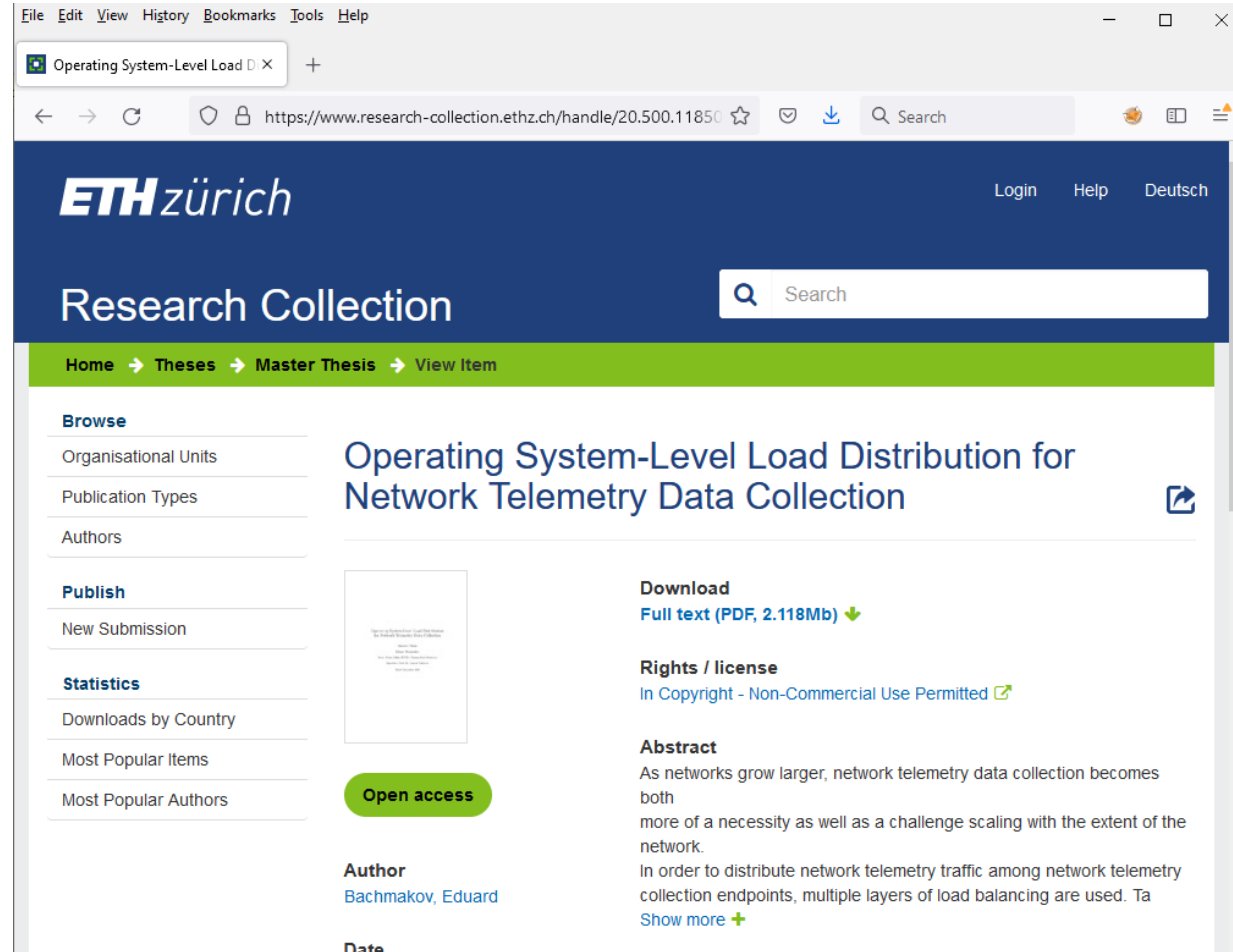
Develop and Test running code in C and publish to the open-source and present to the IETF community.





# ETH Zürich, Eduard Bachmakov – Master Thesis

Operating System-Level Load Distribution for Network Telemetry Data Collection



From network data collection **load distribution** with Anycast and ECMP on the network to SO\_REUSEPORT with in the Linux network kernel.



Describes current **load distribution challenges** and **extends** SO\_REUSEPORT with cutome eBPF code.



Running code on github at <https://github.com/insa-unyte/ebpf-loadbalancer>







## Contact information

Swisscom  
Daisy Network Analytics

Thomas Graf  
Binzring 17  
8045 Zürich

Email [thomas.graf@swisscom.com](mailto:thomas.graf@swisscom.com)

Marco Tollini  
Binzring 17  
8045 Zürich

Email [marco.tollini1@swisscom.com](mailto:marco.tollini1@swisscom.com)

