

Graphing and Trending in Nagios

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v0.6



Agenda

- What is the problem?
- What should a trending system do?
- What are the parts?
- What options are available?
- What issues need to be considered?

Background

- Small Nagios installations with 40-80 hosts and 500-2000 services
- Small businesses with 10-20 servers and 20-40 workstations
- Continuous build environments with 30+ virtual machines
- Power, water, septic, and weather monitoring on an island in Maine
- Databases and ticketing system for pop singer

- Nagios Experience
- Design optimization and supply chain optimization

- Day Job
- Budget: low
 - Costs: time is not free
 - Training: ok for expert to setup, not ok for expert to operate
 - Hack Factor: rather high

Context

Introduction • Problem • Requirements • Components • Options • Issues • Summary

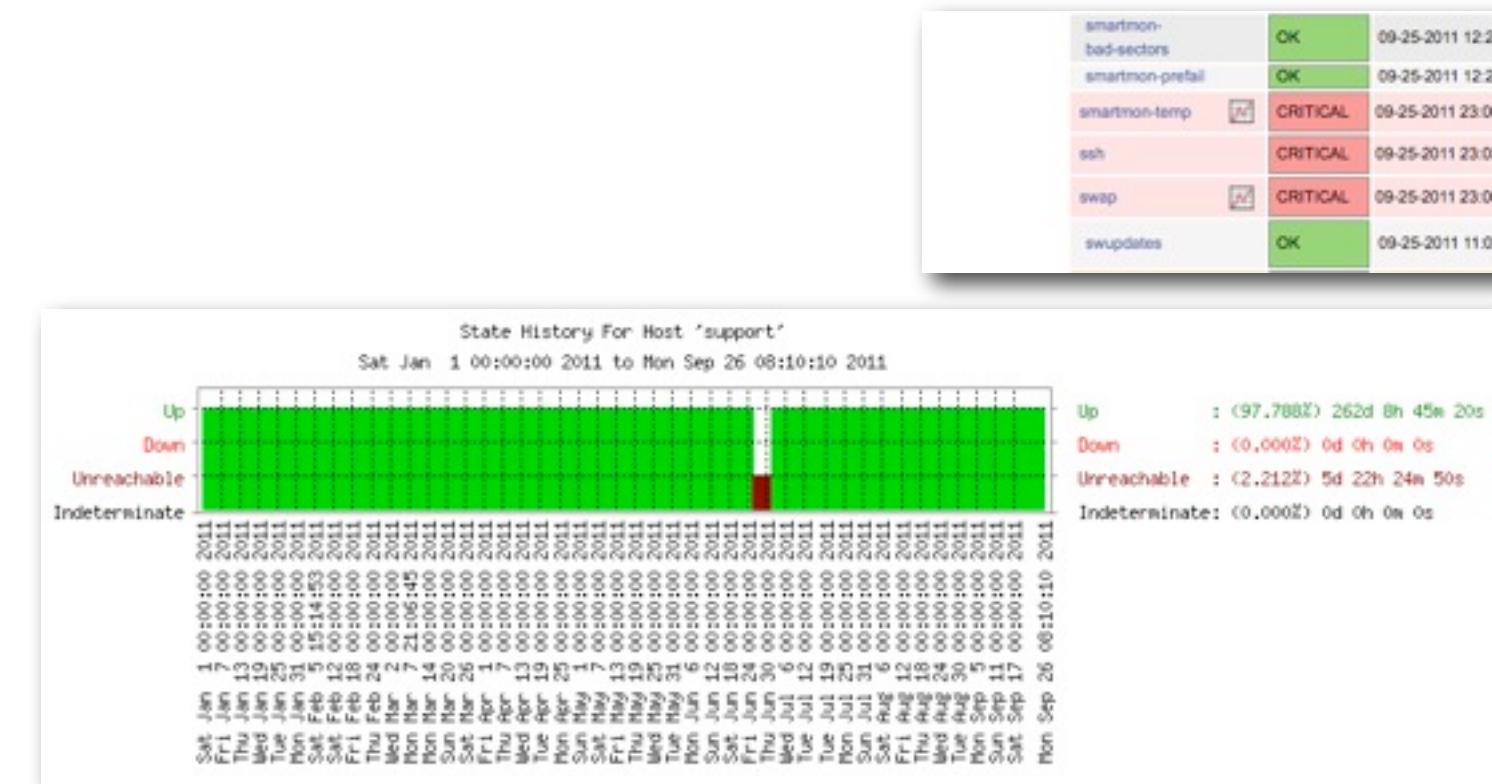
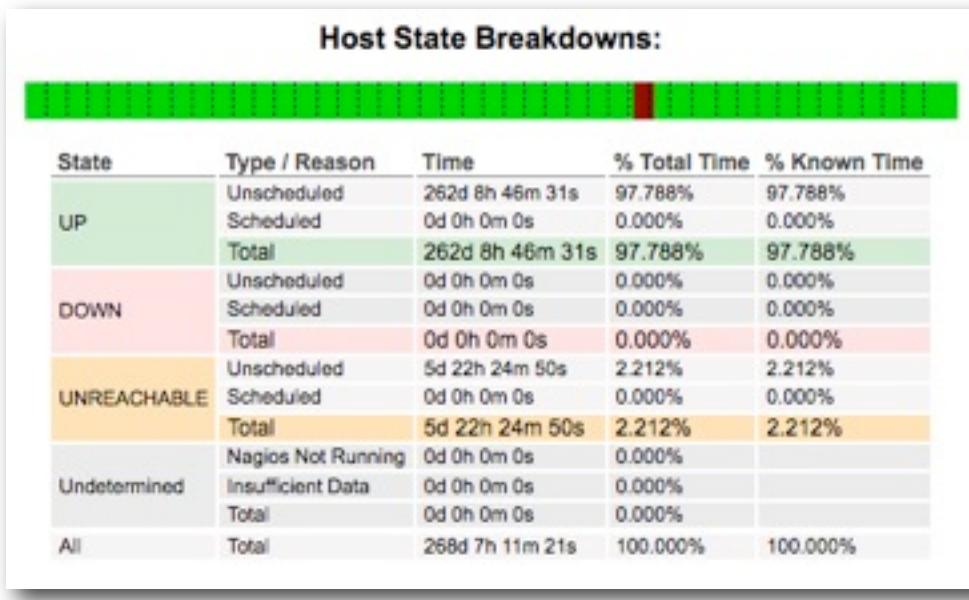


What are the options?

- **nagiosgraph**
1.4.4 2011-01-16
<http://nagiosgraph.sourceforge.net/>
- **nagiosgrapher**
1.7.1 2008-12-18
- **n2rrd/rrd2graph**
1.4.4 2011-08-16
<http://n2rrd-wiki.diglinks.com/display/n2rrd/Addon>
- **pnp4nagios**
0.6.15 2011-09-14
<http://pnp4nagios.sourceforge.net/>
- **cacti**
0.8.7g 2010-07-09
<http://www.cacti.net/>
- **mrtg**
2.17.1 2011-02-18
<http://oss.oetiker.ch/mrtg/>

What is the problem?

- Nagios indicates current status
- Nagios Core trending consists only of states and notifications
- Nagios Core does not provide performance trending



smartmon-bad-sectors	OK	09-25-2011 12:29:35	296d 7h 37m 52s	1/4	OK - /dev/sda
smartmon-prefail	OK	09-25-2011 12:29:25	296d 7h 38m 0s	1/4	OK - /dev/sda
smartmon-temp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRITICAL	09-25-2011 23:06:48	2d 3h 40m 37s	4/4	CHECK_NRPE: Socket timeout after 10 seconds.
ssh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRITICAL	09-25-2011 23:03:07	0d 9h 4m 18s	1/4	CRITICAL - Socket timeout after 10 seconds
swap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRITICAL	09-25-2011 23:06:32	0d 9h 0m 53s	3/4	CHECK_NRPE: Socket timeout after 10 seconds.
swupdates	OK	09-25-2011 11:09:32	231d 20h 57m 53s	1/4	APT OK: 0 packages available for upgrade (0 critical updates).

What is the problem?

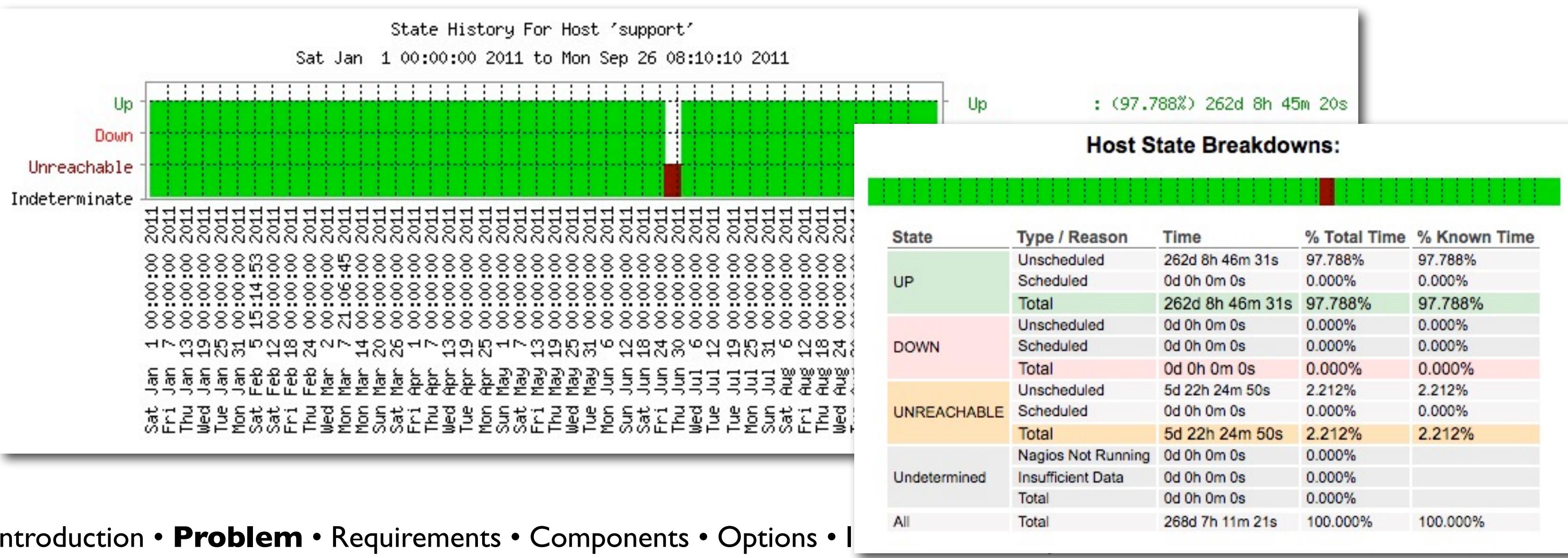
- Nagios indicates current status
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Host State Breakdown			Performance Trending						
State	Type / Reason	Time	Last 24 hours			Last 7 days			Last 30 days
			OK	WARNING	CRITICAL	OK	WARNING	CRITICAL	
UP	Unscheduled	262d 8h 46m	smartmon-bad-sectors	OK	09-25-2011 12:29:35	296d 7h 37m 52s	1/4	OK - /dev/sda	
	Scheduled	0d 0h 0m 0s	smartmon-prefail	OK	09-25-2011 12:29:25	296d 7h 38m 0s	1/4	OK - /dev/sda	
	Total	262d 8h 46m	smartmon-temp	CRITICAL	09-25-2011 23:06:48	2d 3h 40m 37s	4/4	CHECK_NRPE: Socket timeout after 10 seconds.	
DOWN	Unscheduled	0d 0h 0m 0s	ssh	CRITICAL	09-25-2011 23:03:07	0d 9h 4m 18s	1/4	CRITICAL - Socket timeout after 10 seconds	
	Scheduled	0d 0h 0m 0s	swap	CRITICAL	09-25-2011 23:06:32	0d 9h 0m 53s	3/4	CHECK_NRPE: Socket timeout after 10 seconds.	
	Total	0d 0h 0m 0s	swupdates	OK	09-25-2011 11:09:32	231d 20h 57m 53s	1/4	APT OK: 0 packages available for upgrade (0 critical updates).	
UNREACHABLE	Unscheduled	5d 22h 24m 5s							
	Scheduled	0d 0h 0m 0s							
	Total	5d 22h 24m							
Nagios Not Running	0d 0h 0m 0s								
Undetermined	Insufficient Data	0d 0h 0m 0s							
Total		0d 0h 0m 0s							
All	Total	268d 7h 11m 21s	100.000%	100.000%					



What is the problem?

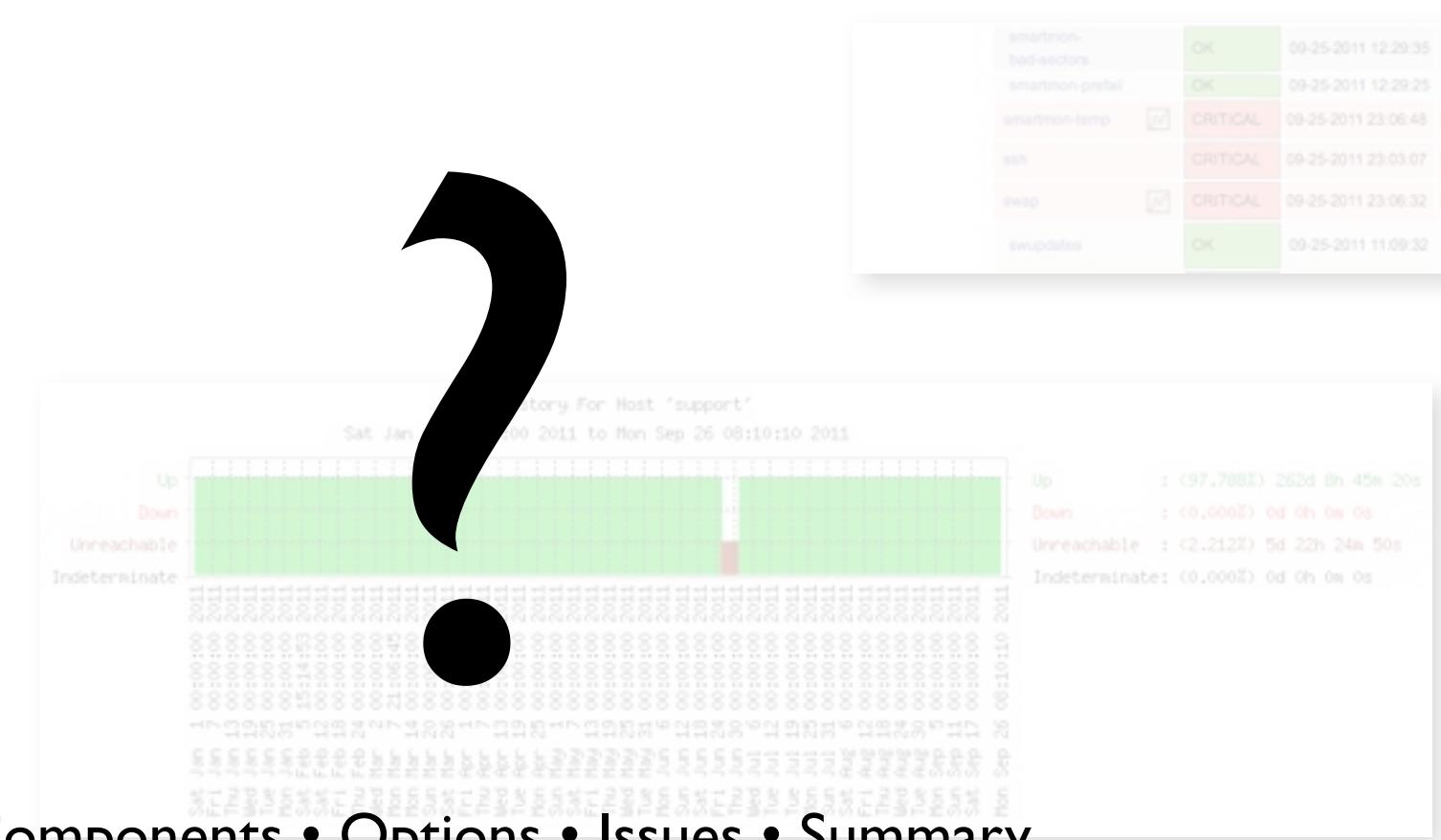
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What is the problem?

- Nagios indicates current status
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Host State Breakdowns:				
State	Type / Reason	Time	% Total Time	% Known Time
UP	Unscheduled	262d 8h 46m 31s	97.788%	97.788%
	Scheduled	0d 0h 0m 0s	0.000%	0.000%
	Total	262d 8h 46m 31s	97.788%	97.788%
DOWN	Unscheduled	0d 0h 0m 0s	0.000%	0.000%
	Scheduled	0d 0h 0m 0s	0.000%	0.000%
	Total	0d 0h 0m 0s	0.000%	0.000%
UNREACHABLE	Unscheduled	5d 22h 24m 50s	2.212%	2.212%
	Scheduled	0d 0h 0m 0s	0.000%	0.000%
	Total	5d 22h 24m 50s	2.212%	2.212%
Undetermined	Nagios Not Running	0d 0h 0m 0s	0.000%	
	Insufficient Data	0d 0h 0m 0s	0.000%	
	Total	0d 0h 0m 0s	0.000%	
All	Total	268d 7h 11m 21s	100.000%	100.000%



Why is this a problem?

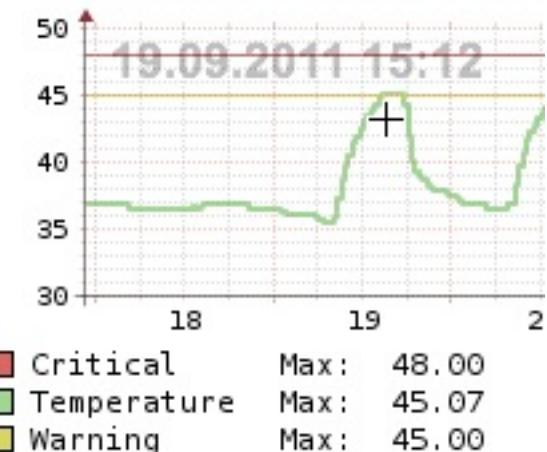
- How do you figure out which notifications matter?
- How do you know what the thresholds should be?
- What is happening between notifications?
- What caused the known disasters?
- How to predict the unanticipated disasters?

Show me some examples...

- Why do the temperature alarms go off each day?
UPS temperature monitoring
- How close do we come to exceeding thresholds?
Software license use
- How can we understand dynamic environments?
Cross-platform distributed build/test environment

Temperature Cycles

19 M
20 T
21 W
22 Th
23 F
24 S
25 Su

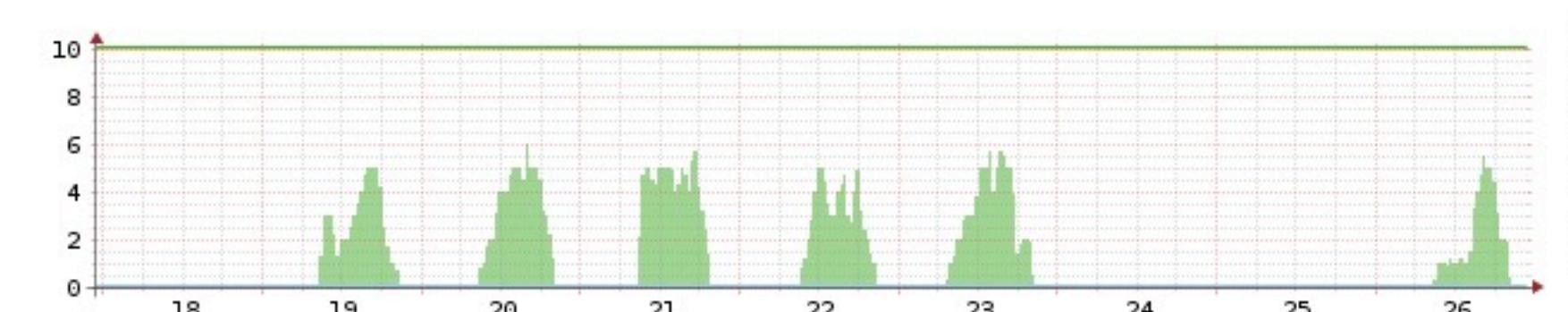


This exception tipped us off

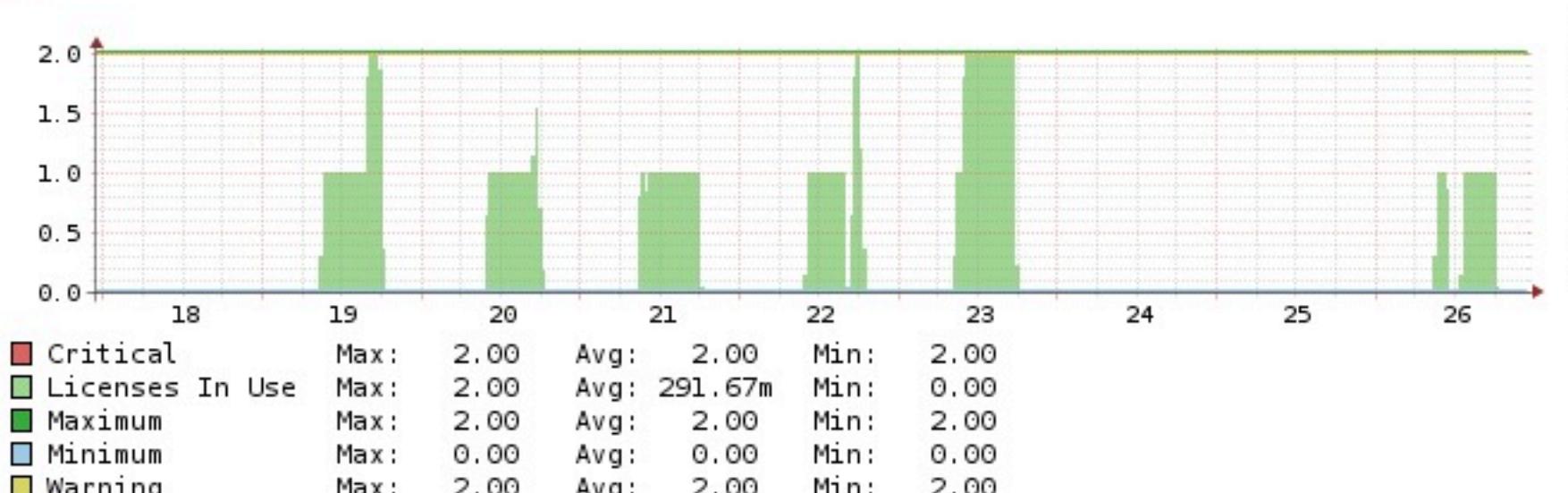


Under the Thresholds

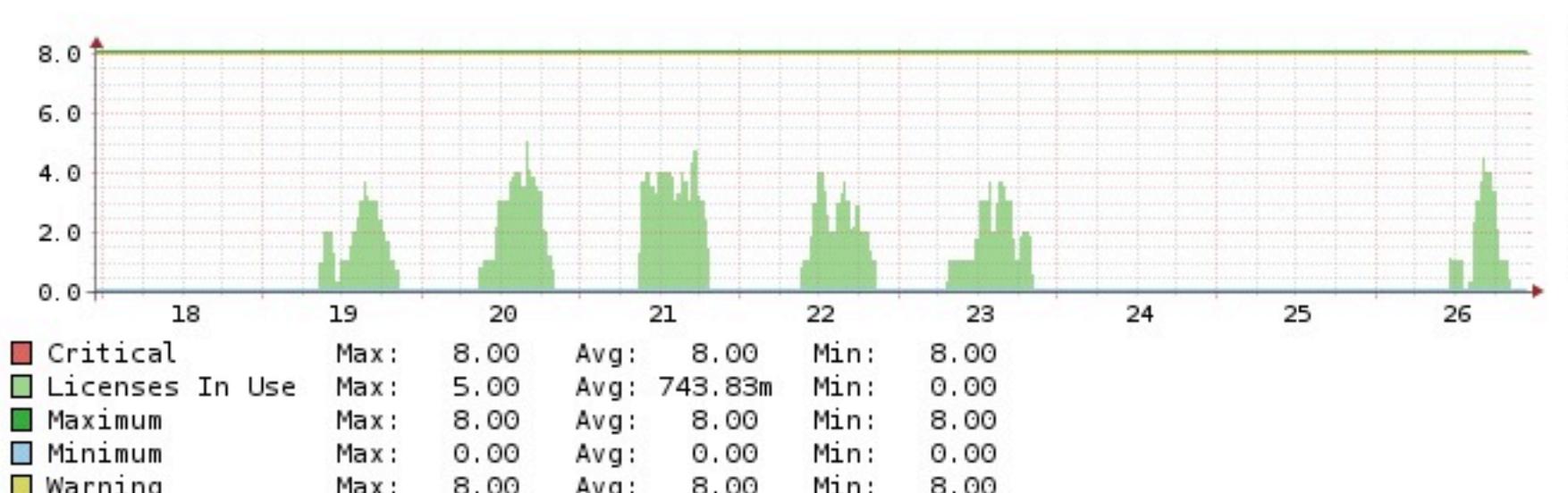
What is happening
when we are not
being notified?



lic-solidworks on globalflyer
lic-solidworks - globalflyer



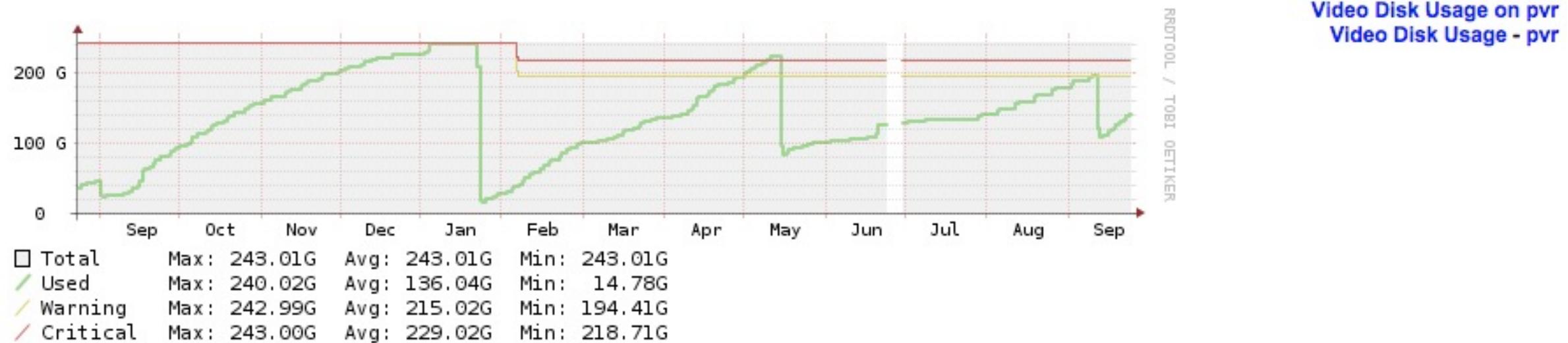
lic-swofficeprem on globalflyer
lic-swofficeprem - globalflyer



lic-swofficepro on globalflyer
lic-swofficepro - globalflyer

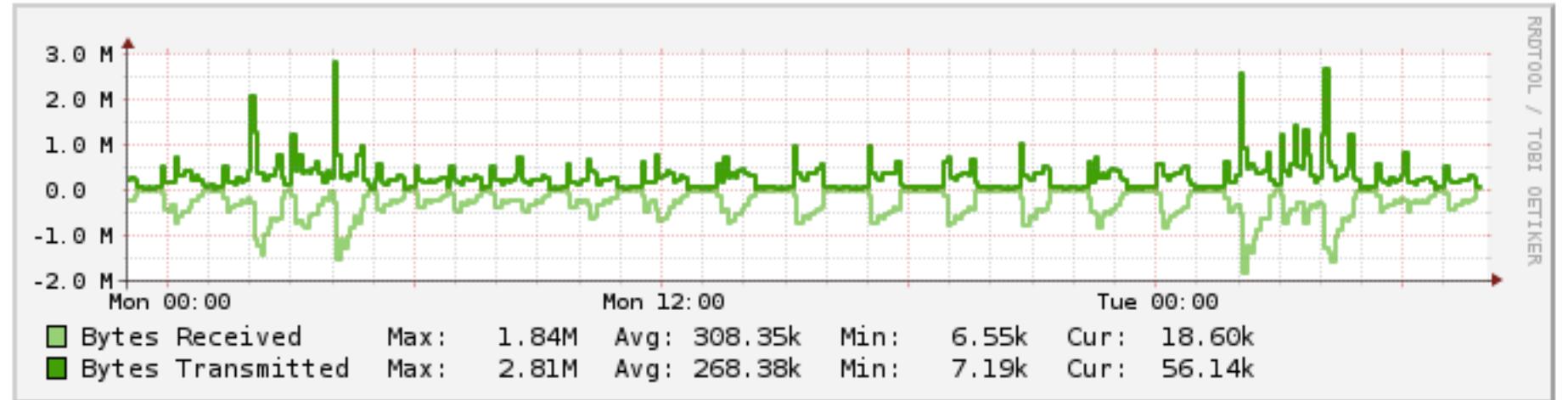
Introduction • Problem • Requirements

Changing Thresholds

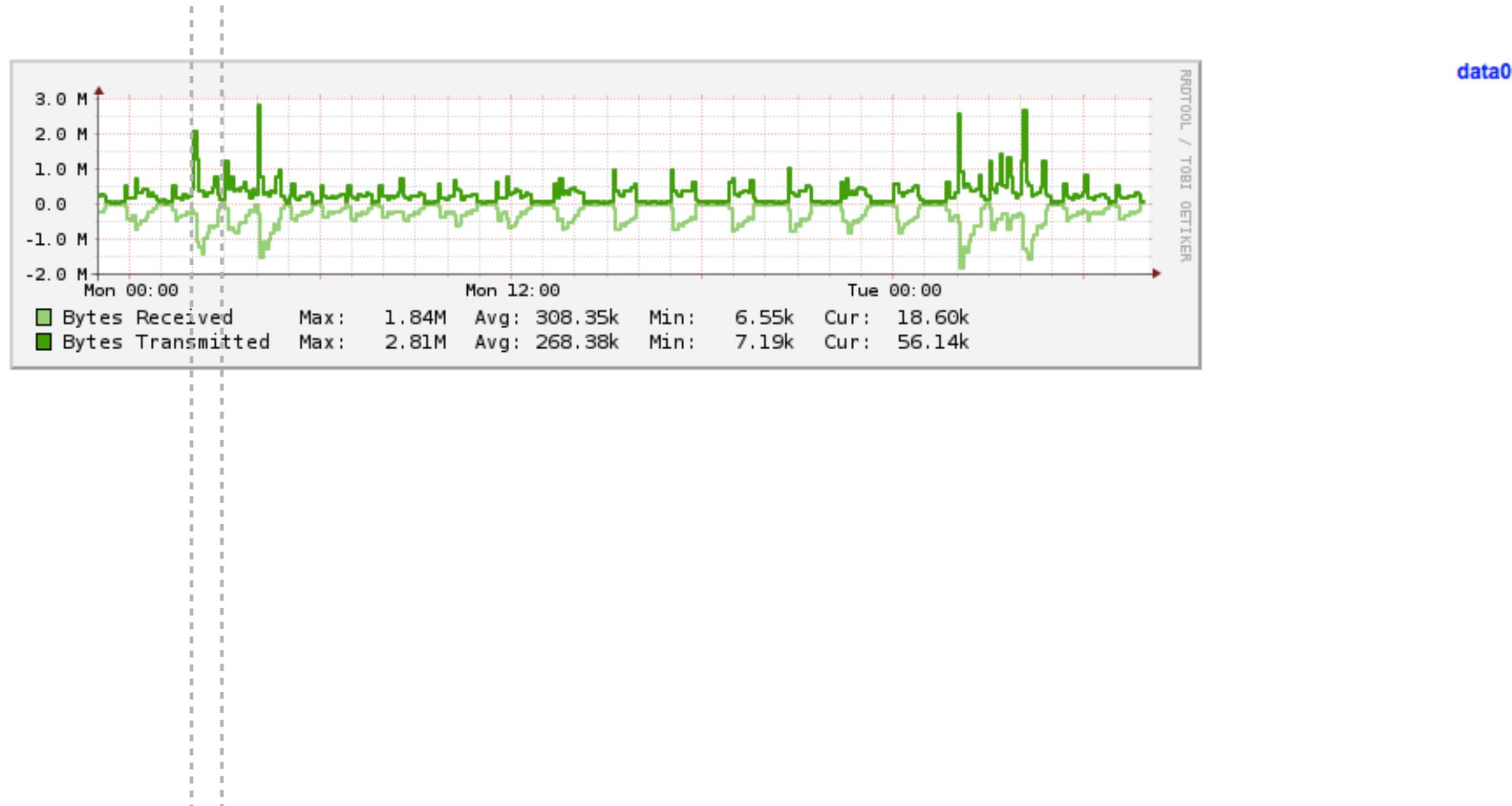


Track the changes to the requirements,
not just the changes to the data.

Dynamic Targets

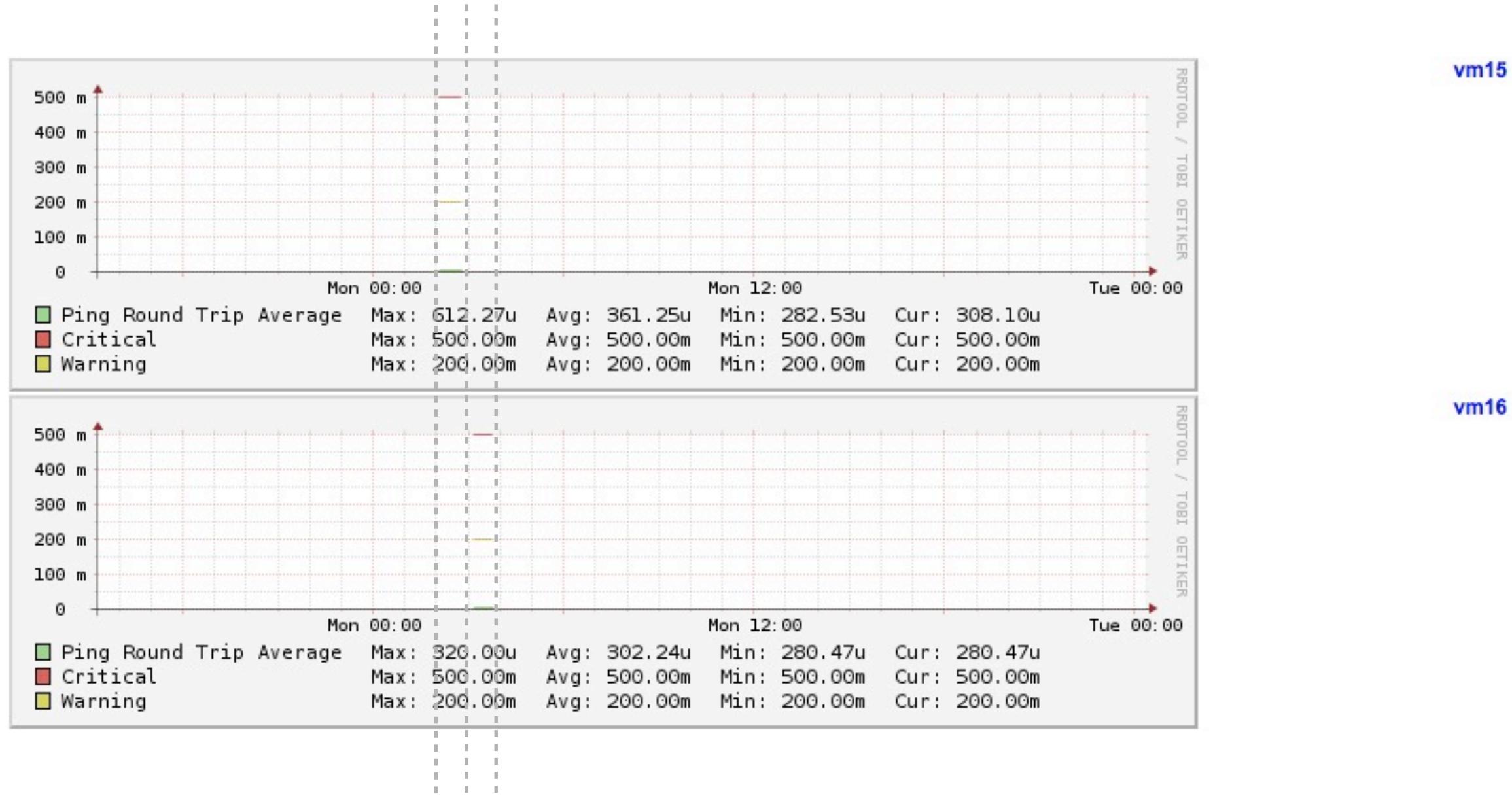


Dynamic Targets



What is the source of the traffic spike in this interval?

Dynamic Targets

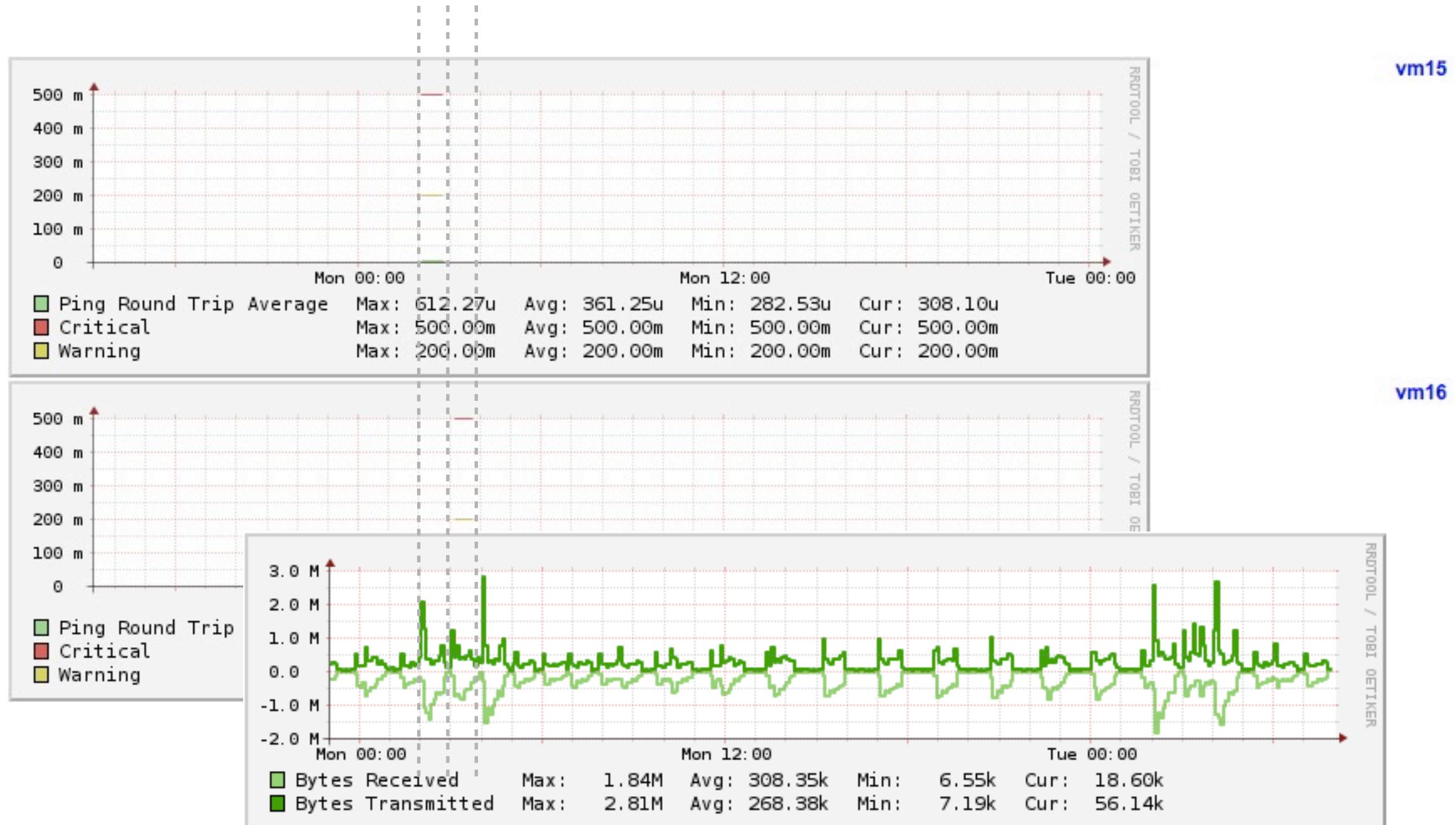


vm15 is active here

vm16 is active here



Dynamic Targets

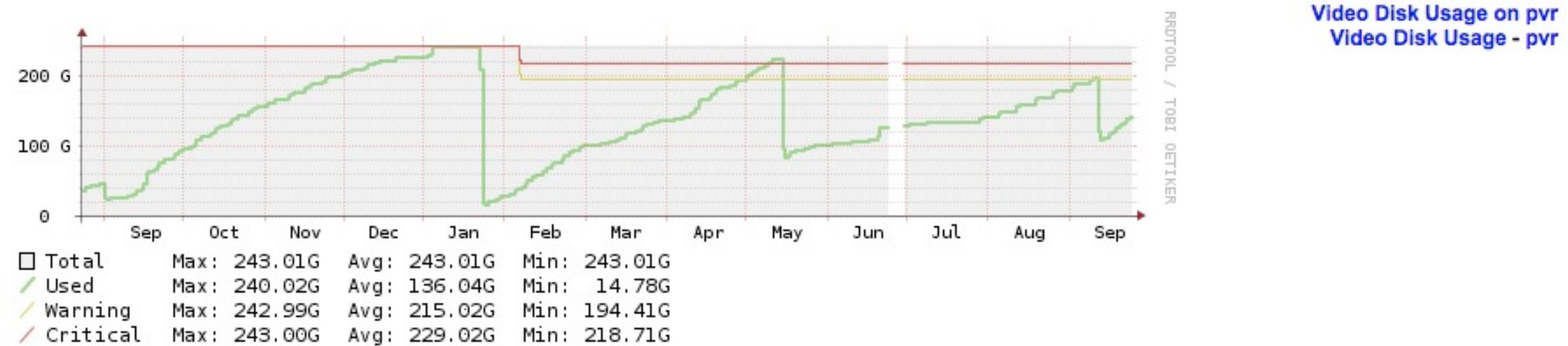


Trending is not just drawing graphs

- Catch problems before they become disasters
- Provide context for discovering patterns
- Data correlation and comparison

So what should a performance trending system do?

Display thresholds as well as performance data



So what should a performance trending system do?



Display all services
for a specified host

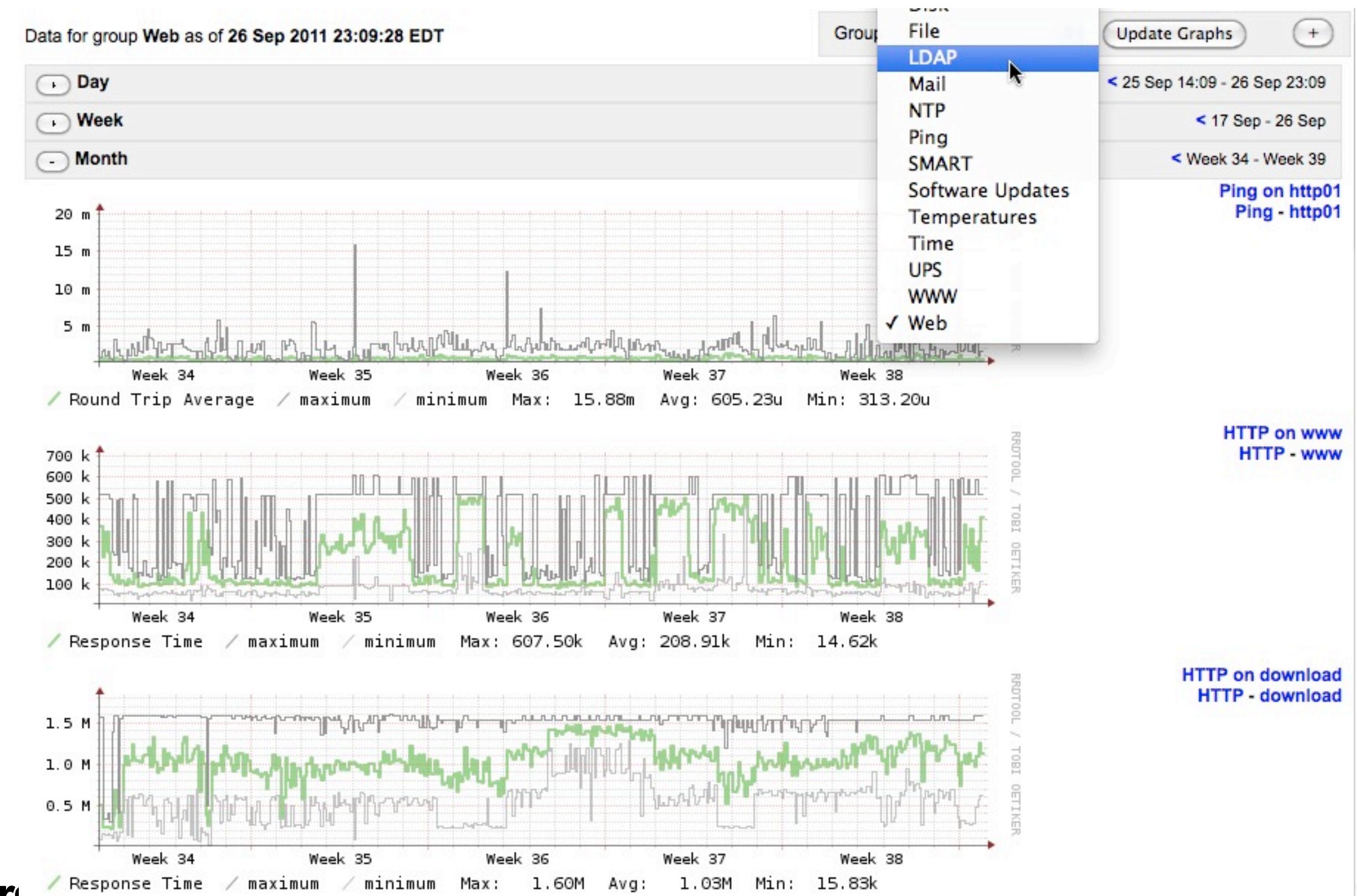
So what should a performance trending system do?

Display all hosts that have a specified service



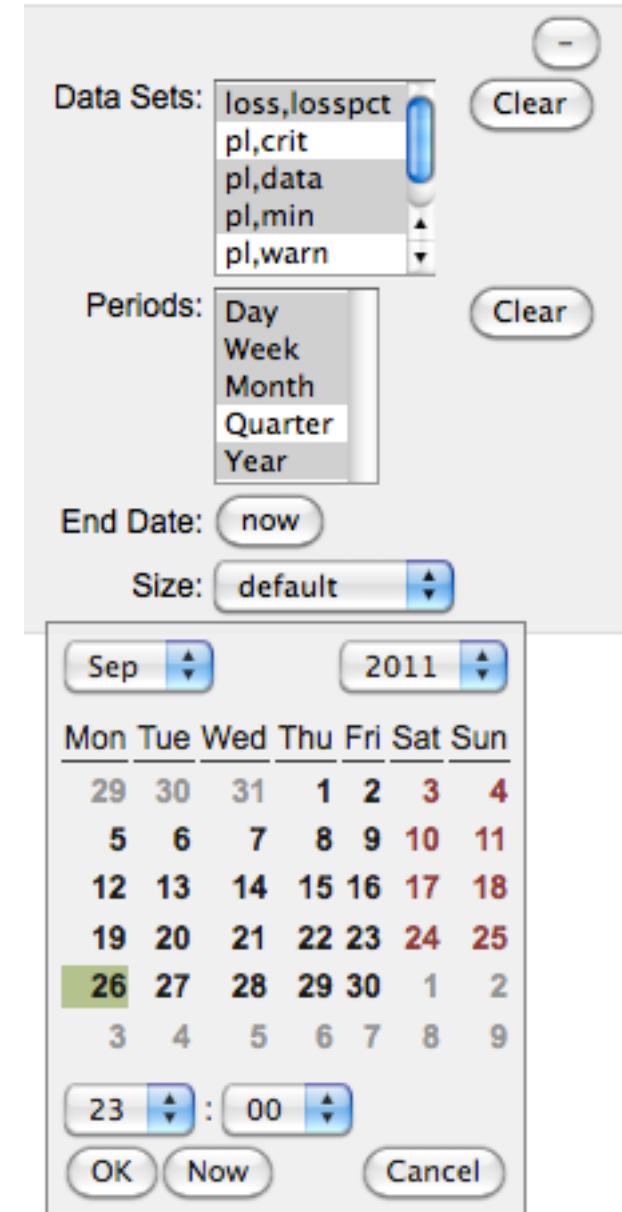
So what should a performance trending system do?

Display arbitrary groups of host/service data



So what should a performance trending system do?

Provide interactive queries as well as canned reports

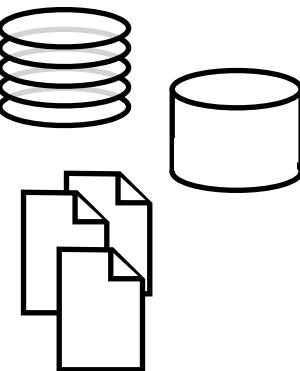


So what should a performance trending system do?

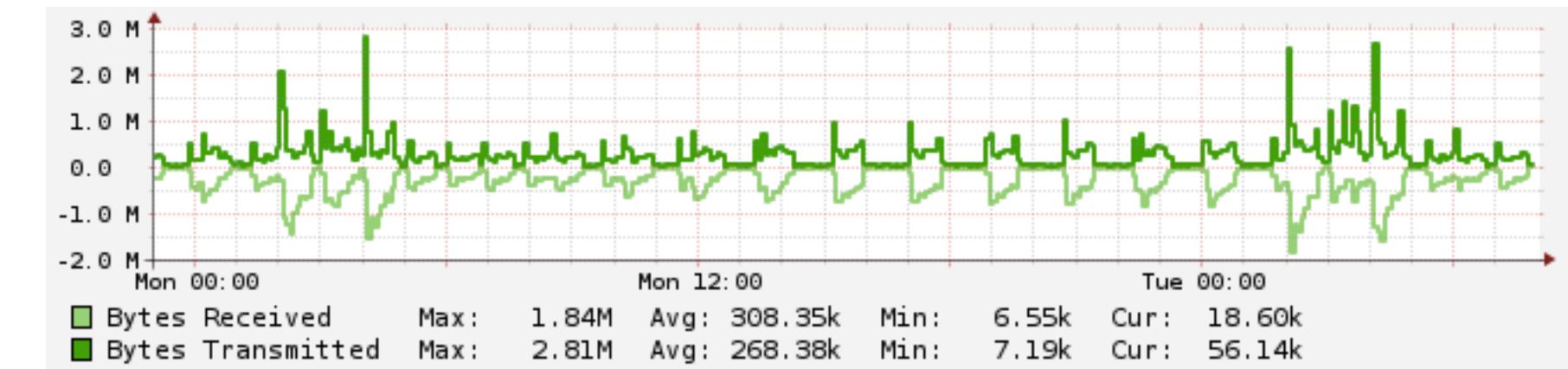
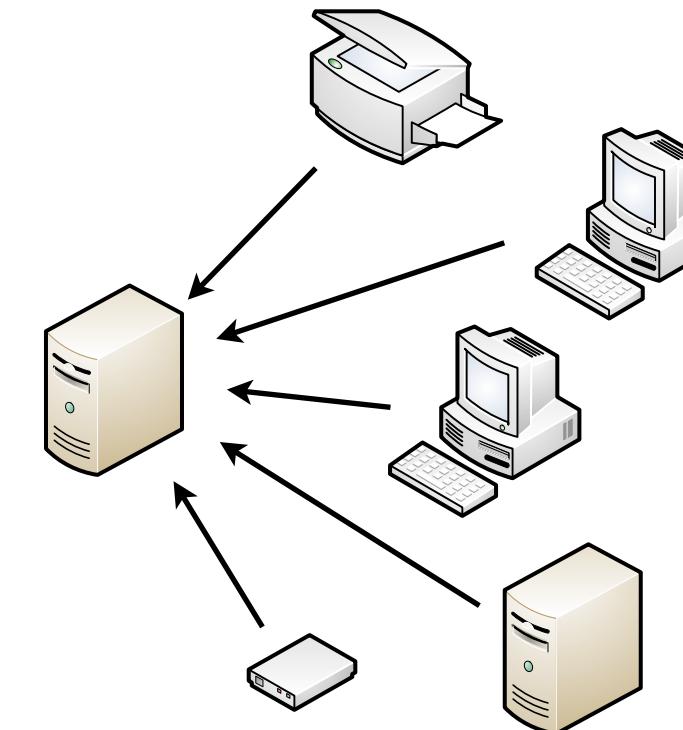
- Display thresholds as well as performance data
- Display all services for a specified host
- Display all hosts with a specified service
- Display arbitrary groups of host/service data
- Provide interactive queries as well as canned reports
- Compare data from any host/service with any other host/service
- Compare data from any two periods of time
- Provide export of data for analysis

- Easy to use
- Easy on the eyes
- Easy to configure

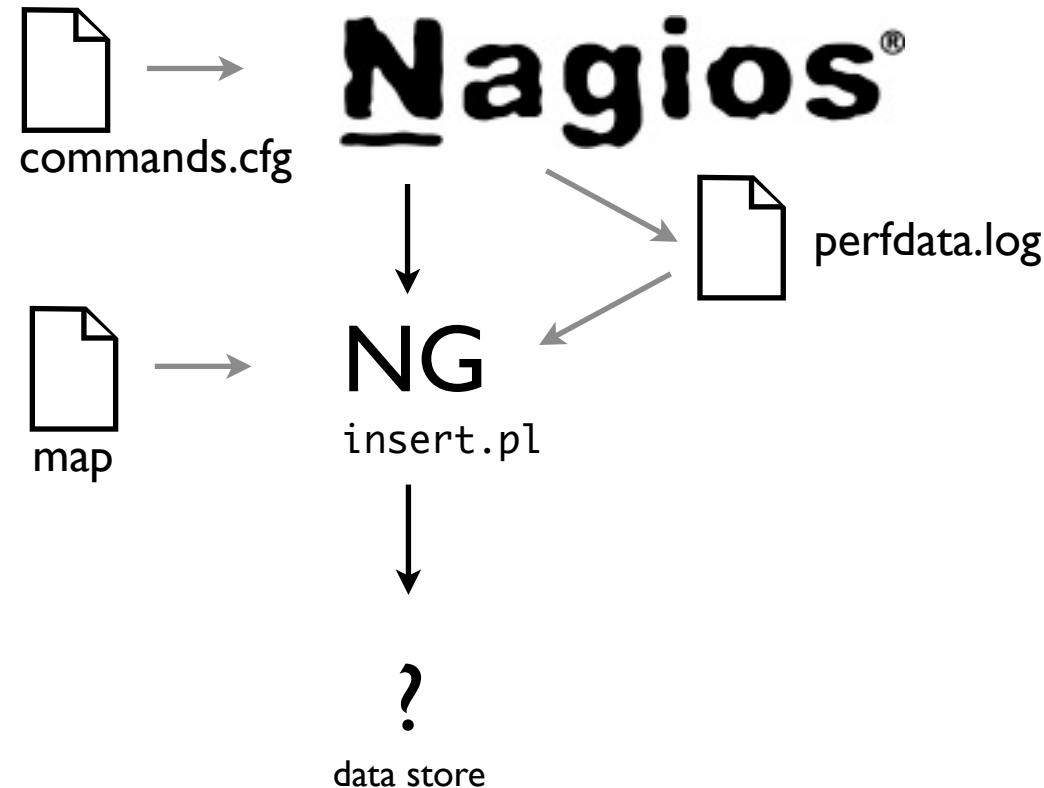
Graphing and Trending in Nagios



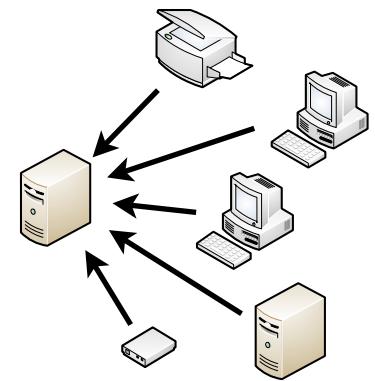
- Data Collection
- Data Storage
- Data Display



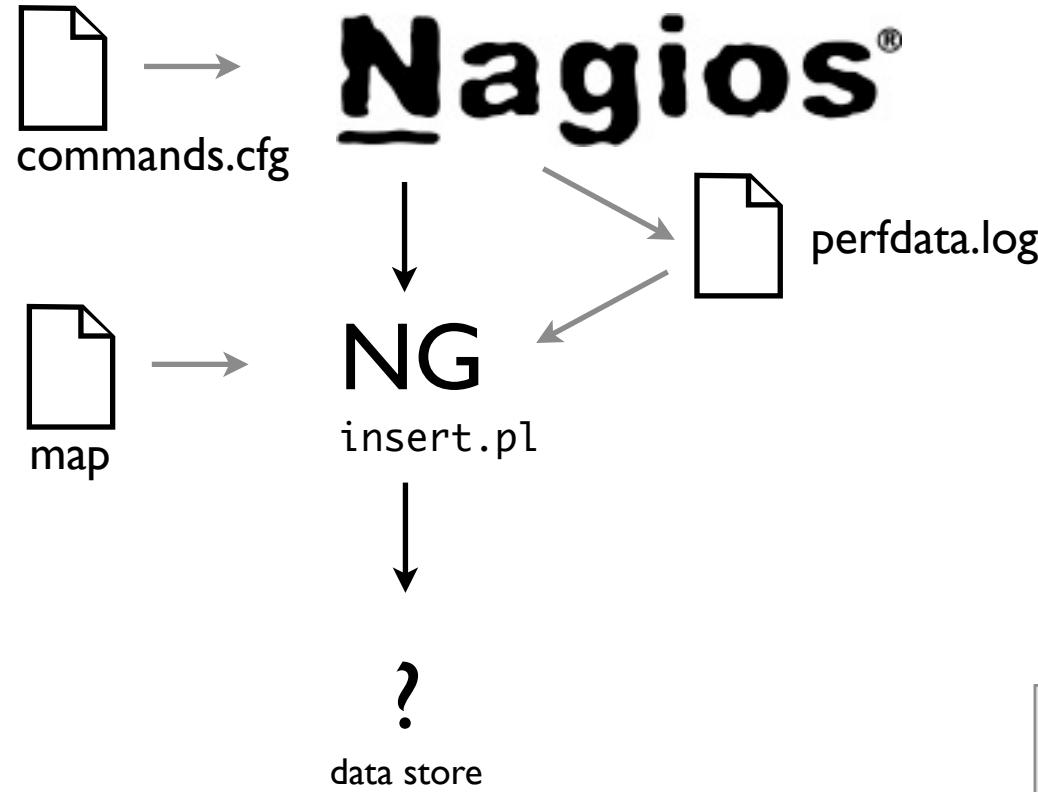
Data Collection



- How to do it in Nagios?
 - Immediate
 - Batch
 - Shared library
 - External process

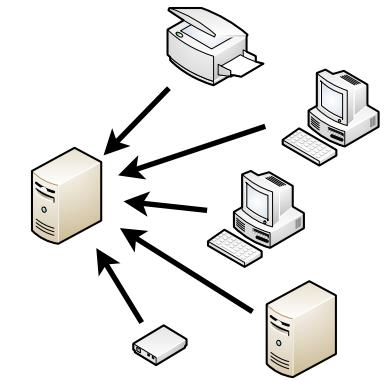


Data Collection



map

```
# Service type: ping  
# output:PING OK - Packet loss = 0%, RTA = 0.00 ms  
/output:PING.*?(\d+).+?(.\d+)\sms/  
and push @s, [ 'pingloss',  
[ 'losspct', GAUGE, $1 ]]  
and push @s, [ 'pingrta',  
[ 'rta', GAUGE, $2/1000 ]];
```



perfdata.log

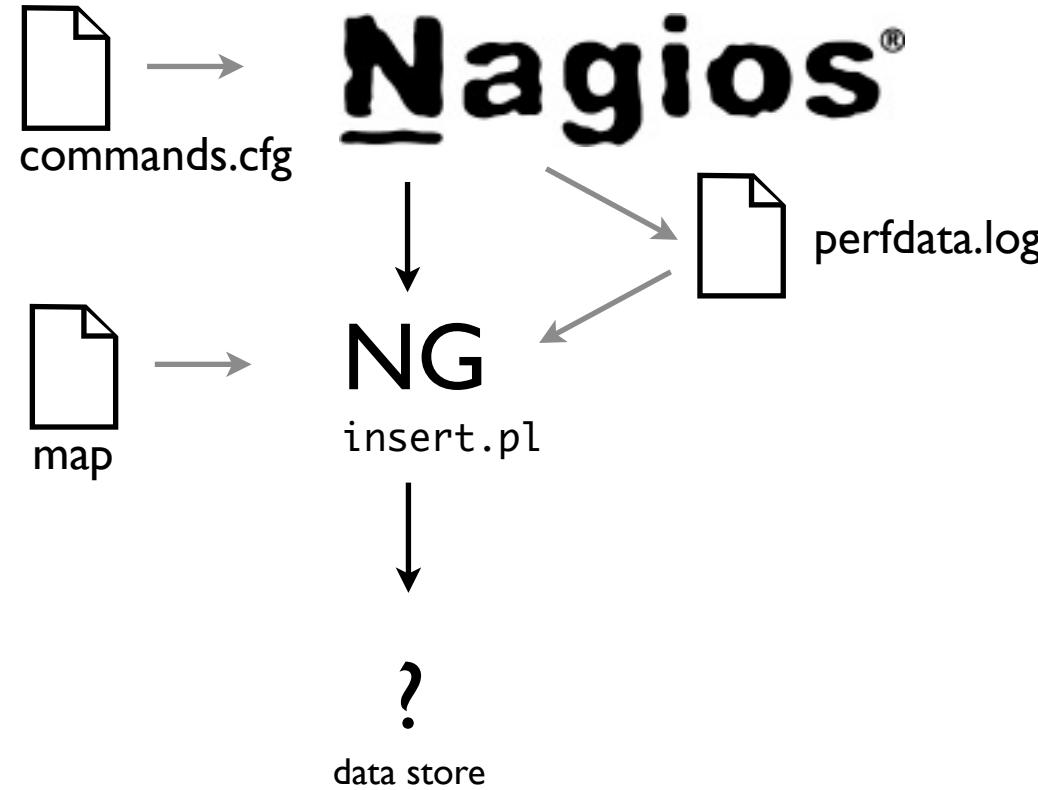
```
1317218378||yarg||mailq||OK: mailq reports queue is empty||unsent=0;5;20;0  
1317218379||http01||ups-temp||OK - Internal Temperature: 36.9 C||temperature=36.9;45;48  
1317218379||power3||ups-temp||OK - Internal Temperature: 42.7 C||temperature=42.7;45;48
```

commands.cfg

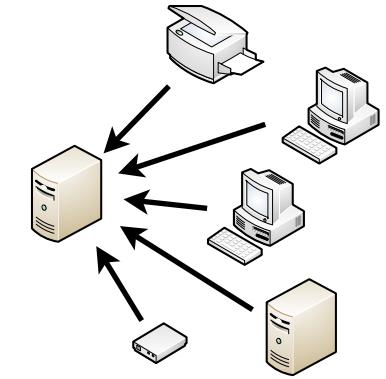
```
process_performance_data=1  
service_perfdata_file=/var/nagios/perfdata.log  
service_perfdata_file_template=$LASTSERVICECHECK$ ||$HOSTNAME$ ||$SERVICEDESC$ ||$SERVICEOUTPUT$ ||$SERVICEPERFDATA$  
service_perfdata_file_mode=a  
service_perfdata_file_processing_interval=30  
service_perfdata_file_processing_command=process-service-perfdata
```



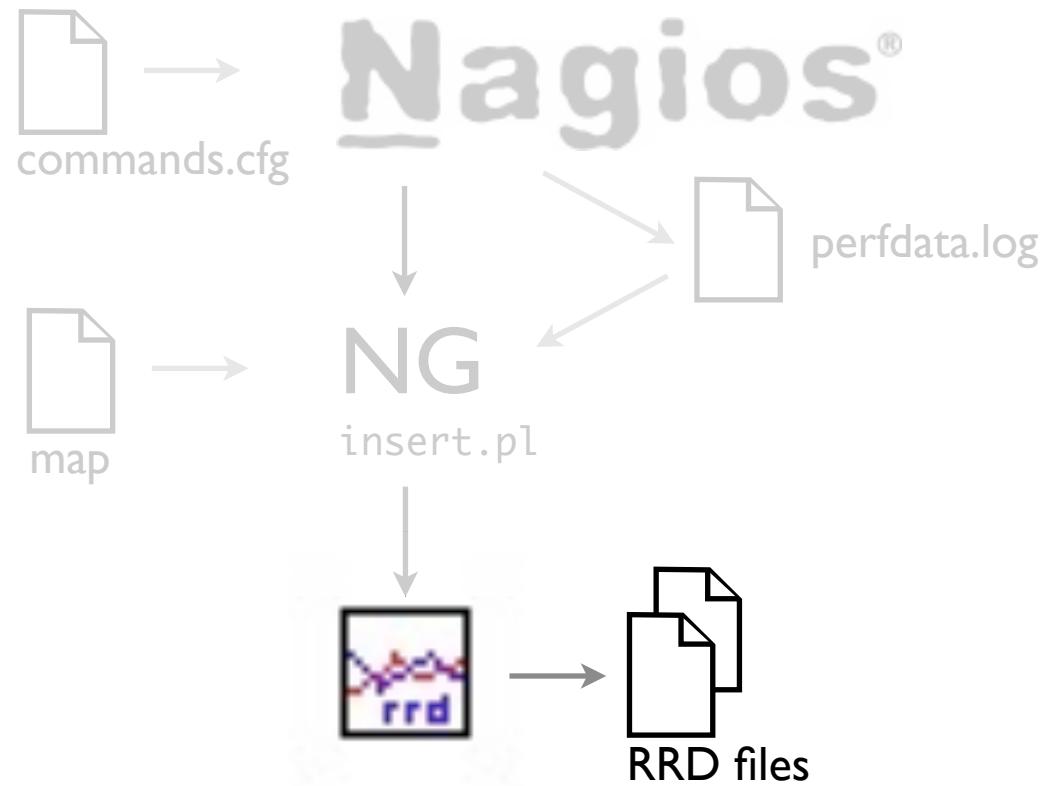
Data Collection



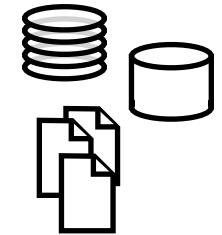
- How to do it in Nagios?
 - Immediate
 - Batch
 - Shared library
 - External process
- Issues
 - Performance data
 - Plugin output
 - Data from plugins or data from Nagios itself
 - Sampling interval
 - Sampling precision
 - Is Nagios the best tool for data collection?



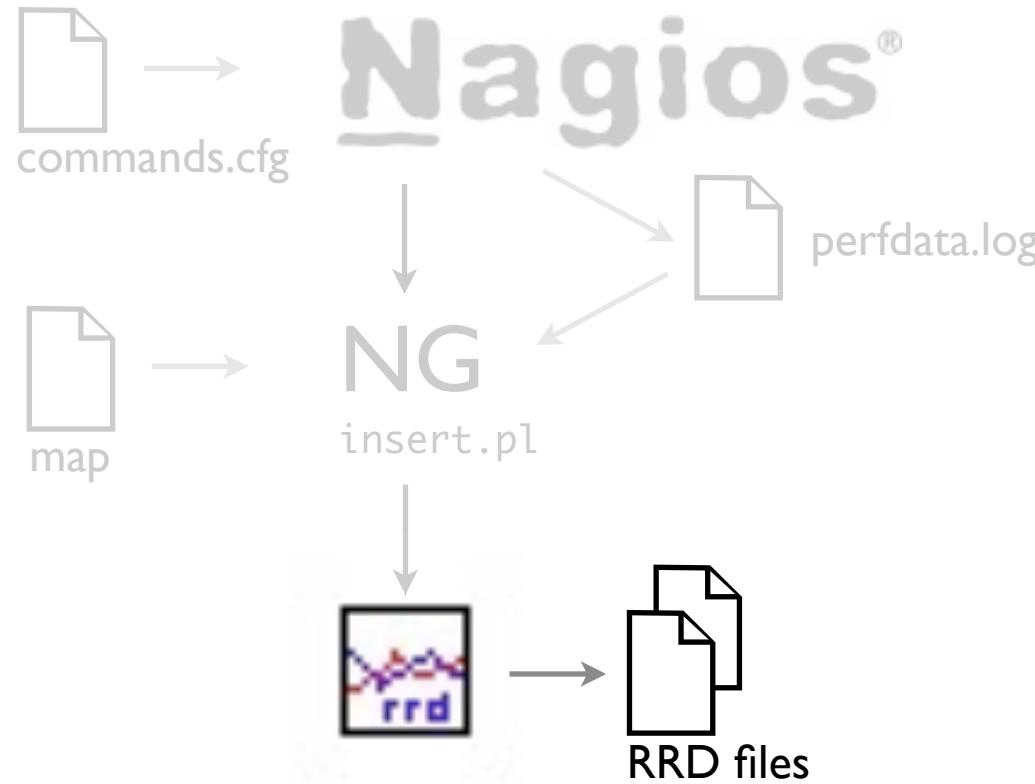
Data Storage



- How to do it?
 - Round-Robin Database (rrdtool)
 - SQL Database (mySQL)
 - JavaDB



Data Storage



rrdtool update

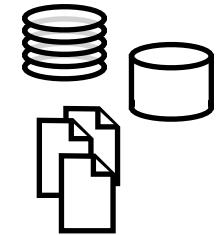
```
DS:inOctets:COUNTER:120:0:4294967296  
RRA:AVERAGE:.5:1:43200  
RRA:AVERAGE:.5:5:105120  
RRA:AVERAGE:.5:10:105120
```

ls -l /var/nagiosgraph/rrd/*

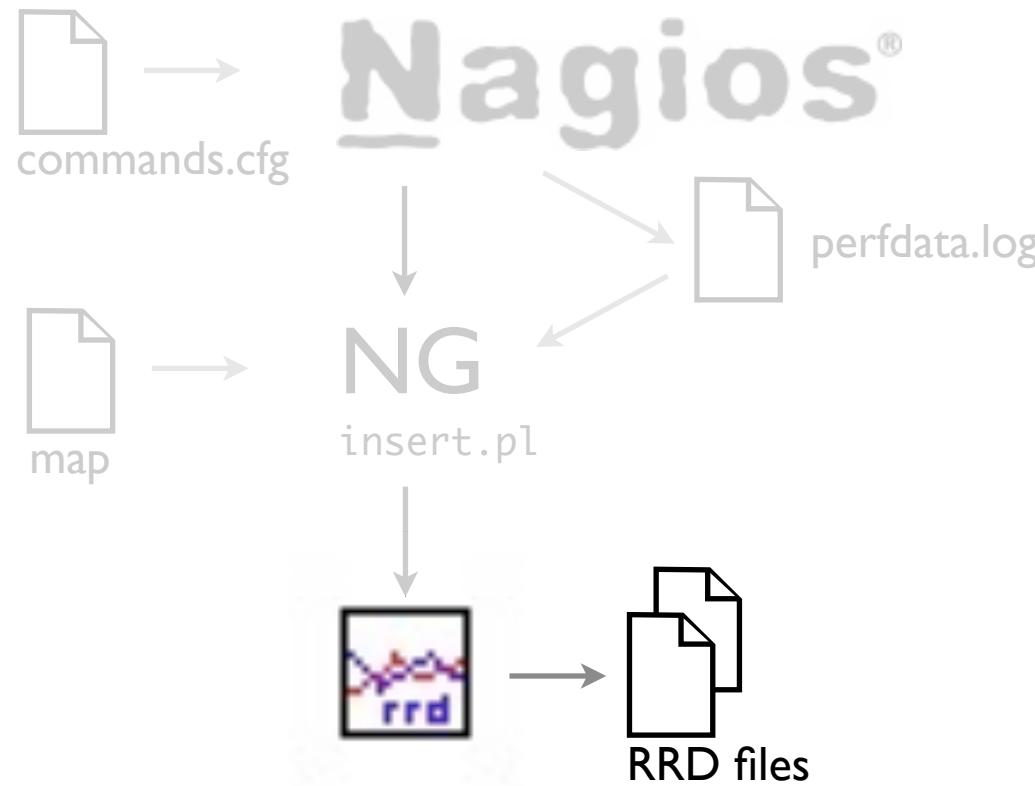
```
/var/nagiosgraph/rrd/www:  
total 72  
-rw-rw-r-- 1 nagios nagios 24120 2011-09-28 10:00 http__http.rrd  
-rw-rw-r-- 1 nagios nagios 24120 2011-09-28 10:00 http__http.rrd_max  
-rw-rw-r-- 1 nagios nagios 24120 2011-09-28 10:00 http__http.rrd_min
```

rrdtool dump servicedesc____ds.rrd

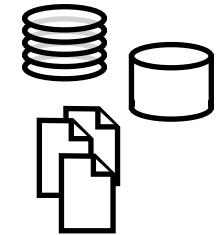
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>  
<!DOCTYPE rrd SYSTEM "http://oss.oetiker.ch/rrdtool/rrdtool.dtd">  
<!-- Round Robin Database Dump -->  
<rrd>  
    <version>0003</version>  
    <step>300</step> <!-- Seconds -->  
    <lastupdate>1317218410</lastupdate> <!-- 2011-09-28 10:00:10 EDT -->  
    ...  
</rrd>
```



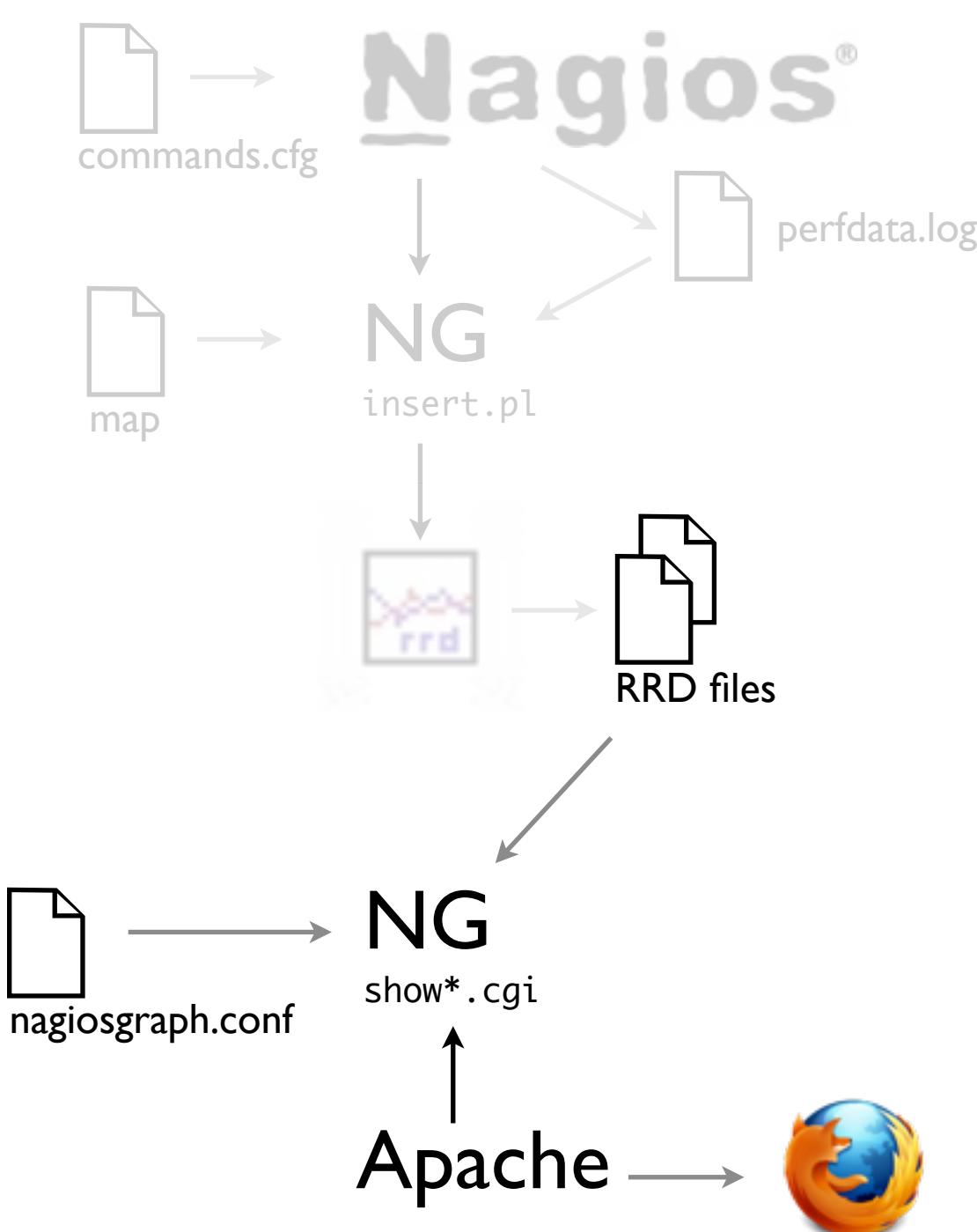
Data Storage



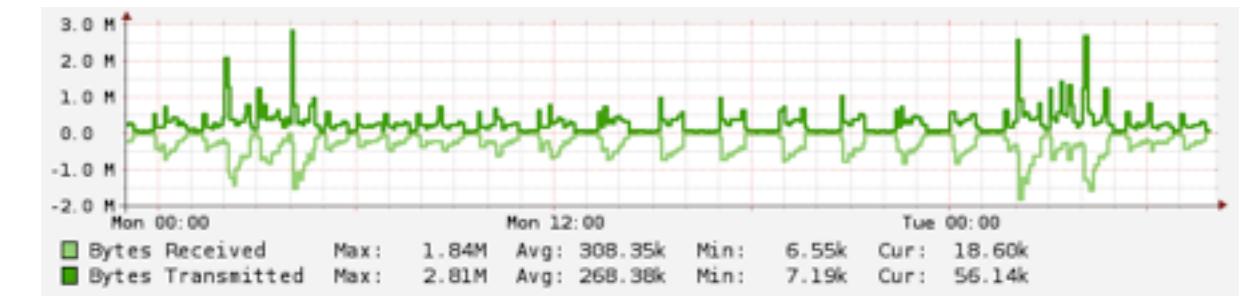
- How to do it?
 - Round-Robin Database (rrdtool)
 - SQL Database (mySQL)
 - JavaDB
- Issues
 - Schema definition
 - Storage space limitations
 - Storage space pruning
 - Redundancy
 - Backups



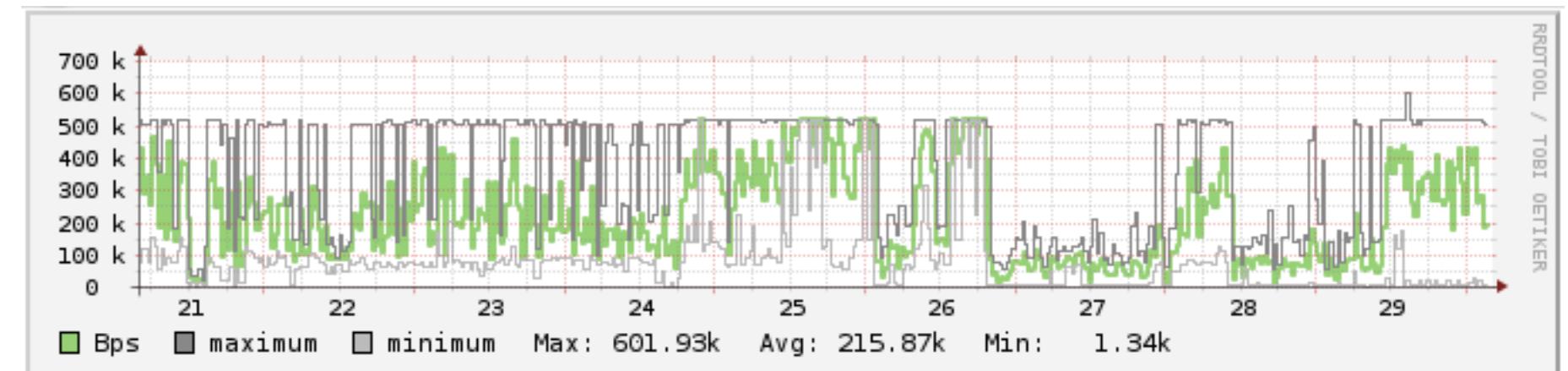
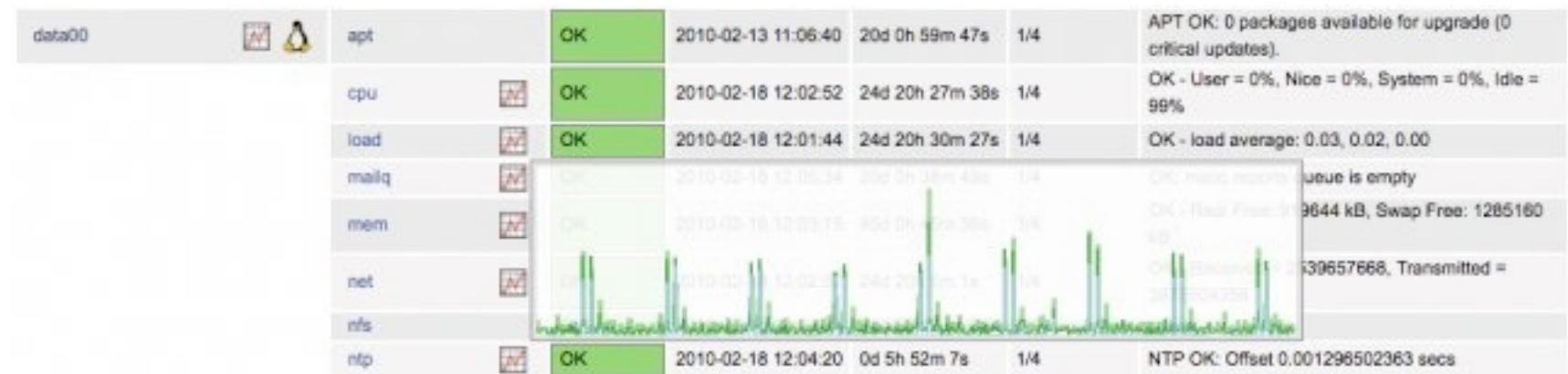
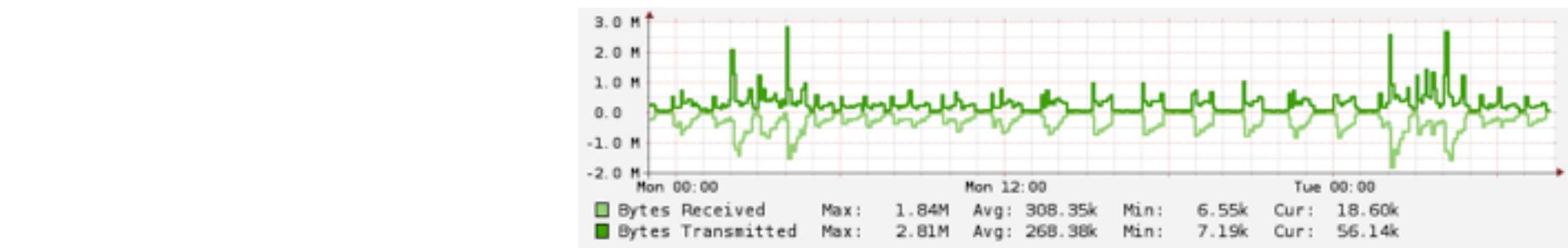
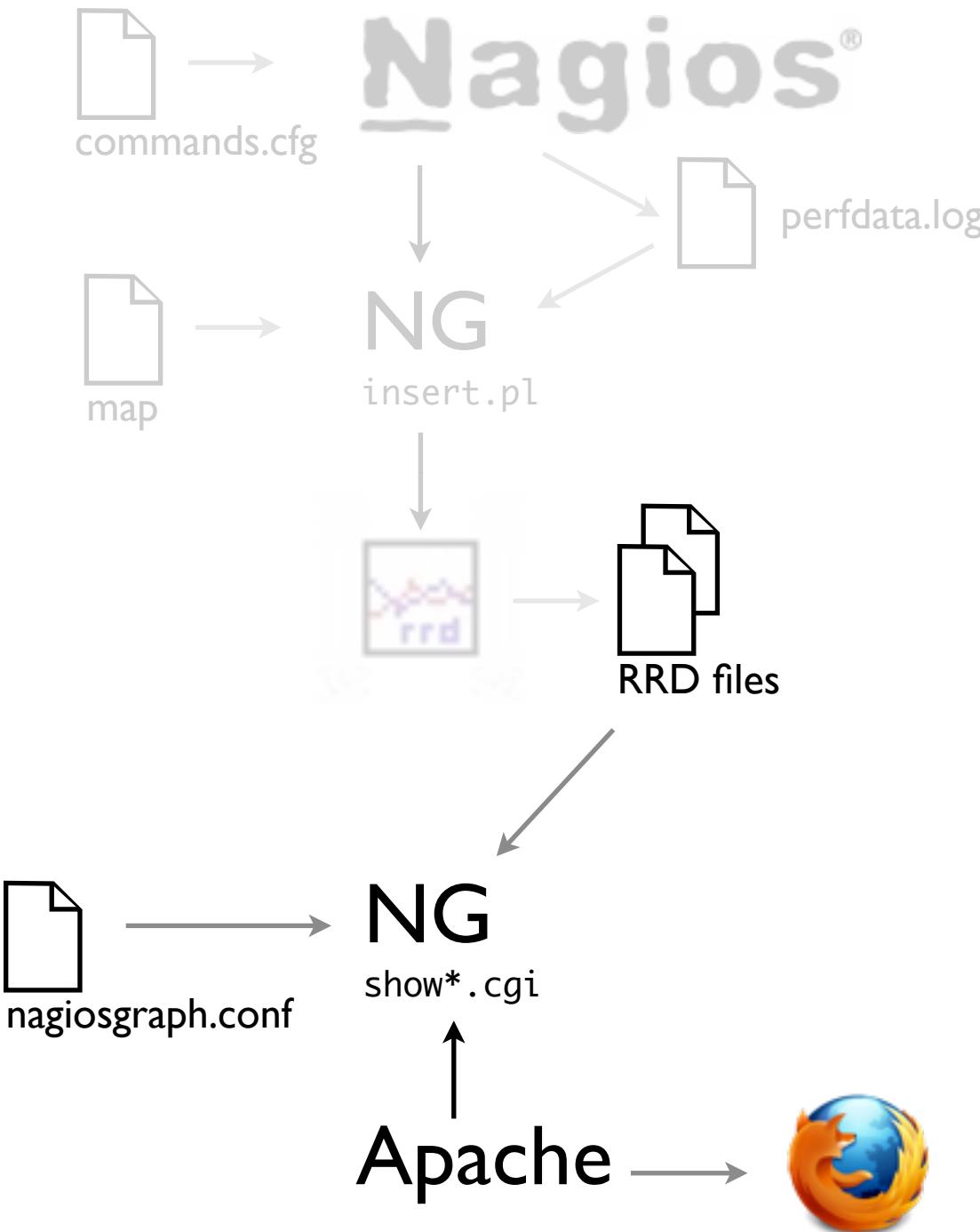
Data Display



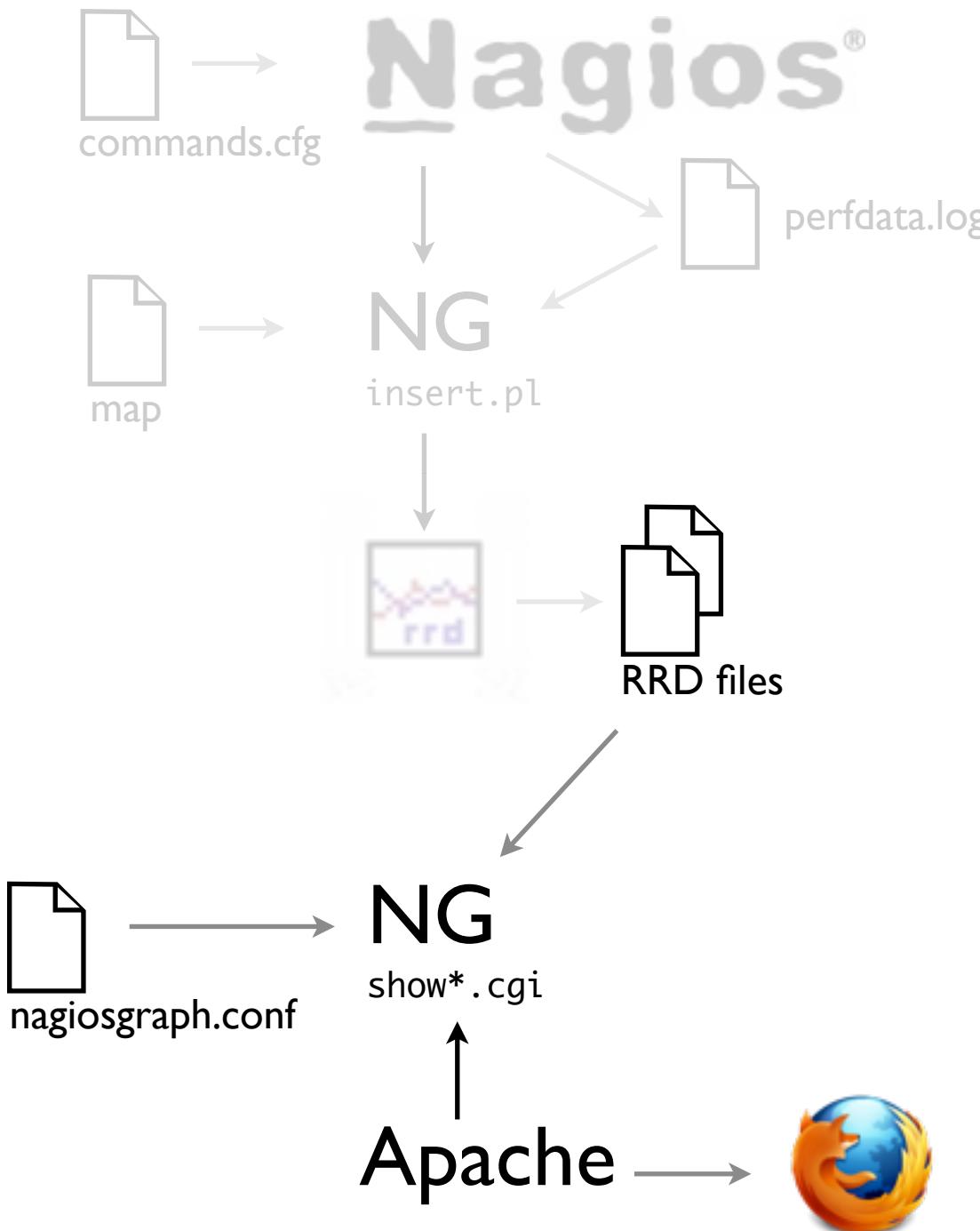
- How to do it?
 - CGI (PERL+rrdtool)
 - PHP (PHP+PERL+rrdtool)
 - JavaScript
 - Google Charts



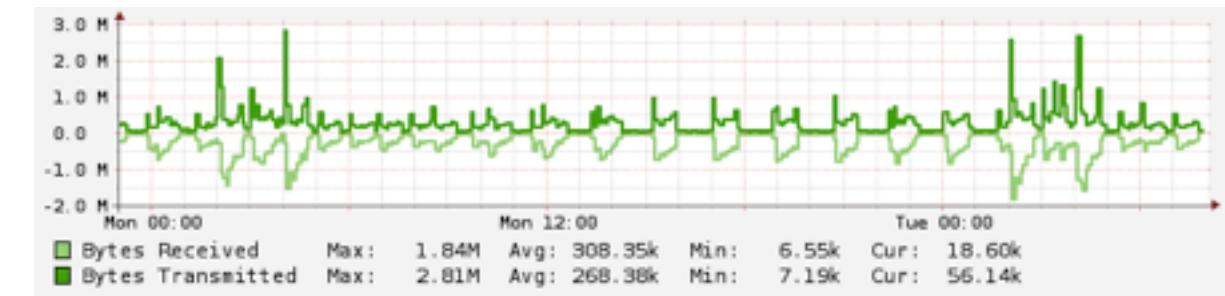
Data Display



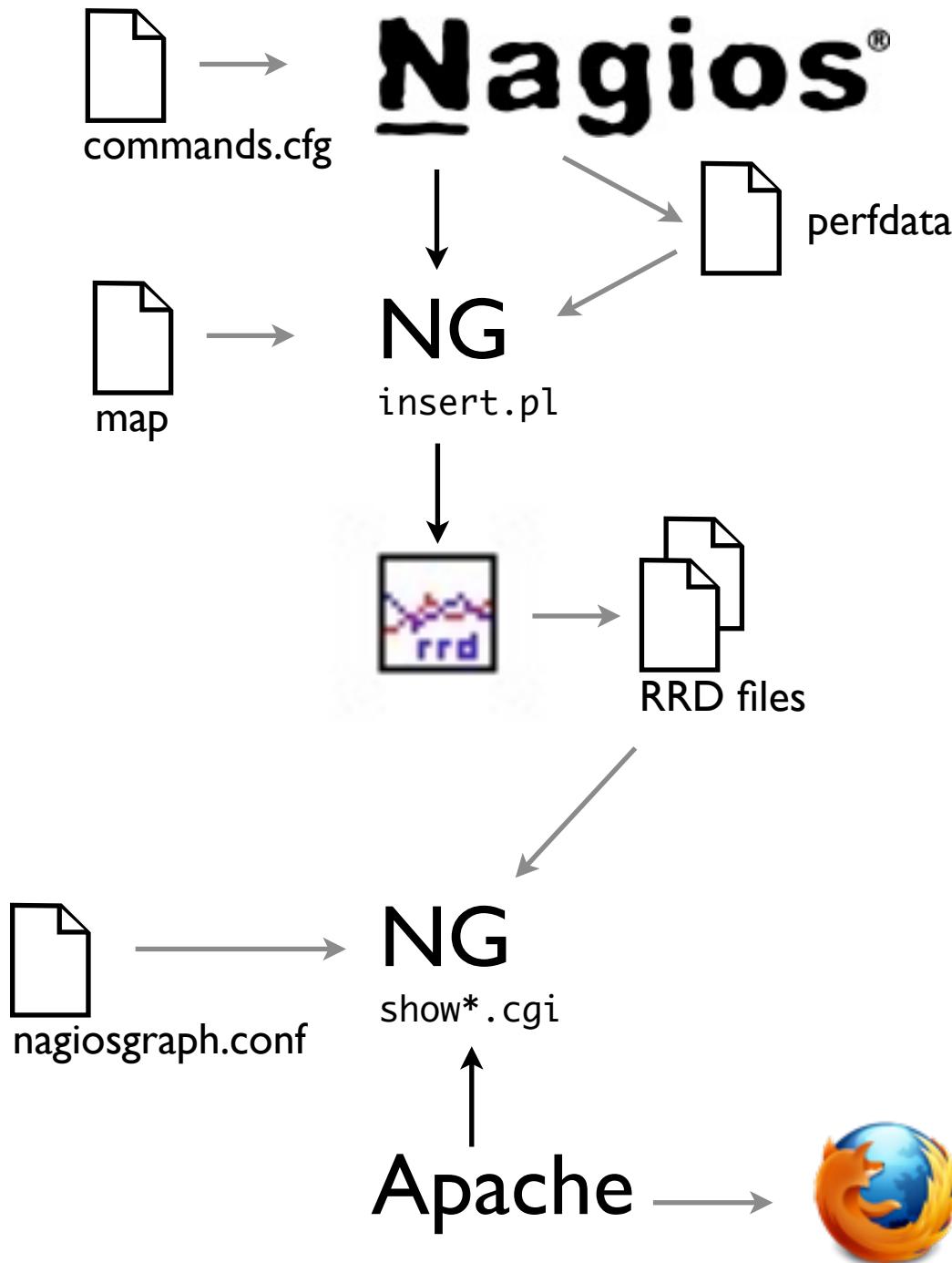
Data Display



- How to do it?
 - CGI (PERL+rrdtool)
 - PHP (PHP+PERL+rrdtool)
 - JavaScript
 - Google Charts
- Issues
 - Today, yesterday, last week, last month, last year
 - Single host/service/source
 - Combinations of hosts/services/sources
 - Canned reports
 - Interactive queries



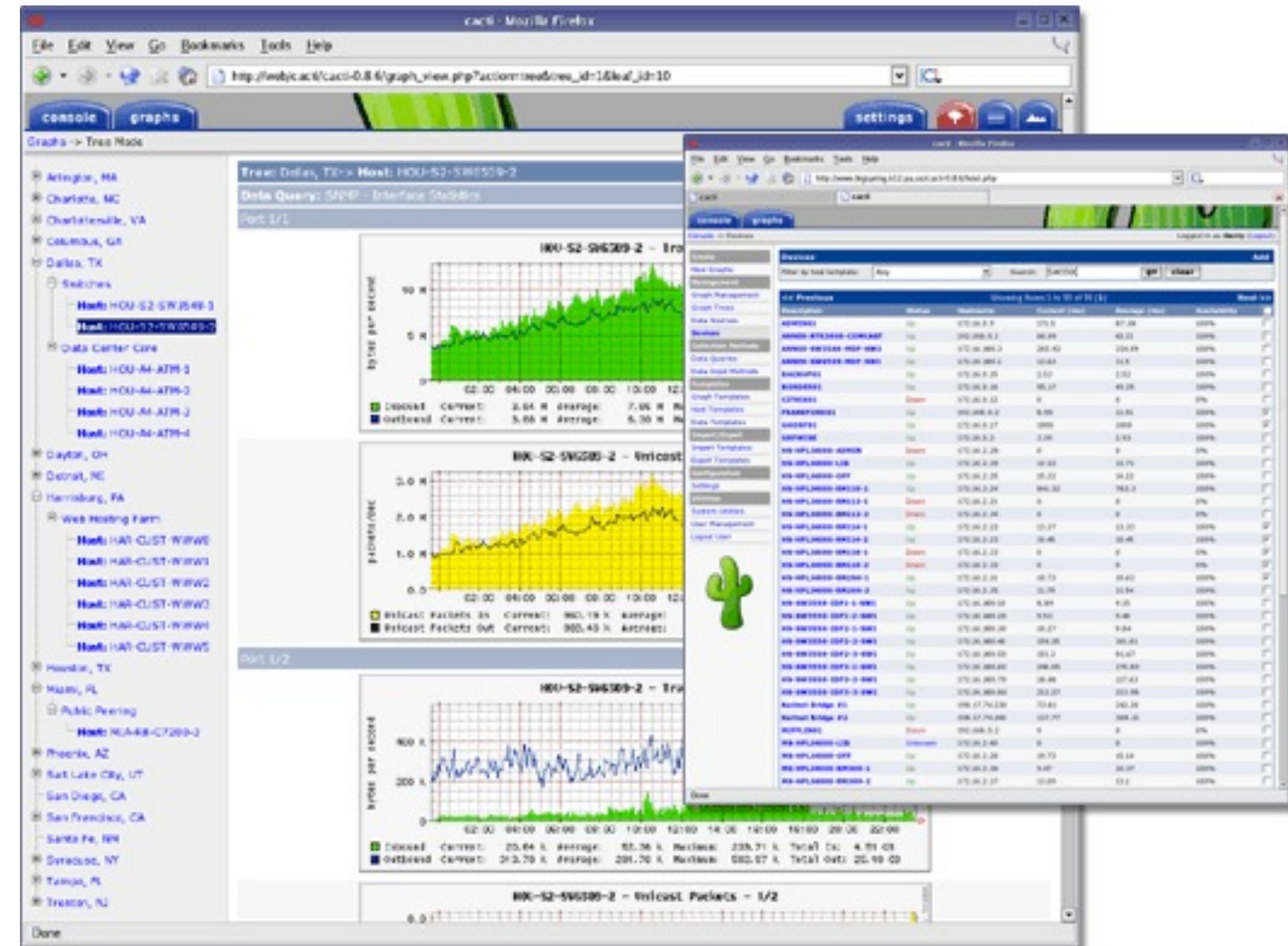
What are the options?



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<http://n2rrd-wiki.diglinks.com/display/n2rrd/Addon>
- **pnp4nagios**
0.6.15 2011-09-14
<http://pnp4nagios.sourceforge.net/>

cacti

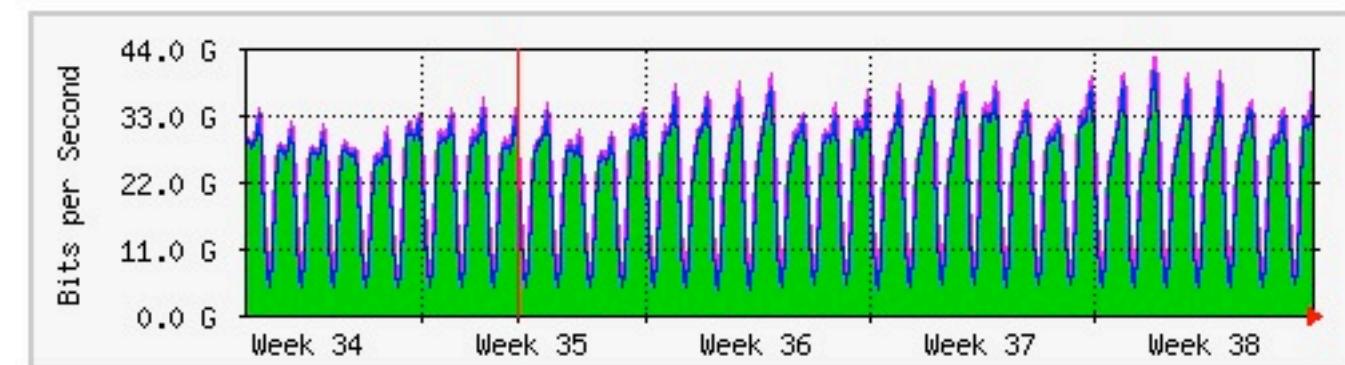
- Standalone system
- Data collection and/or display
- Browsing
- Querying
- Zoom



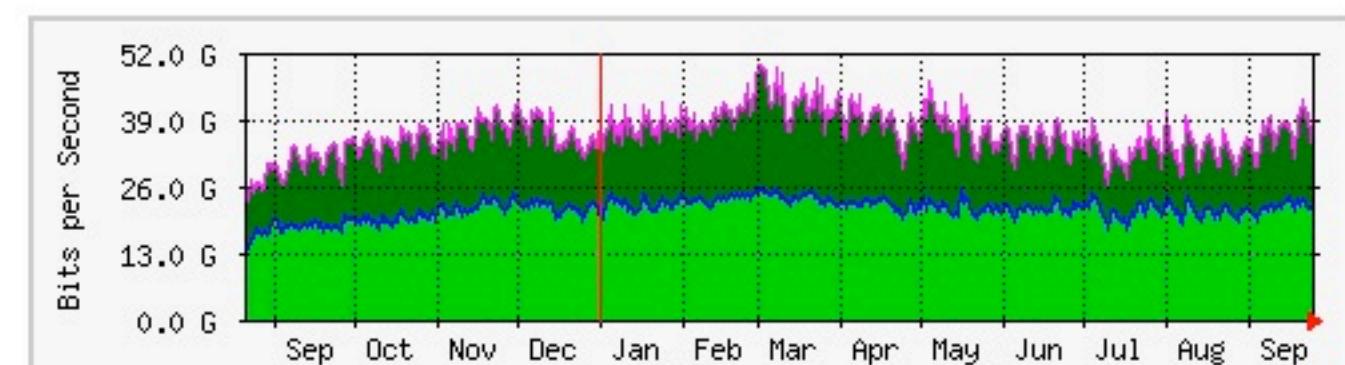
mrtg

- Standalone system designed for SNMP
- Data collection and/or display

'Monthly' Graph (2 Hour Average)



'Yearly' Graph (1 Day Average)



GREEN ###	Incoming Traffic in Bits per Second
BLUE ###	Outgoing Traffic in Bits per Second
DARK GREEN ###	Maximal 5 Minute Incoming Traffic
MAGENTA ###	Maximal 5 Minute Outgoing Traffic

MRTG MULTI ROUTER TRAFFIC GRAPHER
2.13.2 *Tobias Oetiker <oetiker@ee.ethz.ch>*



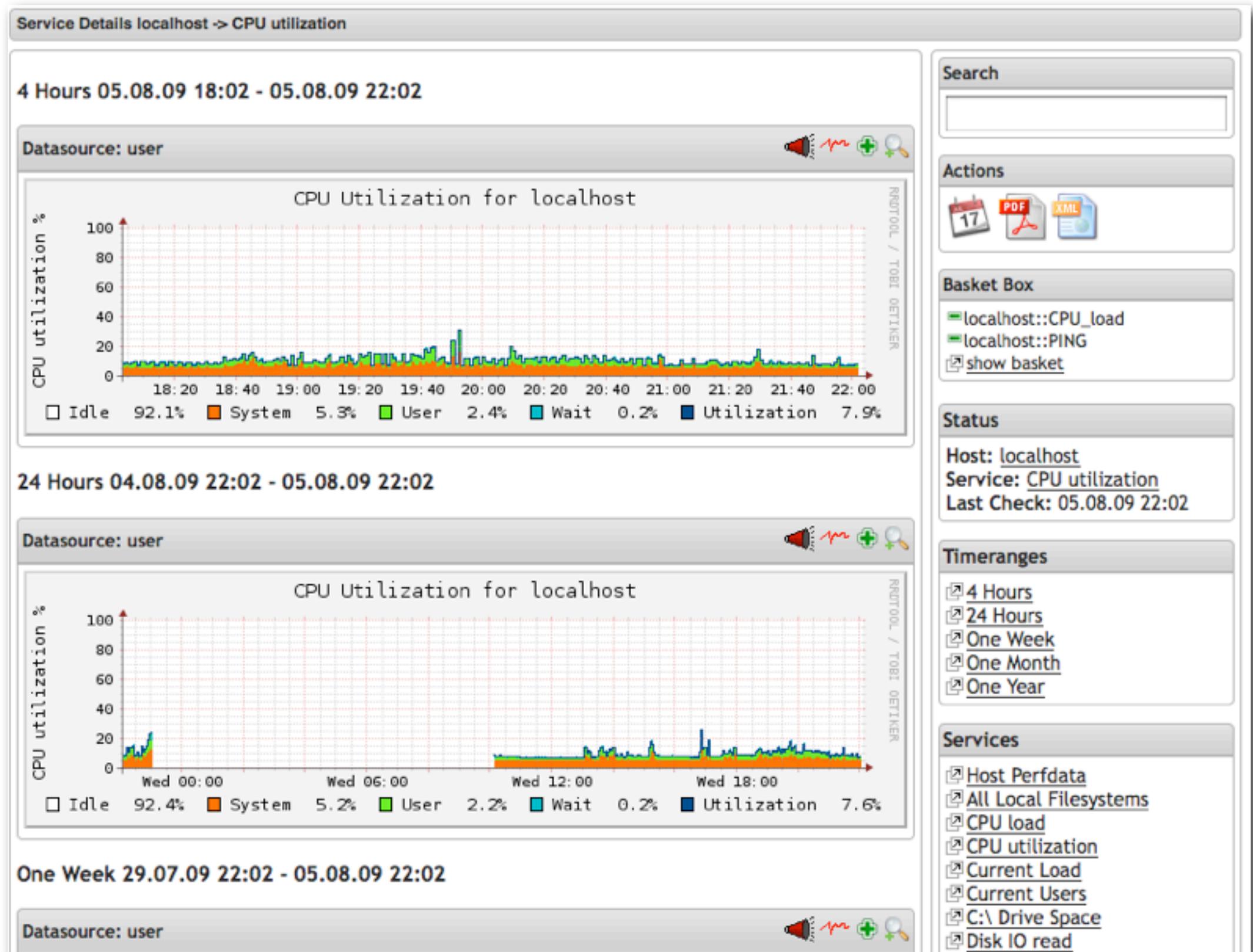
n2rrd and rrd2graph

- Data collection (n2rrd)
- Data display (rrd2graph)
- Template-based RRA
- Template-based graphs
- All services per host
- Arbitrary grouping
- Interactive selection of data
- Zoom (in new context)
- Export graphs as PDF, PNG, EPS, SVG
- rrdtool, PERL



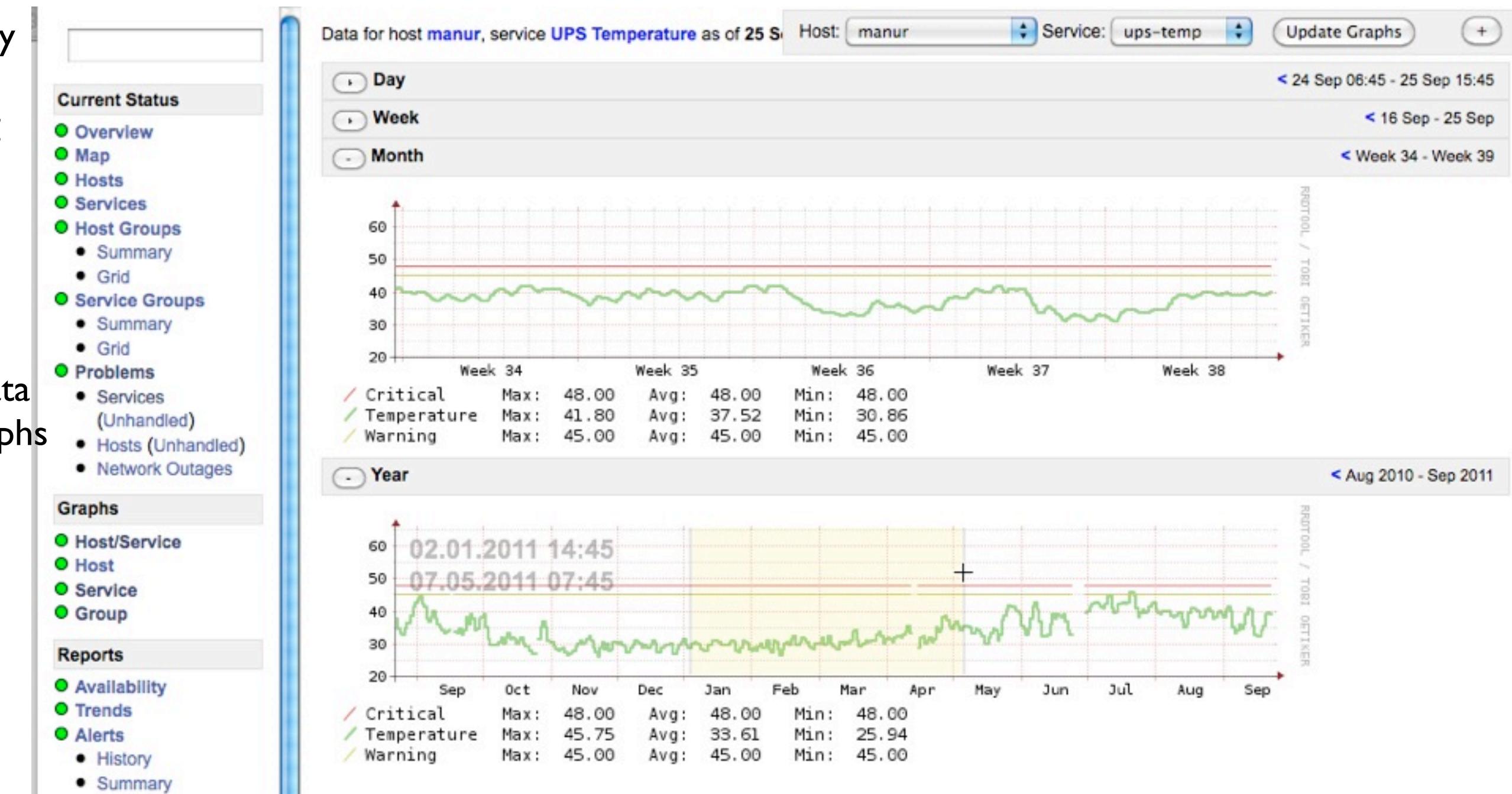
pnp4nagios

- Data collection and display
- Template-based graphs
- All services per host
- Arbitrary grouping
- Arbitrary time interval
- Zoom (in new context)
- Mouseover thumbnail graphs
- Export data as CSV
- Export graphs as PDF, PNG
- rrdtool, C, PHP, PERL, jQuery



nagiosgraph

- Data collection and display
- Parameter-based RRA
- Parameter-based graphing
- All services per host
- All hosts per service
- Arbitrary grouping
- Arbitrary time interval
- Zoom (in place)
- Interactive selection of data
- Mouseover thumbnail graphs
- Export data as CSV, XML
- rrdtool, PERL, JavaScript



Issues

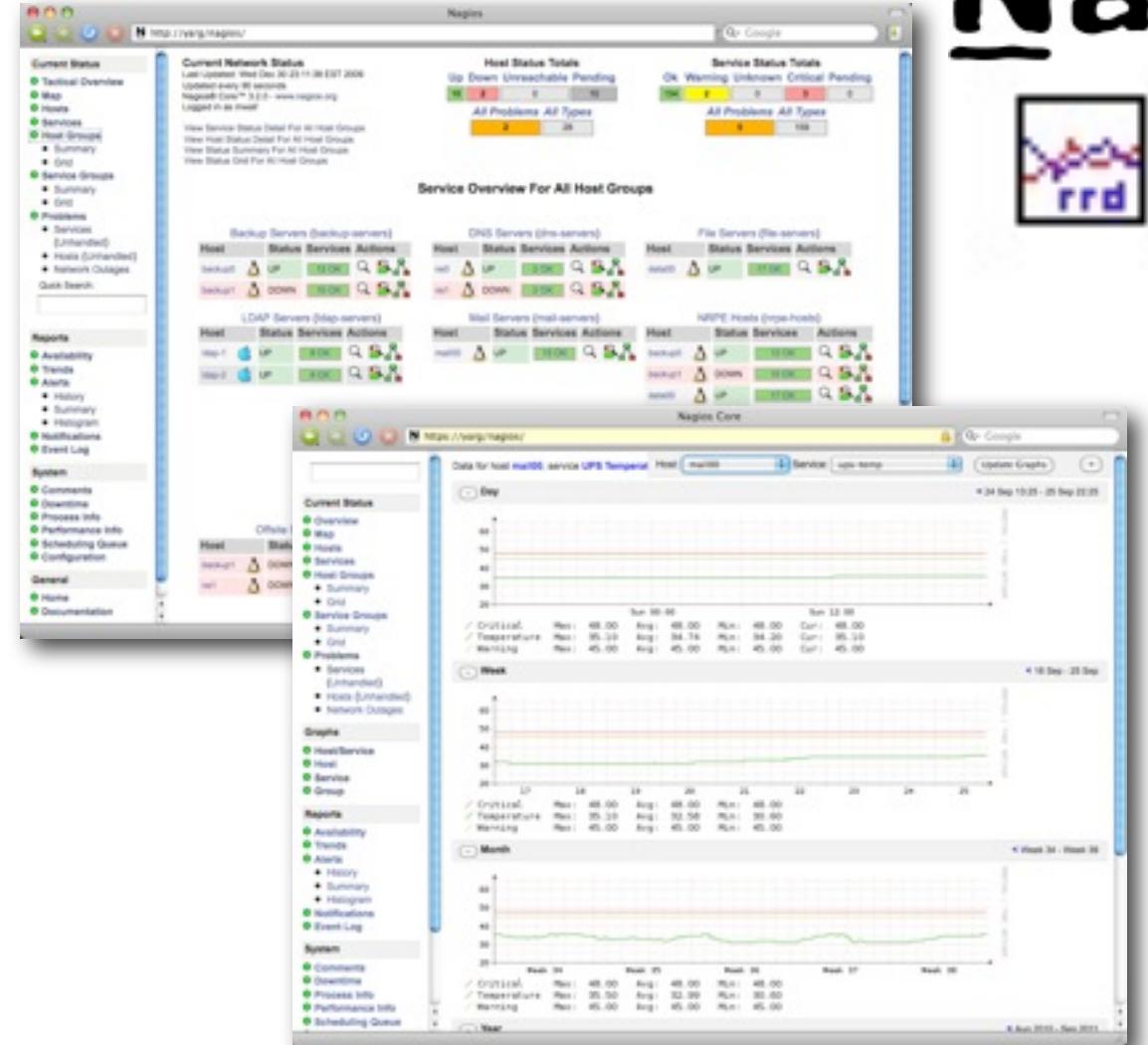
- Is Nagios the right tool for collecting performance data?
- Which add-on/system should I use?
- Performance data versus plugin output
- Seeing both the forest and the trees
- How much data to collect? How much to save?
- Getting the RRA parameters right
- Dealing with rigid schemas
- What format to save the data? (mysql, rrdtool)
- Automatic provisioning/discovery/configuration
- Transient hosts/services
- Data freshness

Is Nagios the right tool?

- Nagios checks have access to performance data, so why not?
- No need to install additional software
- Confounding of state and performance data
- Does Nagios collect data often enough?
- What happens to the data when Nagios cannot collect it?

Which system(s) should I use?

Nagios®



Collection: **nagiosgraph**
Storage: **rrdtool**
Glue: **nagiosgraph**
Display: **nagiosgraph**

Collection: **pnp4nagios**
Storage: **rrdtool**
Glue: **pnp4nagios**
Display: **pnp4nagios**



Collection: **cacti**
Storage: **rrdtool**
Glue: **cacti**
Display: **cacti**

Nagios®

N²RRD



Collection: **Nagios**
Storage: **rrdtool**
Glue: **n2rrd**
Display: **cacti**



Which add-on(s) should I use?

	n2rrd	rrd2graph	pnp4nagios	nagiosgraph	cacti	mrtg
configuration	templates	templates	templates	parameters	templates	templates
dependencies	rrdtool, PERL	rrdtool, PERL	rrdtool, PERL, PHP, jQuery	rrdtool, PERL	?	?
storage	rrdtool		rrdtool	rrdtool	rrdtool	rrdtool
collection	immediate, batch		immediate, batch, shared library	immediate, batch	SNMP	SNMP
display		cgi	php + cgi	cgi	cgi	html
zooming		separate window	separate window	in-place	separate window	
graph mouseovers			yes	yes		
coordinate mouseovers				yes		
arbitrary groups			yes	yes		
search		yes			yes	
browse			yes	yes	yes	

Performance Data

`name = value[units];[warn];[crit];[min];[max]`

where units is one of:

unitless

s,us,ms time

% percentage

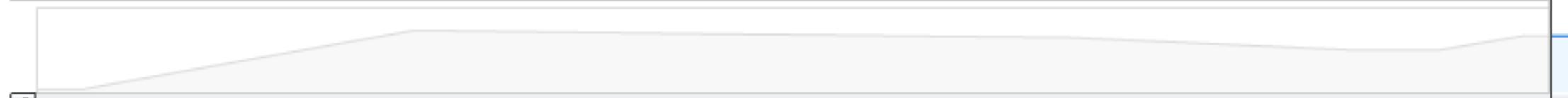
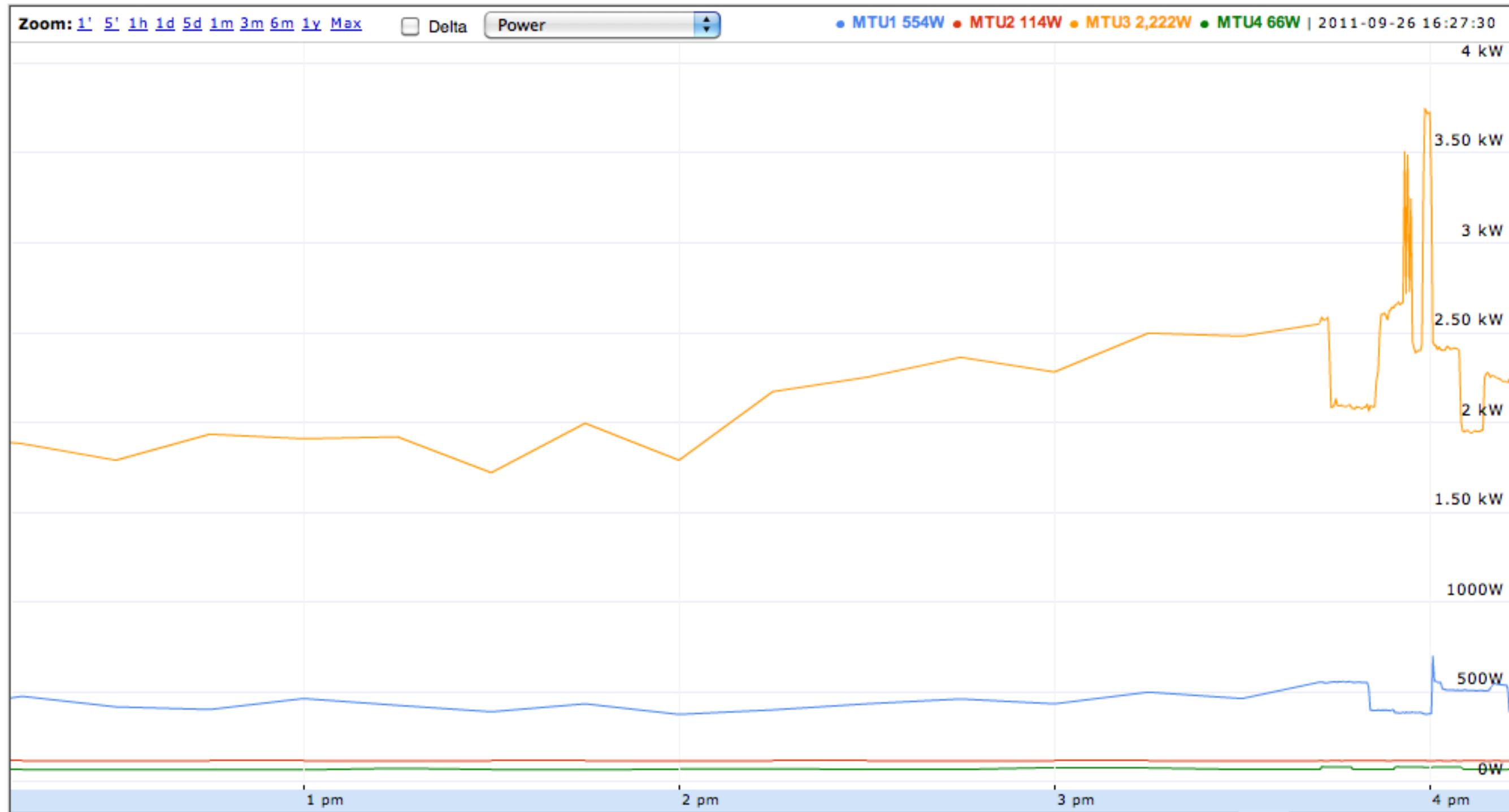
B,KB,MB,GB,TB,PB bytes

c counter

Beware of the bug in Nagios 3.3.1 !



How to see the forest and the trees?



How to see the forest and the trees?



Introduction • Problem • Requirements • Components • Options • **Issues** • Summary



How to see the forest and the trees?

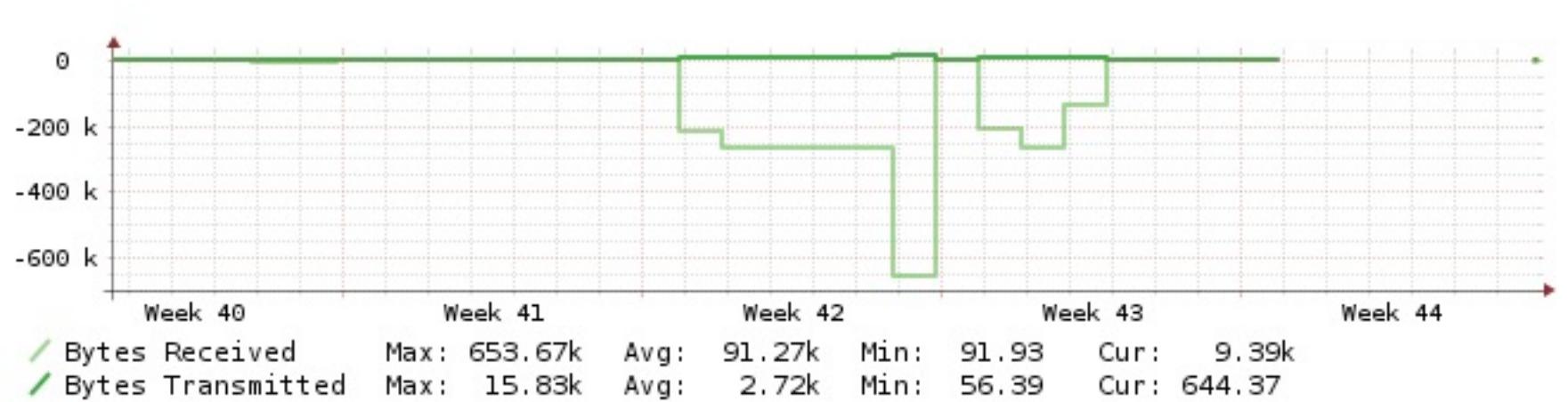
- You never know what you'll need until long after you can save it

How to see the forest and the trees?

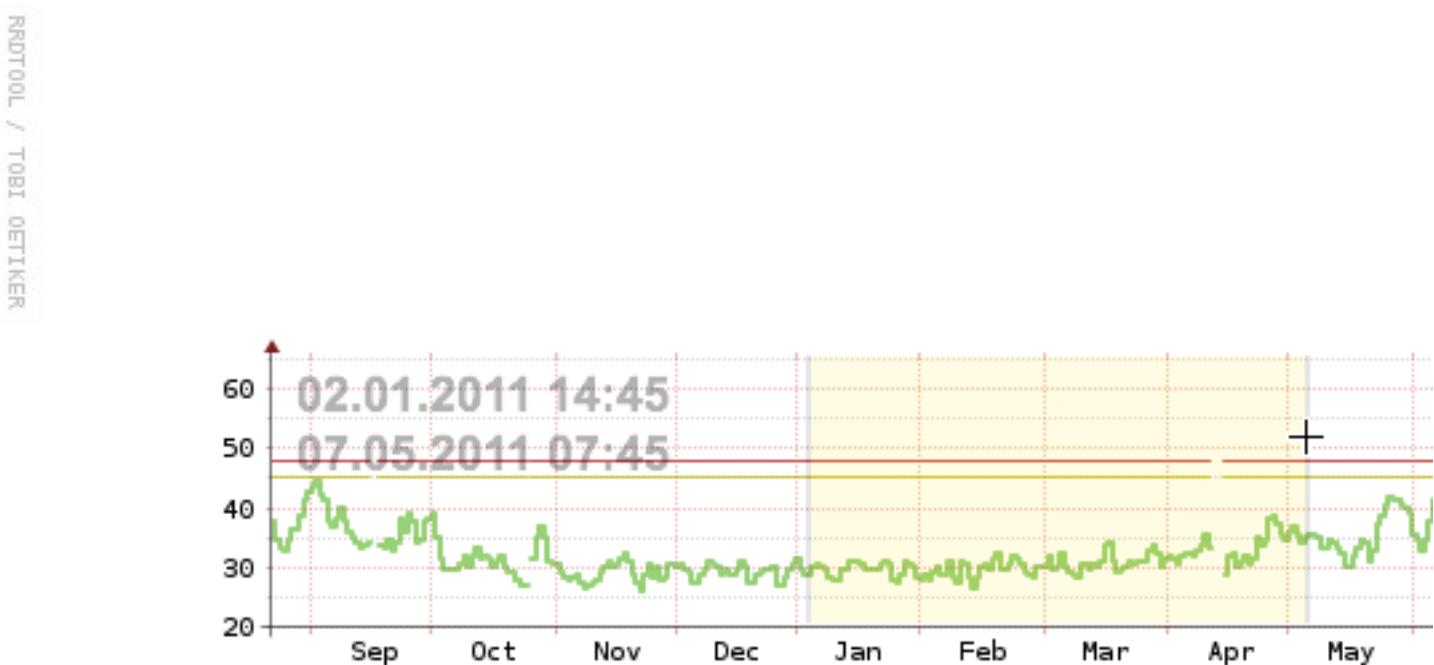
- You never know what you'll need until long after you can save it
- With rrdtool, the further back you go, the more you lose

How to see the forest and the trees?

- You never know what you'll need until long after you can save it
- With rrdtool, the further back you go, the more you lose



Archaeology



Zooming

How much to collect and save?

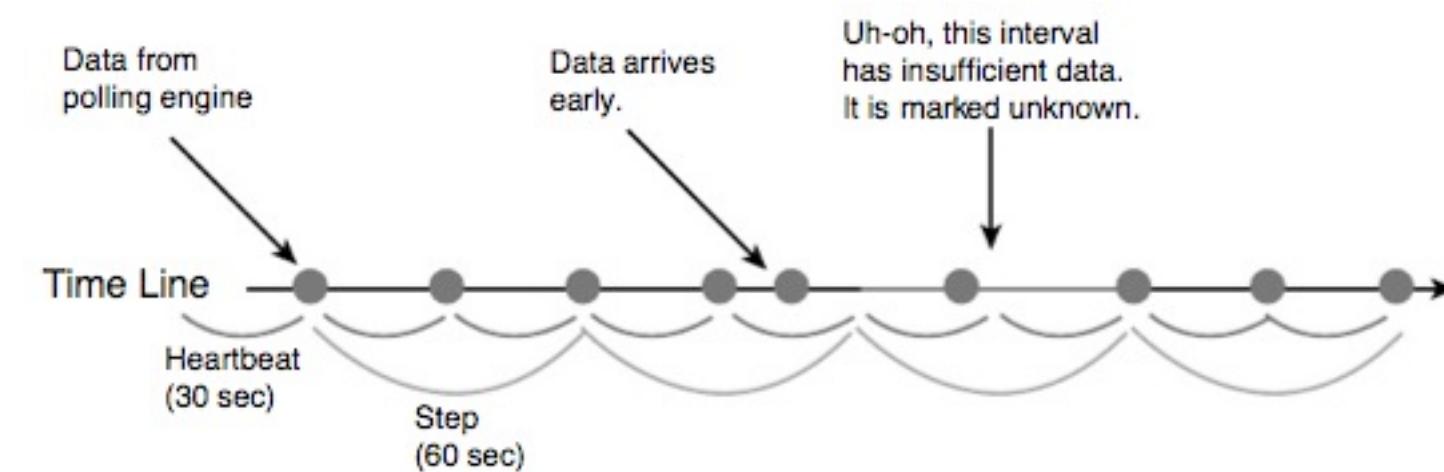
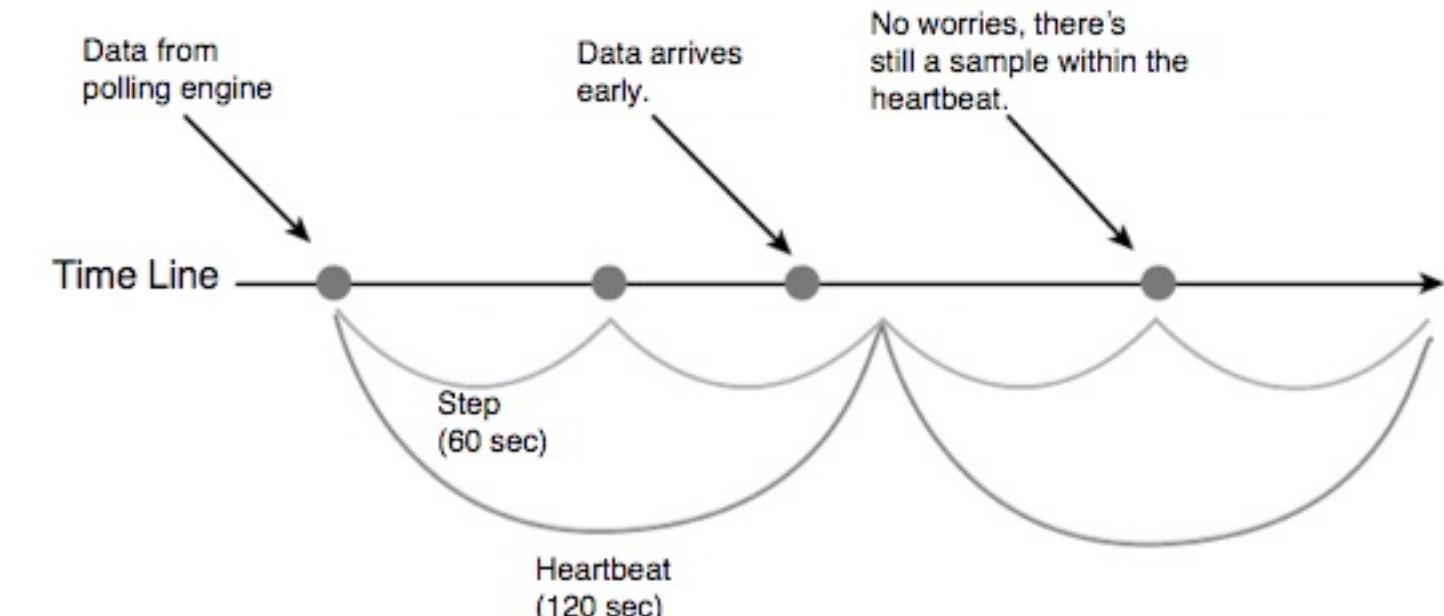
- Collect the source data, not the derivative data
- Collect everything - you can stop collecting later
- Collect often - let profiling dictate when to collect less often
- Save everything - you can throw it away later
- Using RRD ensures that your system scales by host/service, not time

Getting the RRA parameters right

```
DS:NAME:TYPE:HEARTBEAT:MIN:MAX  
RRA:CONSOLIDATION_METHOD:XFF:PDPs:CDPs
```

```
DS:inOctets:COUNTER:120:0:4294967296  
RRA:AVERAGE:.5:1:43200  
RRA:AVERAGE:.5:5:105120  
RRA:AVERAGE:.5:10:105120
```

XFF: x files factor
PDP: primary data point
CDP: consolidated data point



Building a Monitoring Infrastructure with Nagios, David Josephson, 2007

Rigid Schemas

- Put one data source in each RRD file, plus associated thresholds
- Use consistent service names
- Use service description based on plugin, not platform
- Keep the specifics of the schema in the glue layer
- Schemas are not just an issue with rrdtool

So where are we?

There are a few free tools, and a few more not-so-free tools

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but at least one of them is probably good enough...

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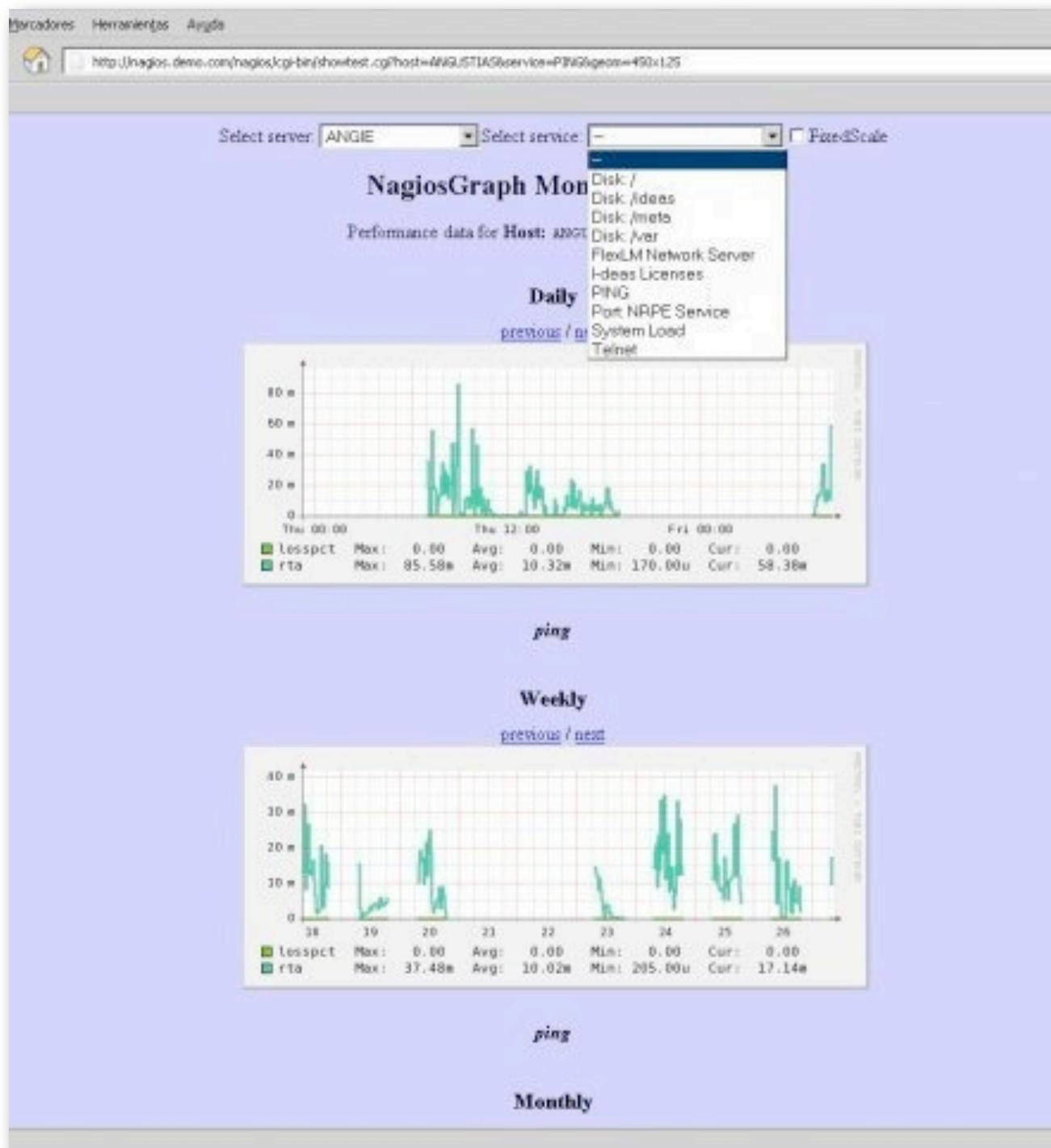
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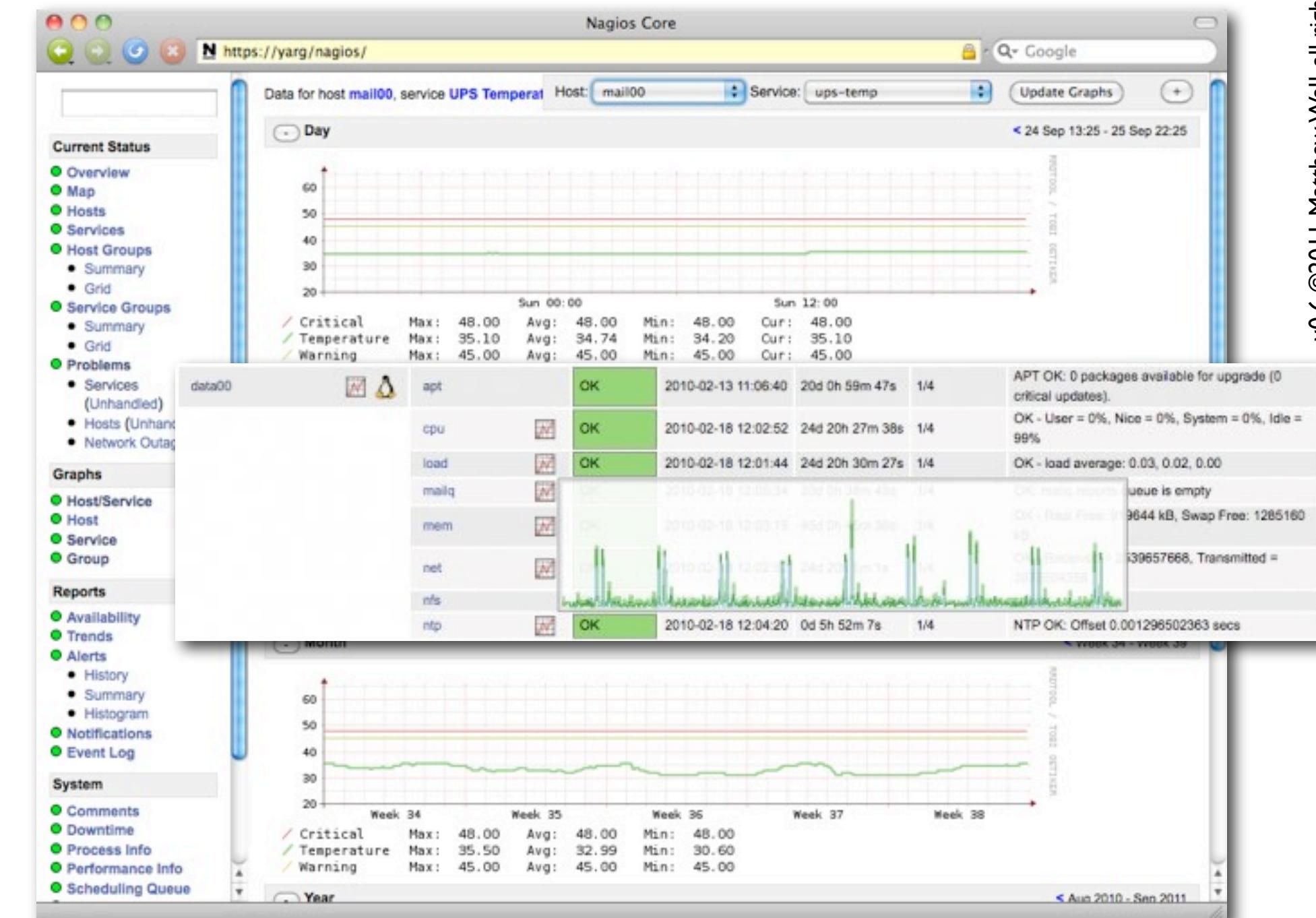
and many of them continue to progress.

nagiosgraph: then and now



2009

Introduction • Problem • Requirements • Components • Options • Issues • **Summary**

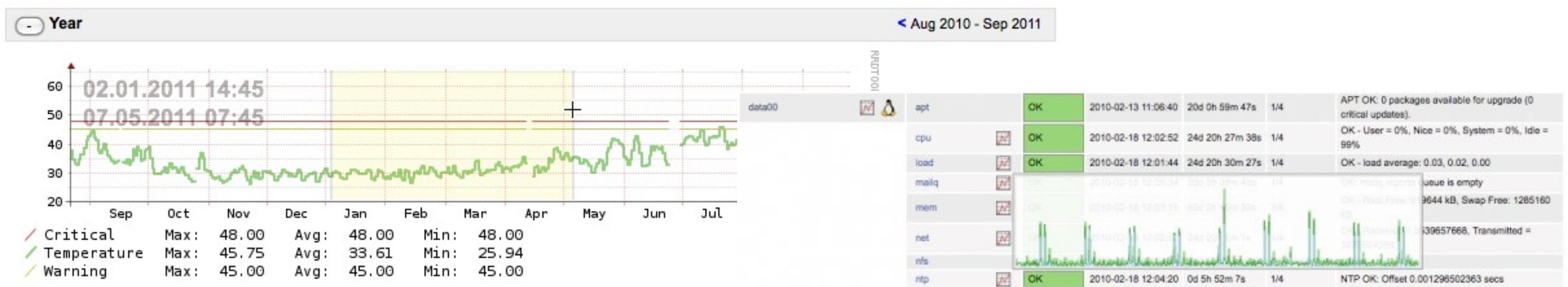


2011



nagiosgraph: history and status

- first release was 2004 - Soren Dossing
- release 0.1 (2004-08-04) was 16KB (compressed)
- release 1.4.4 (2011-01-16) was 158KB (compressed)
- 18 project members, 2 current (Alan Brennar, Matthew Wall)
- typically 70-100 downloads per day (20 on weekends)
- packages for deb and rpm added Jan 2011
- 1259 unit tests providing 78.5% code coverage
- 155KB perl code, 44KB javascript/css, 276KB unit test code



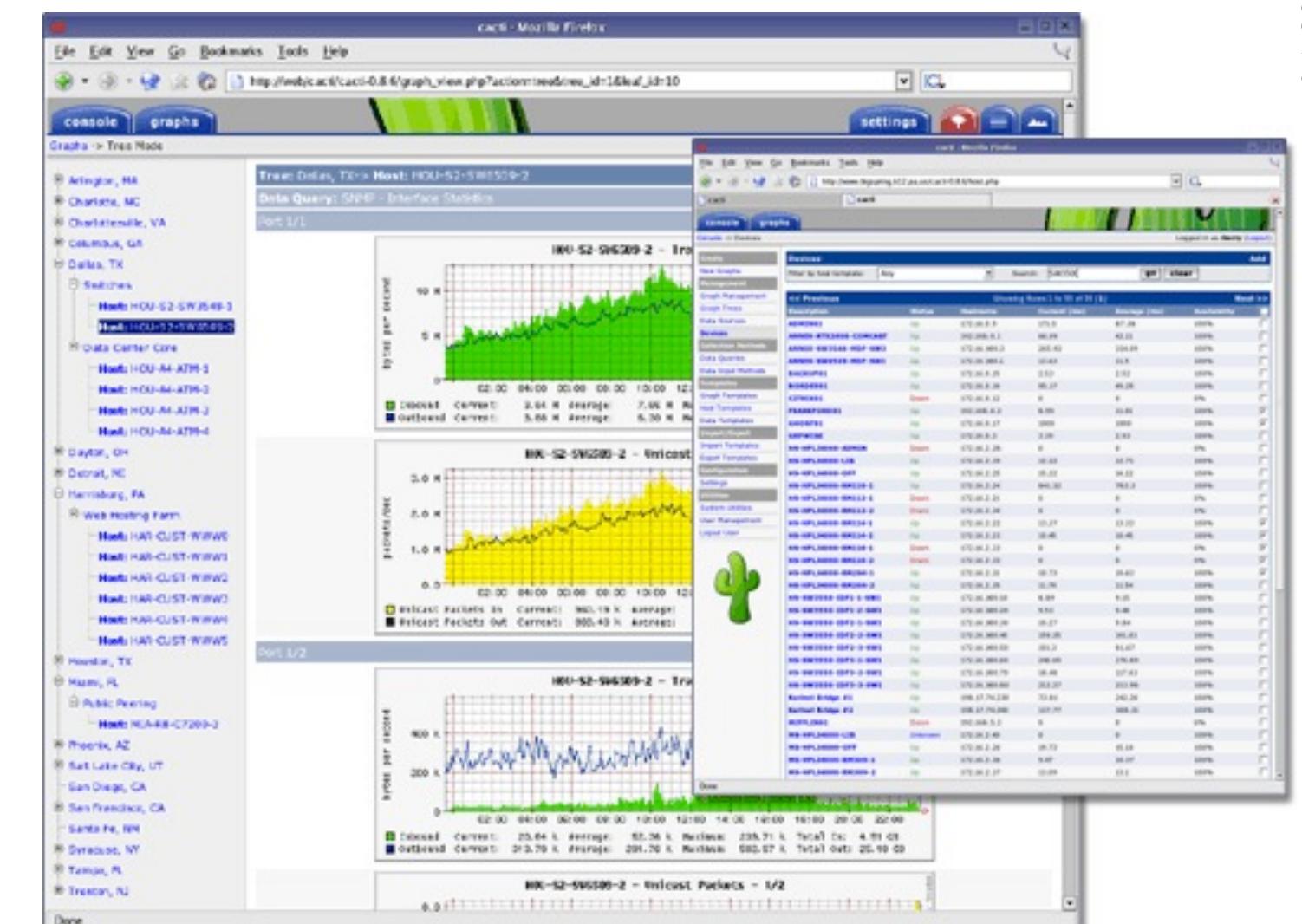
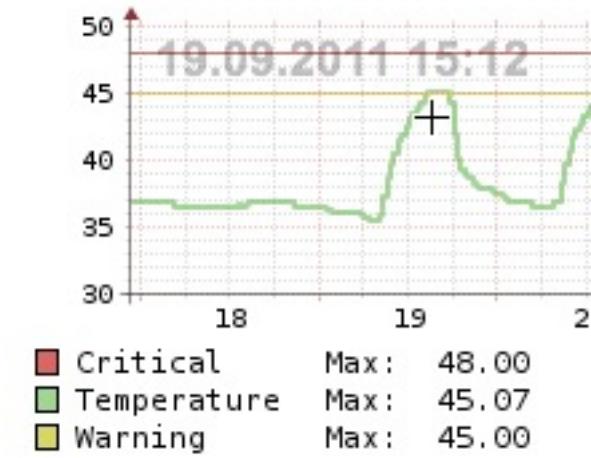
nagiosgraph: What next?

- Arbitrary combinations of data sources
- Interactive manipulation of data sources
- Management of stale data
- Export of data
- Template-based RRAs and graphs
- Better multi-byte character support
- More unit tests and code coverage

The tr/end//



Circonius Dashboard Prototype



References

- <http://lancet.mit.edu/mwall/projects/nagios>
- <http://nagiosgraph.sourceforge.net>
- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/58991647>
Building a Monitoring Infrastructure with Nagios
David Josephson 2007
- <https://labs.omniti.com/labs/reconnoiter>