



ntopng

A Web-based Network Traffic Monitoring Application

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Agenda

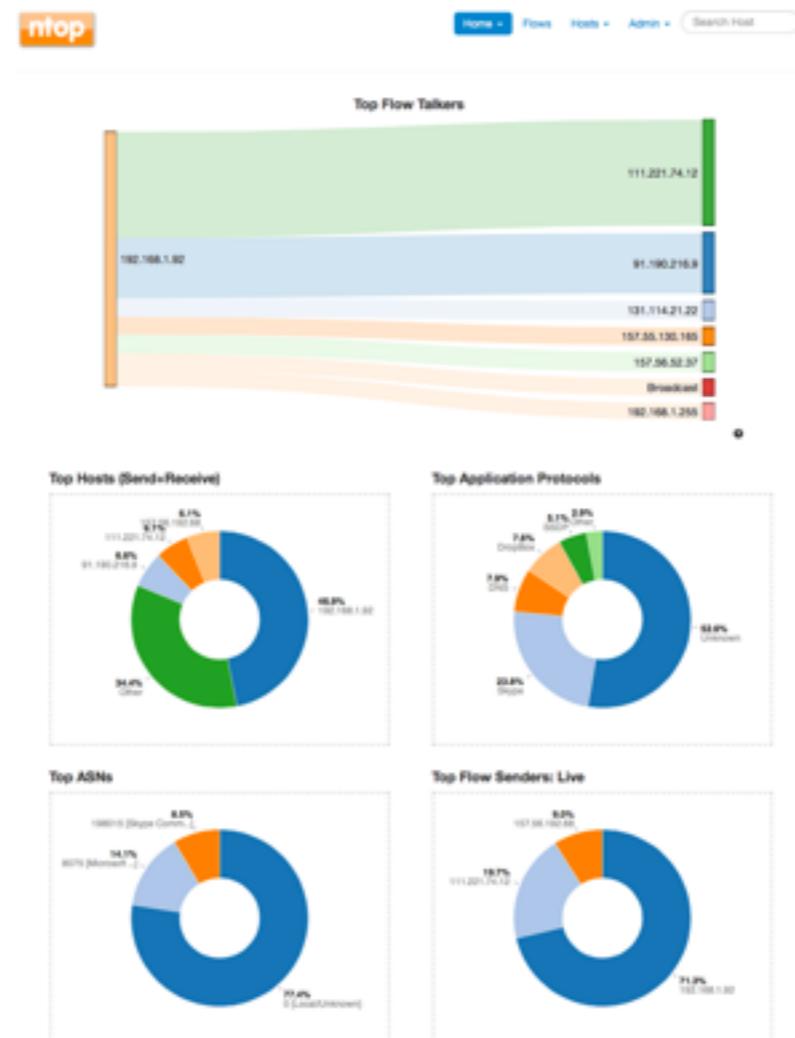
- About ntop
- Network traffic monitoring using ntopng
 - Motivation
 - ntopng architectural design and interfaces
- Integrations with third-party software
 - Grafana
 - Logstash
- Summary

About ntop



About ntop

- Private company devoted to development of Open Source network traffic monitoring applications.
- R&D Italy, Sales Switzerland.
- ntop (circa 1998) is the first app we released and it is a web-based network monitoring application.



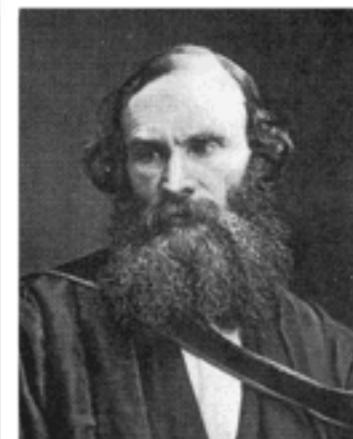
Product Lines

- Open Source
 - ntopng: Web-based monitoring application
 - PF_RING: Accelerated RX/TX on Linux
 - nDPI: Deep Packet Inspection Toolkit
- Proprietary
 - PF_RING ZC: 1/10/40/100 Gbit Line rate.
 - nProbe: 10G NetFlow/IPFIX Probe
 - nProbe Cento: flows+packets+security
 - n2disk/disk2n Network-to-disk and disk-to-network.
 - nScrub: Software DDoS Mitigation

Network Traffic Monitoring Using ntopng



“To measure is to know”



“If you can not measure it,
you can not improve it”

Lord William Thomson
(aka Lord Kelvin)

What Happens in Our Network?

- Do we have control over our network?
- It's not possible to imagine a healthy network without a clear understanding of traffic flowing on our network
- Knowledge is the first step towards evaluation of potential network security issues
- Event correlation can provide us timely information about our network health

Packets Never Lie

- Packet analysis provides useful information for understanding
 - Network traffic issues
 - Network usage not compliant with network policies
(note: firewalls cannot help here)
 - Performances less than expected
 - Potential security flaws
 - Ongoing (latent) attacks
 - Data breach

Before We Start: ntopng Installation

- Source code

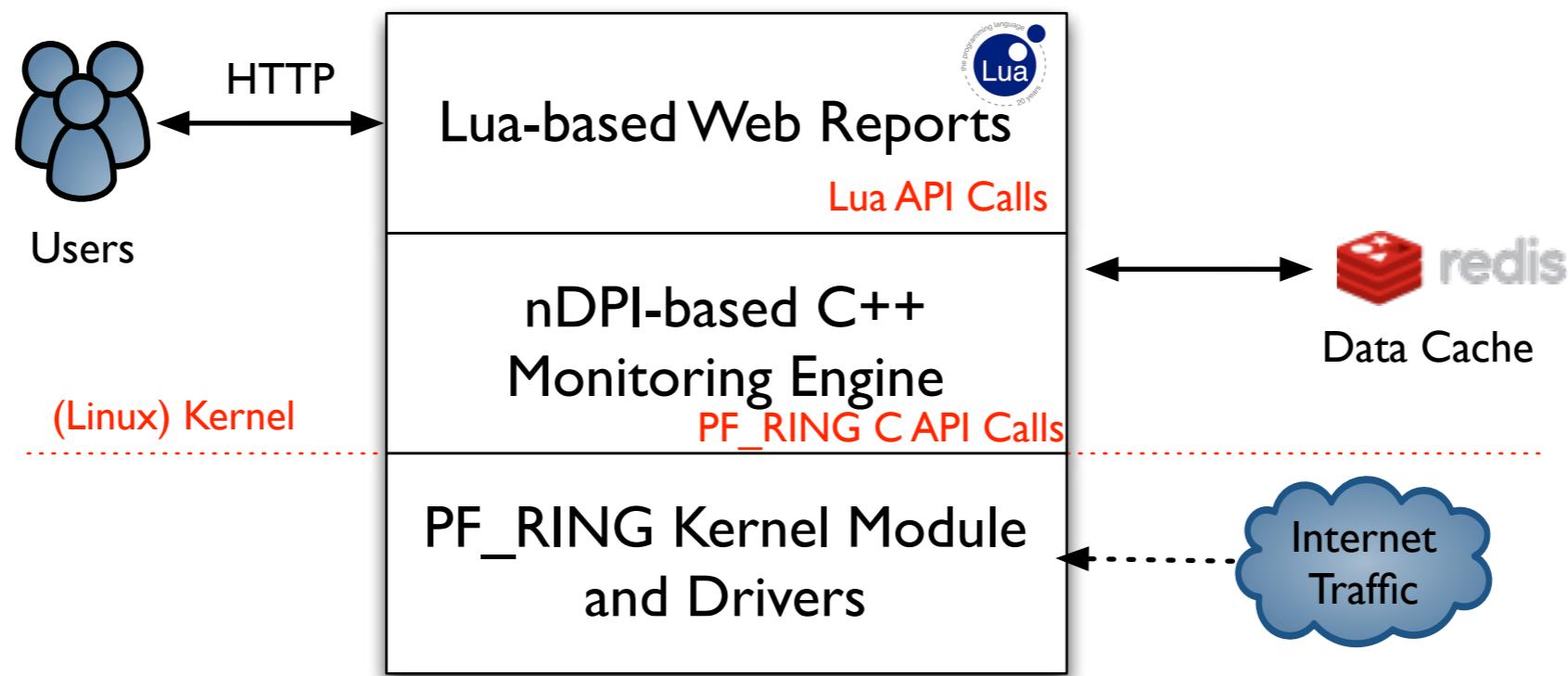
<https://github.com/ntop/ntopng>

- Binary Packages (stable and nightly)

<http://packages.ntop.org> (Debian, Ubuntu, CentOS, OSX, Raspbian (ARM), FreeBSD, Windows)

ntopng Architecture

- Three different and self-contained components, communicating with clean API calls.



Lua-based ntopng Scriptability [1/3]

- A design principle of ntopng has been the clean separation of the GUI from engine (in ntop it was all mixed)
- This means that ntopng can (also) be used (via HTTP) to feed data into third party apps such as Grafana and Nagios, just to name a few
- All data export from the engine happens via Lua
- Lua methods invoke the ntopng C++ API in order to interact with the monitoring engine

Lua-based ntopng Scriptability [2/3]

- /scripts/callback/ scripts are executed periodically to perform specific actions.
- /scripts/lua/ scripts are executed only by the web GUI.
- Example:
 - http://ntopng:3000/lua/flow_stats.lua

Name	Date Modified	Size
callbacks	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	--
daily.lua	Apr 17, 2013 1:55 PM	29 bytes
hourly.lua	Apr 17, 2013 1:55 PM	29 bytes
minute.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	5 KB
nprobe-collector.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	4 KB
second.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	2 KB
lua	Today 3:58 PM	--
about.lua	Jun 30, 2013 10:27 PM	2 KB
admin	Jun 26, 2013 11:24 PM	--
aggregated_host_details.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	6 KB
aggregated_host_stats.lua	Aug 15, 2013 4:37 PM	442 bytes
aggregated_hosts_stats.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	1 KB
db.lua	Aug 12, 2013 7:48 PM	320 bytes
do_export_data.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	765 bytes
export_data.lua	Sep 4, 2013 7:49 PM	1 KB
find_host.lua	Sep 4, 2013 7:49 PM	2 KB
flow_details.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	7 KB
flow_stats.lua	Aug 15, 2013 4:37 PM	1 KB
flows_stats.lua	Aug 15, 2013 4:37 PM	2 KB
get_aggregated_host_info.lua	Aug 15, 2013 4:37 PM	857 bytes
get_flows_data.lua	Sep 4, 2013 7:49 PM	6 KB
get_geo_hosts.lua	Sep 4, 2013 7:49 PM	2 KB
get_host_activitymap.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	505 bytes
get_host_traffic.lua	Sep 4, 2013 7:49 PM	399 bytes
get_hosts_data.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	6 KB
get_hosts_interaction.lua	Sep 30, 2013 2:15 PM	2 KB

Lua-based ntopng Scriptability [3/3]

- ntopng defines (in C++) two Lua classes:
 - interface
 - Hook to objects that describe **flows** and **hosts**.
 - Access to live monitoring data.
 - ntop
 - General functions used to interact with ntopng configuration.
- Examples
 - interface.getHostsInfo()
 - interface.getFlowsInfo()

ntopng Interfaces



Web UI: Active Flows [1/2]

http://localhost:3000/lua/flows_stats.lua

ntop

Flows

Hosts

Devices

Interfaces

Search Host

Active Flows

	Application	L4 Proto	Client	Server	Duration	Breakdown	Actual Thpt	Total Bytes	Intf	All Proto
Info	MDNS	UDP	Simones-iPhone [IPv6...]:mdns	ff02::fb:mdns	40 sec	Client	0 bit/s	660 Bytes		DHCPV6
Info	SFlow	UDP	devel 🇮🇹:39893	Simones-MBP:6343	4 min, 50 sec	Client	1.62 kbit/s	80.69 KB		Dropbox
Info	SSDP	UDP	192.168.2.136:3109	239.255.255.250:1900	0 sec	Client	0 bit/s	1.26 KB		HTTP
Info	Dropbox	UDP	Simones-MBP:17500	Broadcast:17500	4 min, 31 sec	Client	0 bit/s	2.88 KB		ICMP
Info	Dropbox	UDP	Simones-MBP:17500	192.168.2.255:17500	4 min, 31 sec	Client	0 bit/s	5.76 KB		MDNS
Info	NTP	UDP	devel 🇮🇹:ntp	91.189.89.199 🇬🇧:ntp	1 sec	Client Server	0 bit/s	180 Bytes		SSDP
Info	MDNS	UDP	Simones-iPhone:mdns	224.0.0.251:mdns	40 sec	Client	0 bit/s	560 Bytes		SSH
Info	DHCPV6	UDP	fe80::ec4:7aff:fecc:...:dhcpv6-client	ff02::1:2:dhcpv6-server	0 sec	Client	0 bit/s	98 Bytes		sFlow
Info	HTTP	TCP	Simones-MBP:55099	devel 🇮🇹:3000	0 sec	Client Server	0 bps	2.46 KB	TCP /lua/network_load.lua	
Info	HTTP	TCP	Simones-MBP:55088	devel 🇮🇹:3000	0 sec	Client Server	0 bps	2.17 KB	TCP /lua/get_host_data.lua?h...	

Showing 1 to 10 of 28 rows

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Web UI: Active Flows [2/2]

http://localhost:3000/lua/flow_details.lua

ntop

Flow: localhost:50269 ↔ localhost:3000 Overview ←

Flow Peers [Client / Server]	localhost:50269 ↔ localhost:3000	
Protocol	TCP / HTTP (7) ↗	
First / Last Seen	14/06/2017 16:01:36 [5 sec ago]	14/06/2017 16:01:36 [5 sec ago]
Total Traffic	Total: 69.11 KB	Goodput: 37.91 KB (54.86 %)
	Client → Server: 285 Pkts / 16.04 KB	Client ← Server: 285 Pkts / 53.07 KB
	localhost:50269	localhost:3000
Application Latency	41.224 ms	
Packet Inter-Arrival Time [Min / Avg / Max]	Client → Server: < 1 ms / < 1 ms / 41 ms	Client ← Server: < 1 ms / < 1 ms / 41 ms
TCP Flags	Client → Server: FIN SYN PUSH ACK	Client ← Server: FIN SYN PUSH ACK
	This flow is completed and will expire soon.	
Flow Status	Normal	
Actual / Peak Throughput	0 bit/s / 0 bit/s	_____
HTTP	HTTP Method	GET
	Server Name	localhost ↗
	URL	/lua/flows_stats.lua?app... ↗
	Response Code	200
Dump Flow Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> ↗	

Lua: Active Flows

All the flows currently active on interface eth0

```
interface.select("eth0")
local flows = interface.getFlowsInfo("192.168.1.2", pageinfo)
flows = flows["flows"]
local total = 0
local not_established = 0
for i, fl in ipairs(flows) do
    if fl["proto.14"] == "TCP" then
        total = total + 1
        if not fl["tcp_established"] then
            not_established = not_established + 1
        end
    end
end
if not_established / total > 0.1 then
    tprint("Too many flows not established")
end
```

All the active flows having this host as one endpoint

Extra filtering criteria (e.g., application protocol, sort order, number of results)

Web UI: Active Hosts [1/2]

http://localhost:3000/lua/hosts_stats.lua

ntop

Flows Hosts Devices Interfaces Settings Search Host

All Hosts

10 Filter Hosts IP Version

IP Address	Location	Flows	Alerts	Name	Seen Since	ASN	Breakdown	Throughput	Traffic
192.168.2.222	Local Host	37	0	devel	11 min, 51 sec		Sent Rcvd	8.08 kbit/s	32.5 MB
192.168.2.130	Local Host	37	0	Simones-MBP [MACBOOKPRO-5E24]	11 min, 51 sec		S Rcvd	6.51 kbit/s	17.09 MB
216.58.198.3	Remote Host	1	0	216.58.198.3	6 min, 12 sec	Google Inc.	Sent Rcvd	1.57 kbit/s	69 KB
192.168.2.136	Local Host	1	0	192.168.2.136	11 min, 34 sec		Sent	228.8 bit/s	12.9 KB
239.255.255.250	Remote Host	3	0	239.255.255.250	5 min, 46 sec		Rcvd	228.8 bit/s	14.32 KB
224.0.0.253	Remote Host	1	0	224.0.0.253	22 sec		Rcvd	0 bit/s	82 Bytes
91.189.89.199	Remote Host	1	0	91.189.89.199	1 min, 28 sec	Canonical Ltd	Sent Rcvd	0 bit/s	180 Bytes
255.255.255.255	Remote Host	1	0	Broadcast	5 min, 59 sec		Rcvd	0 bit/s	3.46 KB
fe80::c1d7:f8cc:e44b:c6fd	Local Host	0	0	OFFICE-WIN10-VM [IPv6]	10 min, 45 sec		Sent	0 bit/s	2.45 KB
fe80::ff:89d0:171e:8138	Local Host	0	0	Simones-iPhone [IPv6]	11 min, 50 sec		Sent	0 bit/s	2.18 KB

Showing 1 to 10 of 20 rows

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Web UI: Active Hosts [2/2]

http://localhost:3000/lua/host_details.lua

The screenshot shows the ntop Web UI interface for host 192.168.2.222. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Traffic, Packets, Ports, Peers, ICMP, Protocols, Activity, DNS, HTTP (with 1 notification), Flows, SNMP, Talkers, and a search bar. Below the navigation is a toolbar with icons for alert, graph, file, settings, and back/forward.

(Router/AccessPoint) MAC Address	SuperMic_D4:CC:F9 (00:25:90:D4:CC:F9)					
Host SNMP Localization 🔗 NOTE: Hosts are located in SNMP devices using the Bridge MIB .	SNMP Device	Device Port				
	192.168.2.169	3 Idx 3				
IP Address	192.168.2.222 🔗 [192.168.2.0/24]	Host Pool: office 🔗				
Name	devel 🔗 Local Host System IP 🔗					
First / Last Seen	18/05/2017 12:01:51 [12 min, 23 sec ago]	18/05/2017 12:14:11 [3 sec ago]				
Sent vs Received Traffic Breakdown	<table border="1"><tr><td>Sent</td><td>Rcvd</td></tr><tr><td>22,823 Pkts / 16.02 MB ↑</td><td>33,267 Pkts / 16.69 MB ↑</td></tr></table>		Sent	Rcvd	22,823 Pkts / 16.02 MB ↑	33,267 Pkts / 16.69 MB ↑
Sent	Rcvd					
22,823 Pkts / 16.02 MB ↑	33,267 Pkts / 16.69 MB ↑					
Traffic Sent / Received	22,823 Pkts / 16.02 MB ↑	33,267 Pkts / 16.69 MB ↑				
Active Flows / Total Active / Low Goodput	'As Client'	'As Server'				
	35 - / 157 - / 0 -	37 - / 1,144 ↑ / 0 -				
TCP Packets Sent Analysis	Retransmissions	6 Pkts -				
	Out of Order	3 Pkts -				
	Lost	0 Pkts -				
Further Host Names/Information	192.168.2.222					
JSON	Download					

Lua: Active Hosts

```
function getTopInterfaceHosts (howmany)
    local hosts_stats = interface.getHostsInfo () ← All the hosts currently active on
    hosts_stats = hosts_stats["hosts"]
    local ret = {}
    local sortTable = {}

    for k,v in pairs(hosts_stats) do
        sortTable[k] = v["bytes.sent"] + v["bytes.rcvd"]
    end

    local n = 0
    for _v,k in pairsByValues(sortTable, rev) do
        if(n < howmany) then
            ret[_v] = hosts_stats[_v]
            n = n+1
        else
            break
        end
    end

    return (ret)
end
```

ntopng

Data Integrations with Third-Party Tools



Supported Third-Party Tools

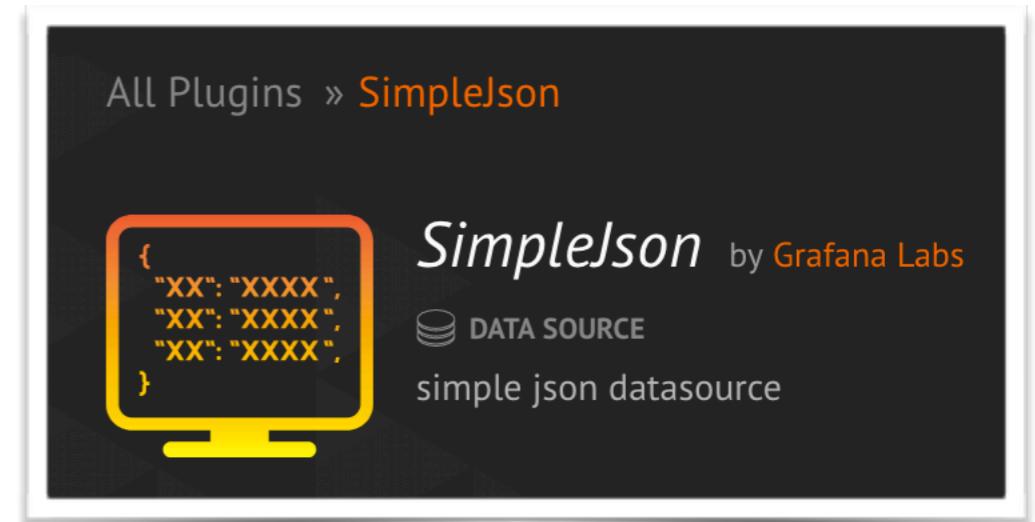
- Timeseries
 - RRDs
 - Grafana
 - Prometheus (wip)
- Flows
 - MySQL/MariaDB
 - ElasticSearch
 - Logstash



- Platform for monitor (and alert on) metrics
- Storage-platform agnostic
 - Abstractions with Datasource plugins
- Flexible data visualizations
 - Custom (exportable) dashboards
 - Reusable dashboard building blocks (Panel plugins)
- Support for 30+ storage platforms
 - Influxdb
 - Prometheus
 - SNAP
 - etc.

ntopng + Grafana

- ntopng exposes interface and host metrics to Grafana
 - Throughput (bps and pps)
 - Application protocols (Facebook, Youtube, etc)
- Compatible with SimpleJson plugin by Grafana Labs
- SimpleJson plugin extended to support basic authentication
 - Fork: <https://github.com/simonemainardi/simple-json-datasource>
 - PR: <https://github.com/grafana/simple-json-datasource/pull/66>



ntopng Grafana Exposed Metrics

- **Traffic**
 - interface_<interface name>_traffic_bps
 - interface_<interface name>_traffic_total_bytes
 - interface_<interface name>_traffic_pps
 - interface_<interface name>_traffic_total_packets
 - host_<host ip>_interface_<interface name>_traffic_bps
 - host_<host ip>_interface_<interface name>_traffic_total_bytes
- **Interface Layer-7 Application Protocols**
 - interface_<interface_name>_allprotocols_bps
 - host_<host ip>_interface_<interface_name>_allprotocols_bps
- **Examples**
 - interface_eth0_allprotocols_bps
 - host_192.168.1.2_interface_eth0_traffic_bps

Grafana ntopng Datasource

Just a name to identify the datasource

Datasource plugin is SimpleJson

http endpoint is
<ntopng host>:<port>/lua/modules/grafana

A user/password pair as created in ntopng

The screenshot shows the 'Edit data source' dialog in Grafana. The 'Name' field is set to 'ntopngDatasource'. The 'Type' field is set to 'SimpleJson'. Under 'Http settings', the 'Url' is 'http://127.0.0.1:3000/lua/modules/grafana'. The 'Access' setting is 'direct'. In the 'Http Auth' section, 'Basic Auth' is selected, and the 'With Credentials' checkbox is checked. Under 'Basic Auth Details', the 'User' is 'admin' and the 'Password' is masked. A green success message at the bottom states 'Data source is working'. Red arrows point from the explanatory text boxes on the left to the corresponding configuration fields in the dialog.

Edit data source

Name	ntopngDatasource	<small>i</small>	<small>Default</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Type	SimpleJson			

Http settings

Url	http://127.0.0.1:3000/lua/modules/grafana	<small>i</small>
Access	direct	<small>i</small>

Http Auth

Basic Auth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With Credentials	<small>i</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>
------------	-------------------------------------	------------------	------------------	--------------------------

Basic Auth Details

User	admin
Password

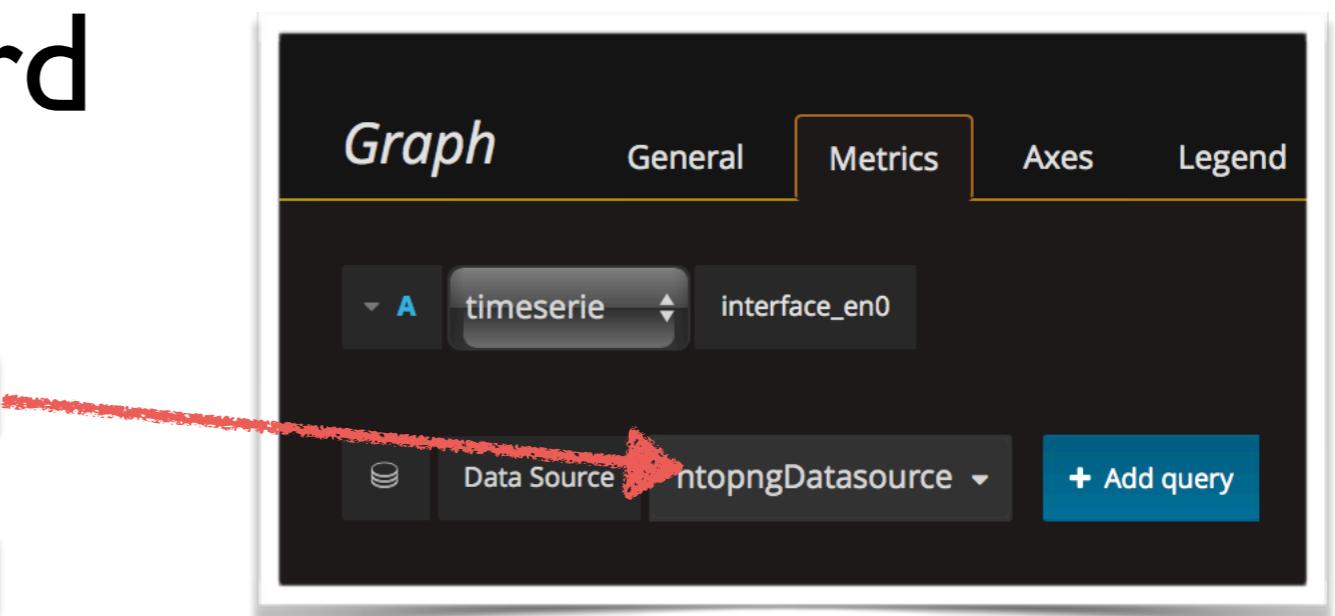
Success
Data source is working

Save & Test Delete Cancel

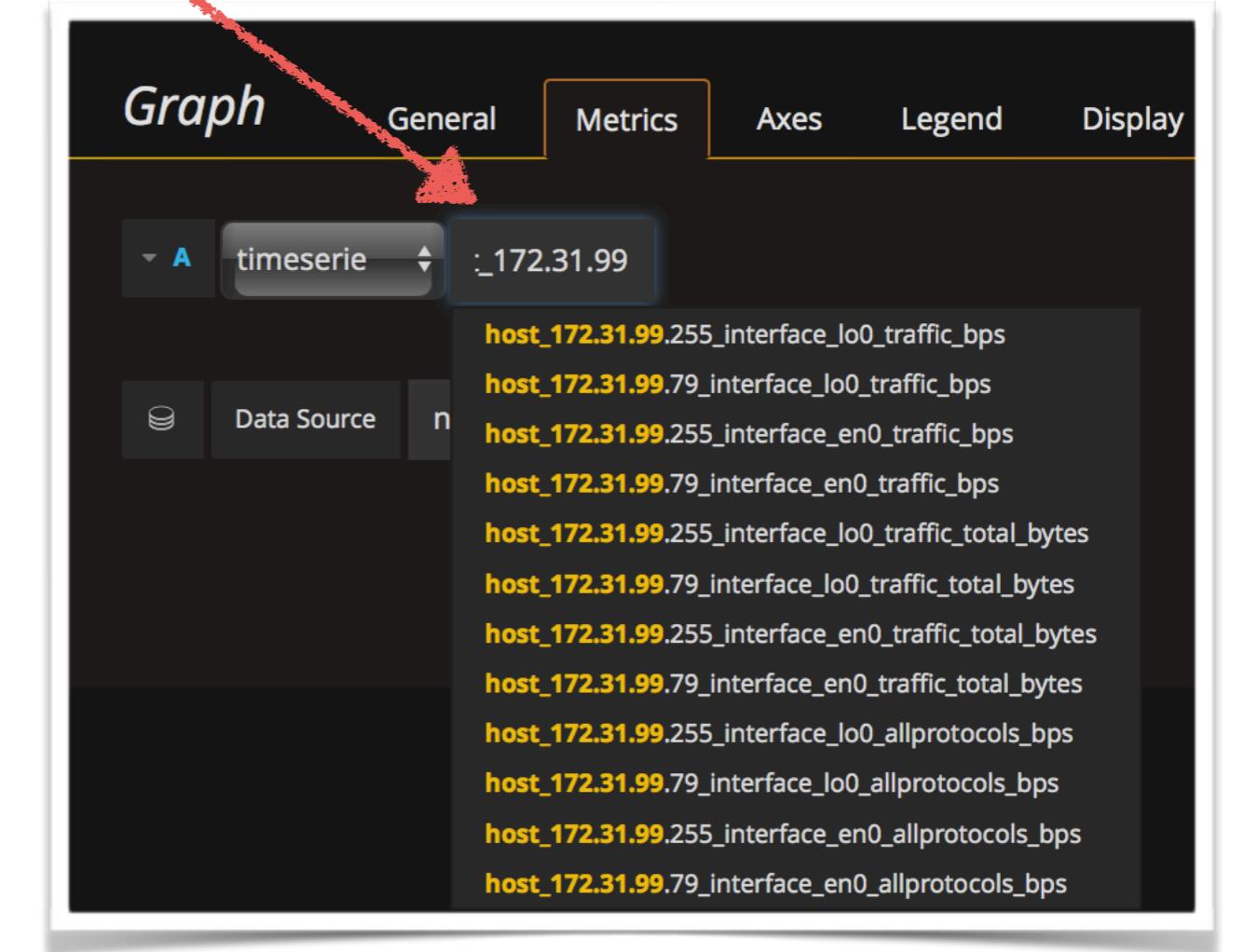
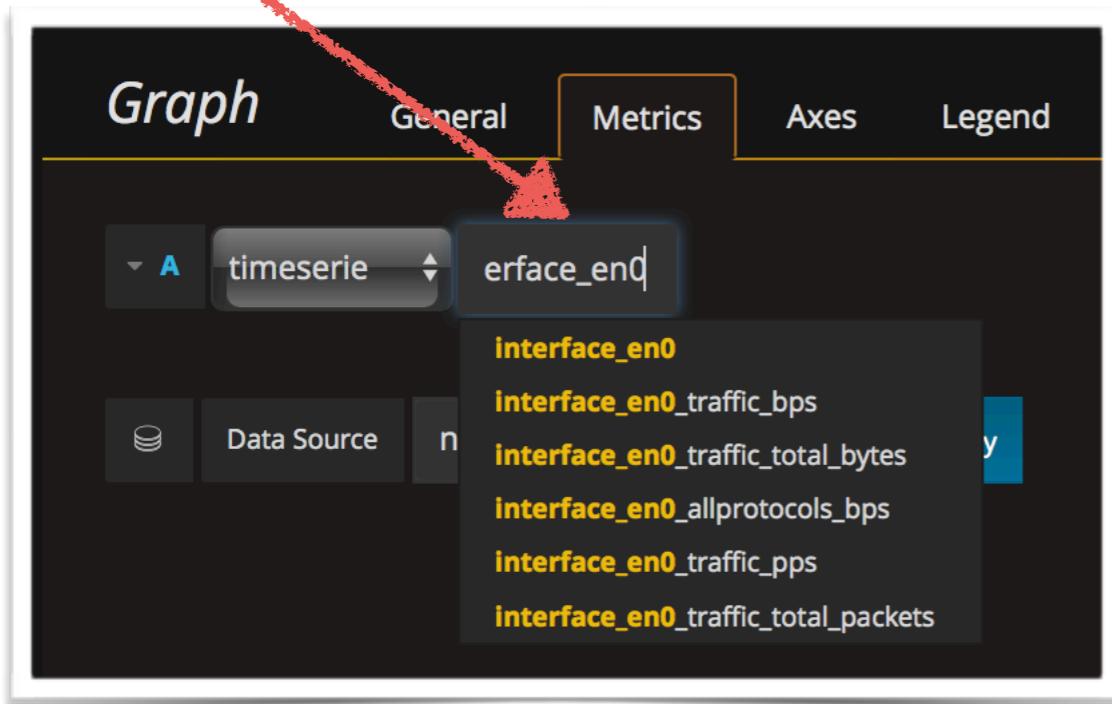
Grafana Dashboard

Graph Panel

Select the ntopng datasource



Start typing to get the list of available metrics



Setup of a Traffic Dashboard Graph Panel

The screenshot shows the Grafana interface for setting up a traffic dashboard graph panel. The top navigation bar includes tabs for **Graph**, General, Metrics, Axes (highlighted in orange), Legend, Display, Alert, and Time range.

Axes Tab:

- Left Y:** Show checked, Unit is empty, Scale is none, Y-Min is empty, Label is empty.
- Right Y:** Show checked, Unit is empty, Scale is none, Y-Min is empty, Label is empty. A red arrow points from the "bits/sec" option in the dropdown to this section.
- X-Axis:** Show checked, Mode is Time, Time range is 12 hours.

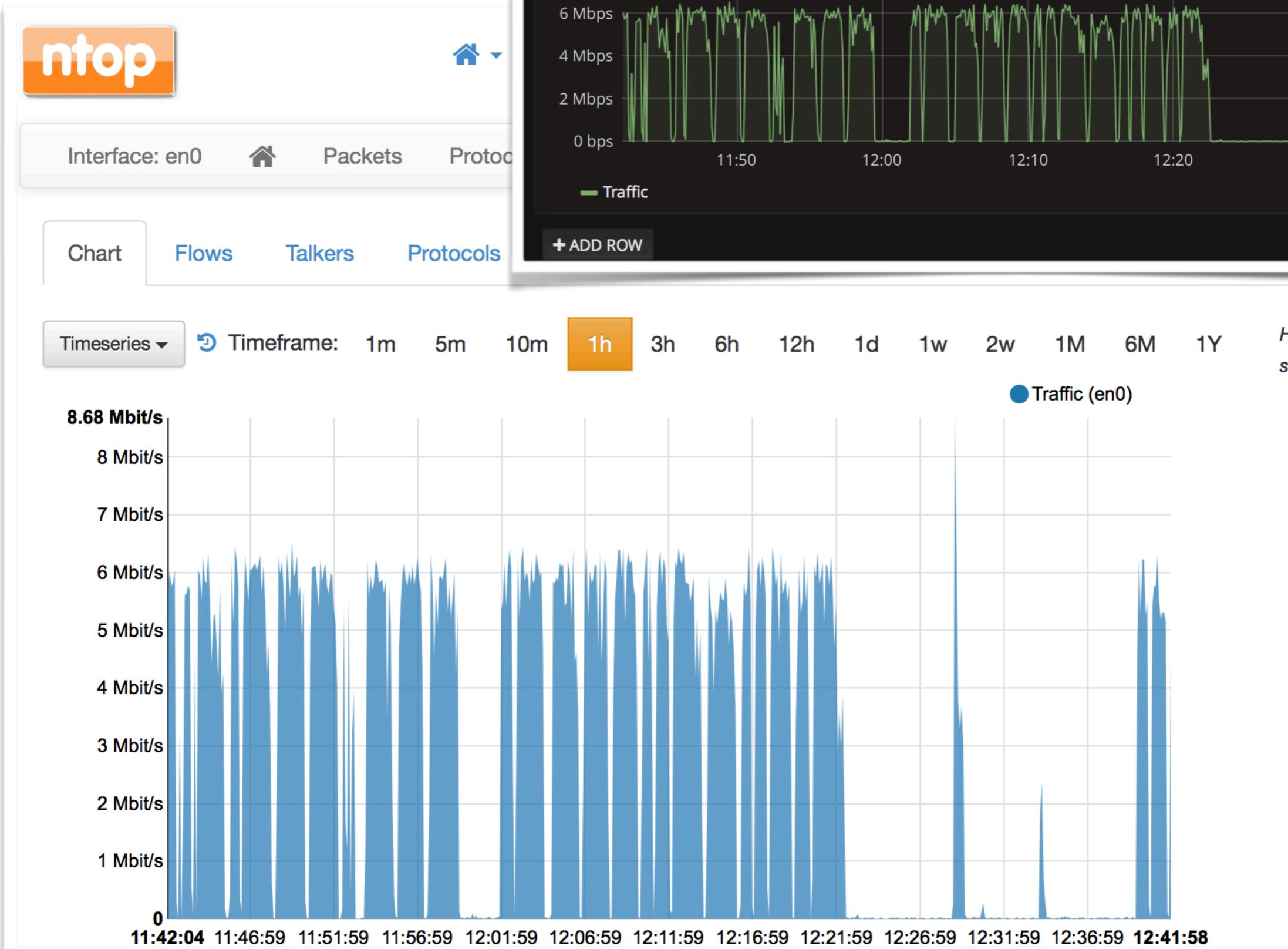
A callout box with a red border and arrow points to the Right Y unit dropdown with the text: "Pick the metric and set the proper unit of measure (bps == bits/sec)".

Metrics Tab:

- Graph tab selected.
- General tab: Title is "Traffic", Description is "The traffic rate, expressed in bits per second, of the network interface". A red arrow points from the "Transparent" checkbox in the Dimensions section to this area.
- Metrics tab: Data Source is "ntopngDatasource", Timeserie is "interface_en0_traffic_bps".
- Axes tab: General tab selected.
- Legend tab: General tab selected.

A callout box with a red border and arrow points to the Metrics tab with the text: "Set a name and a description for the chart".

A Traffic Dashboard Graph Panel

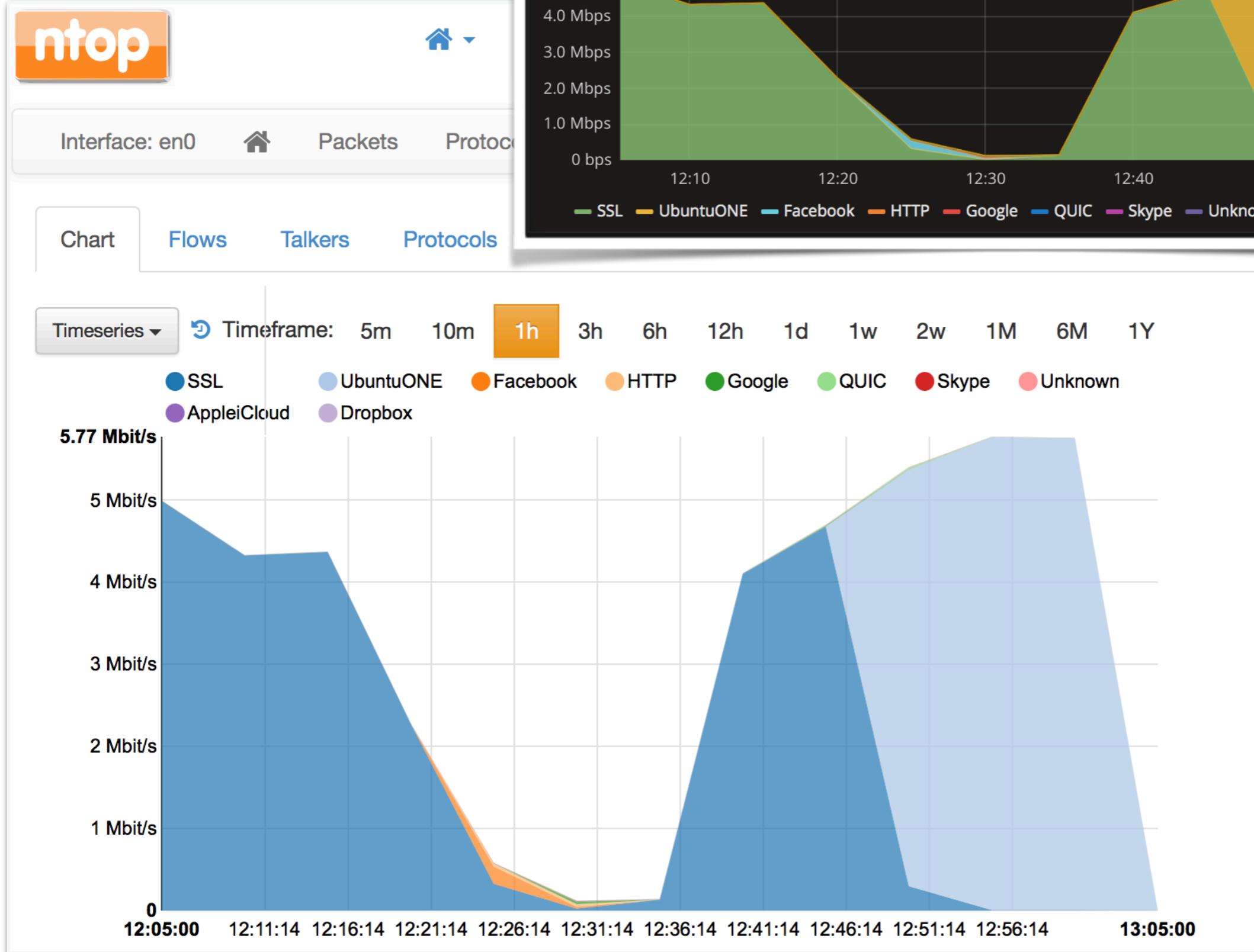


Setup of an All Protocols Traffic Graph Panel

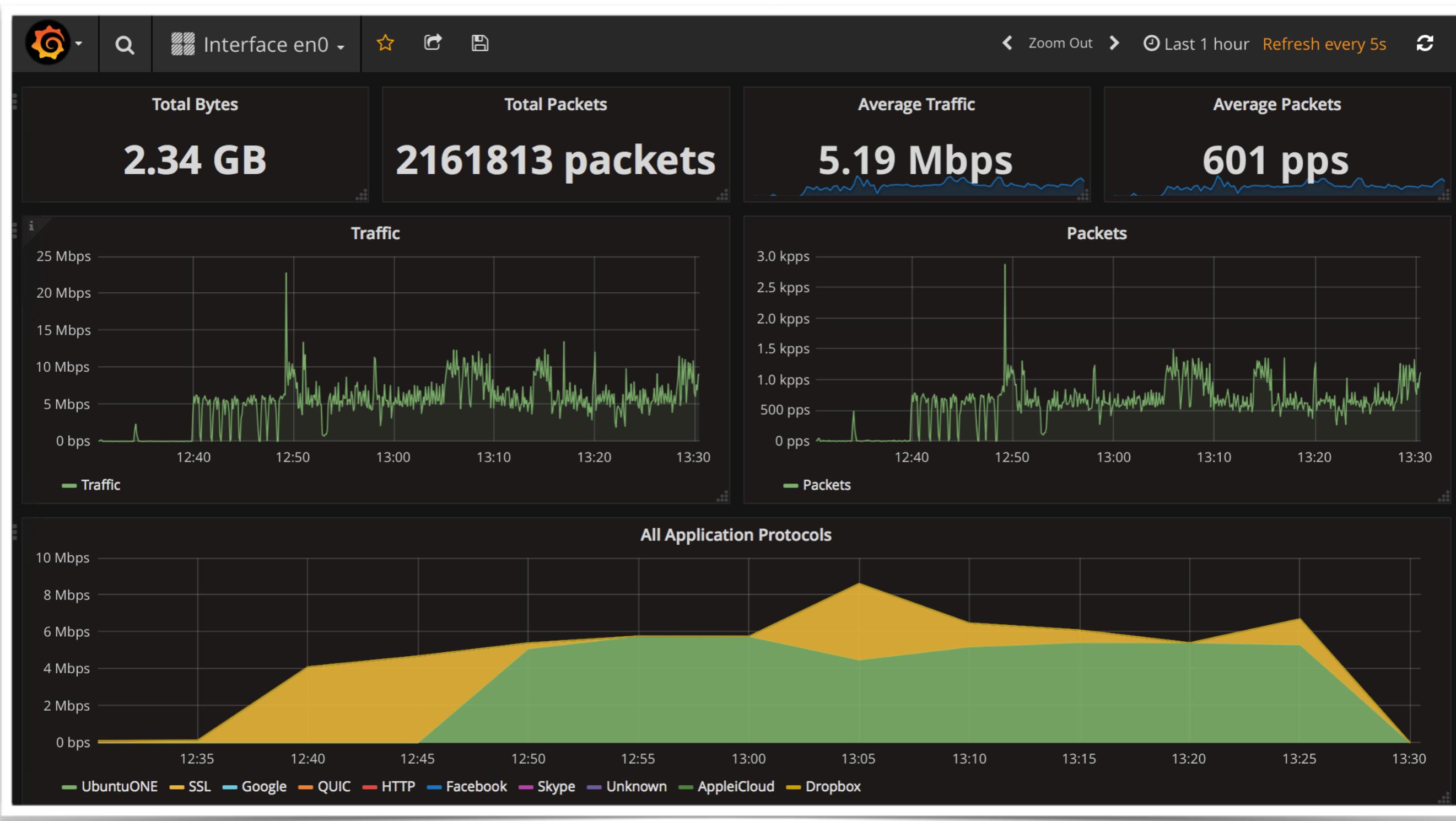
The screenshot shows the Grafana interface with the 'Graph' tab selected. A dropdown menu is open under the 'Axes' tab, specifically for the 'Left Y' axis. The 'Show' checkbox is checked, and the 'Unit' dropdown is set to 'bps'. A red arrow points from the 'unit' dropdown to a callout box that reads: 'Pick the metric and set the proper unit of measure (bps == bits/sec)'. Another red arrow points from the 'timeserie' dropdown in the main panel to a callout box that reads: 'Stack the timeseries to have a more meaningful y-axis'. The main panel also shows the timeserie 'interface_en0_all' and the metric 'interface_en0_allprotocols_bps'.

The screenshot shows the Grafana interface with the 'Display' tab selected. The 'Stacking & Null value' section is highlighted with a red arrow. It contains three checkboxes: 'Stack' (checked), 'Percent' (unchecked), and 'Null value' (unchecked). Other sections visible include 'Draw options', 'Draw Modes' (with 'Lines' checked), 'Mode Options' (with 'Fill' set to 9), 'Hover tooltip' (with 'Mode' set to 'All series'), and 'Time range'.

An All Protocols Traffic Graph Panel



A Full ntopng Grafana Dashboard





logstash

- Pipeline to ingest, parse, enrich, transform, and stash data
- Flexible ingestion thanks to the input plugins
 - Kafka
 - Graphite
 - Varnish
 - Syslog
 - etc.
- Enrichments and aggregations thanks to filter and codec plugins
 - Pattern matching
 - Geolocation
- Downstream route of data
 - ElasticSearch
 - HDFS
 - MongoDB
 - etc.

ntopng + logstash

- ntopng asynchronously delivers network flows to logstash
 - Source and destination ip address
 - Source and destination ports
 - Layer-7 application protocol
 - etc.
- Data encoded as JSON

A Basic Logstash Pipeline Configuration

```
input {  
    tcp {  
        host => "192.168.20.42"  
        port => 5510  
        codec => json  
        type => "ntopng-ls"  
    }  
}  
  
# The filter part of this file is commented out to indicate that it is  
# optional.  
# filter {  
#  
# }
```



```
output {  
    if [type] == "ntopng-ls" {  
        stdout { codec => rubydebug }  
    }  
}
```

Expected protocol

Listen address and port

Expected data encoding

Just a dummy write-to-stdout

ntopng + Logstash: Starting Logstash

```
/usr/share/logstash$ sudo ./bin/logstash \
-f /home/simone/logstash.conf \
--path.settings /etc/logstash
```

Pipeline configuration file

Path to the other settings
files (logstash.yml,
jvm.options, etc)

```
netstat -polenta | grep 5510
tcp6      0      0 192.168.20.42:5510      ::::*
LISTEN    0            195348          9822/java        off  (0.00/0/0)
```

ntopng + Logstash: Starting ntopng

```
ntopng -i en0 -i lo0 \
       -F"logstash;192.168.20.42;tcp;5510"
```

Monitored interfaces

Logstash address, protocol, and port

Logstash Output Data

```
{  
    "type" => "ntopng-ls",  
    "L7_PROTO" => 7,  
    "OUT_PKTS" => 16,  
    "HTTP_URL" => "/lua/modules/grafana/query",  
    "NTOPNG_INSTANCE_NAME" => "Simones-MBP",  
    "INTERFACE" => "lo0",  
    "@version" => "1",  
    "host" => "192.168.20.39",  
    "TCP_FLAGS" => 27,  
    "CLIENT_NW_LATENCY_MS" => 0.009,  
    "HTTP_RET_CODE" => 200,  
    "PROTOCOL" => 6,  
    "LAST_SWITCHED" => 1497300991,  
    "IPV4_DST_ADDR" => "127.0.0.1",  
    "OUT_BYTES" => 3617,  
    "L7_PROTO_NAME" => "HTTP",  
    "HTTP_HOST" => "127.0.0.1",  
    "L4_DST_PORT" => 3000,  
    "SERVER_NW_LATENCY_MS" => 0.035,  
    "@timestamp" => 2017-06-12T20:56:39.074Z,  
    "ntop_timestamp" => "2017-06-12T20:56:31.0Z",  
    "IPV4_SRC_ADDR" => "127.0.0.1",  
    "IN_PKTS" => 16,  
    "IN_BYTES" => 1880,  
    "port" => 63212,  
    "L4_SRC_PORT" => 63321,  
    "HTTP_METHOD" => "POST",  
    "FIRST_SWITCHED" => 1497300991  
}
```

Take Home

- ntopng is Lua-scriptable network monitoring tool
 - Continuously monitors hosts and flows
 - Saves/exports metrics and flows
- Several third-party integrations including
 - Grafana
 - Logstash
 - Prometheus and SNAP under development
- Scriptability and ability to communicate over a network pave the way for visually unlimited third-party integrations