2025 Winter Webinar



Webinar Outline

- New Software Releases
- What's new in nProbe and nProbe Cento
- What's new in ntopng
- AS Monitoring
- What's new in nDPI

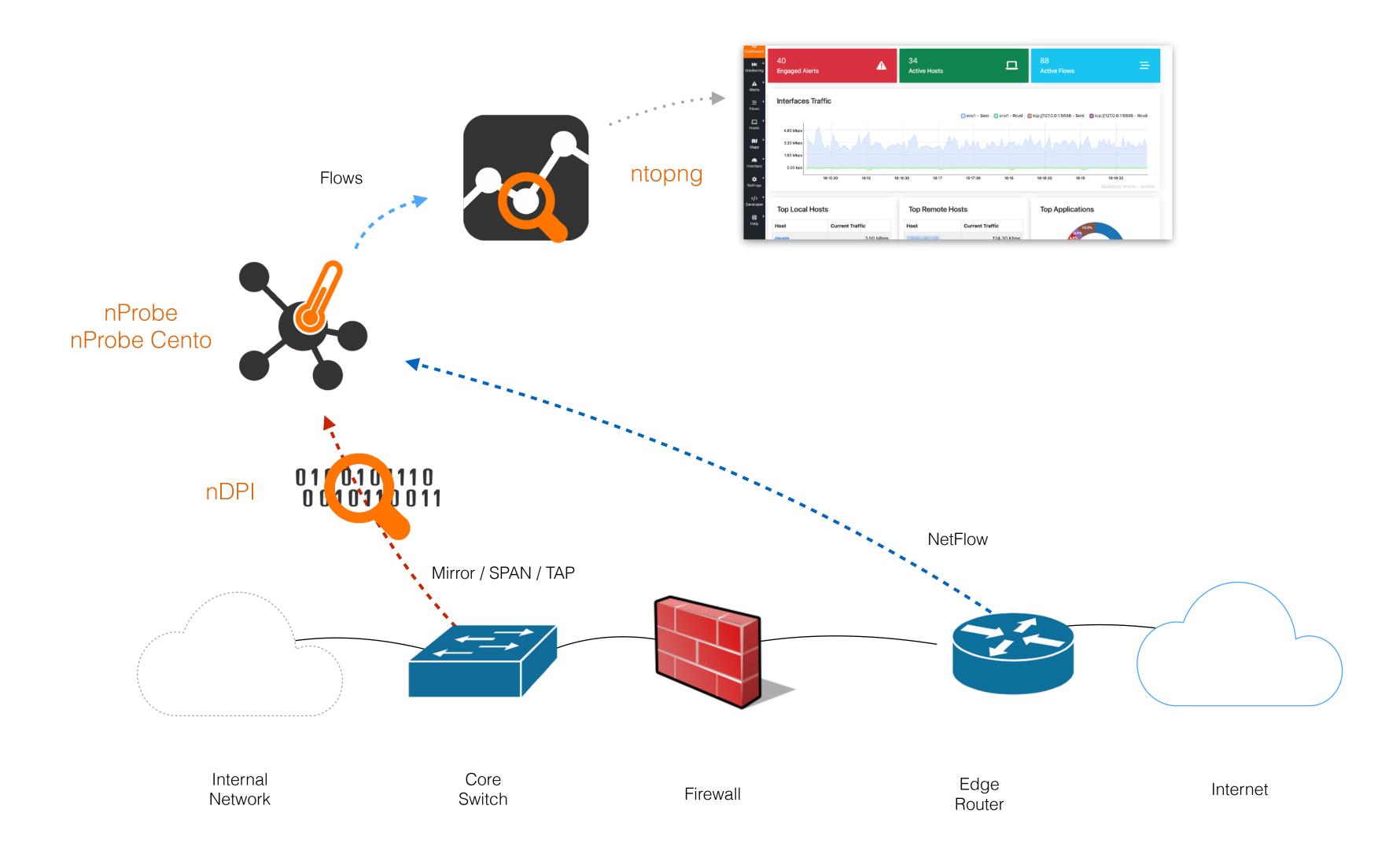


New Software Releases

- ntopng 6.6
- nProbe 11.0
- Cento 2.4
- nDPI 5.0
- PF_RING 9.2
- nScrub 1.8



Ecosystem





nProbe 11.0



What's New in nProbe

- Focus on Consolidating Existing Features
- Enhanced TCP Flags Analysis and State Tracking
- Mobile Traffic Improvements
 - Improved GTP-C/GTP-U Correlation
 - Fragmented Traffic Support with Complex Encapsulations
- Reworked Flow Swapping Logic and Heuristics
- Extended Exporters Support (Up to 512!)



Cento 2.4



What's New in Cento [Features]

- Template-based flow serialization with JSON/TLV export over ZMQ/Kafka and CSV/text dump (it used to be a fixed template)
- Enhanced TCP flags analysis and state tracking
- Mobile traffic improvements
 - Support for GTP with many different encapsulations
 - Improved GTP-C/GTP-U correlation (with nProbe cache)
- Probe monitoring/statistics for all export modes via dedicated endpoint (ZMQ) or topic (Kafka)



What's New in Cento [IEs]

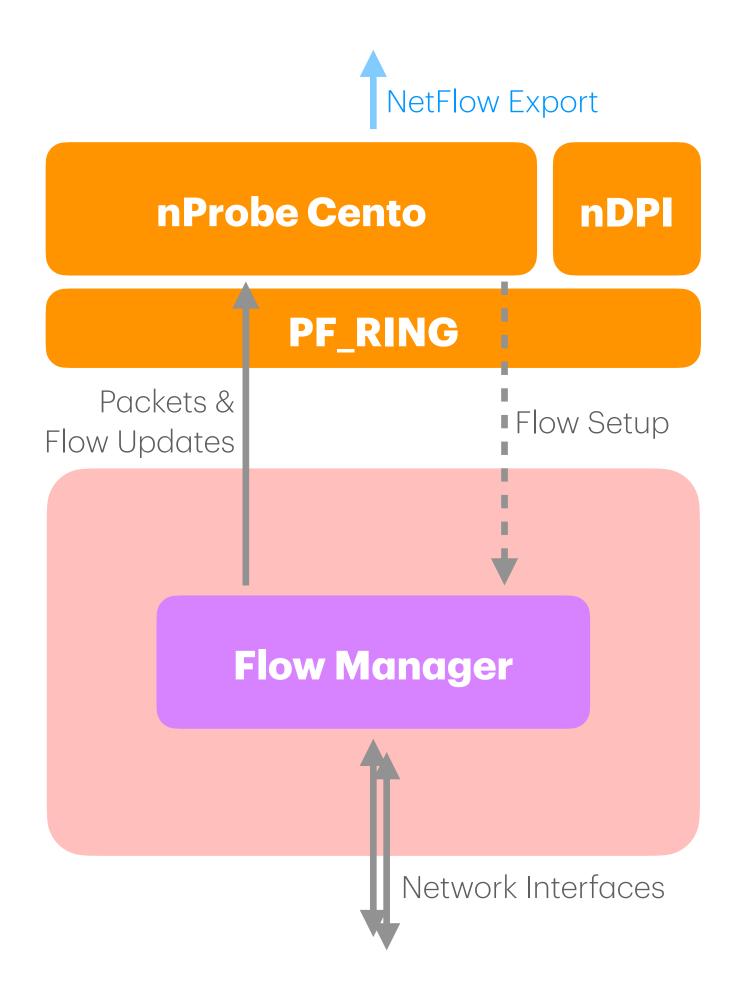
 Many more Information Elements (extended for full compatibility with the default nProbe template)

%BIFLOW_DIRECTION %CLIENT_NW_LATENCY_MS %CLIENT_TCP_FLAGS %DIRECTION %DNS_NUM_ANSWERS %DNS_QUERY %DNS_QUERY_ID %DNS_QUERY_TYPE %DNS_RESPONSE %DNS_RET_CODE %DNS_TTL_ANSWER %DOWNSTREAM_TUNNEL_ID %DST_AS %DST_AS_MAP %DST_IP_CITY %DST_IP_COUNTRY %DST_MAC %DST_TOS %DST_TO_SRC_BYTES %DST_TO_SRC_PKTS %DST_VLAN %EXPORTER_IPV4_ADDRESS %FIRST_SWITCHED %FLOW_DOMAIN_NAME %FLOW_DURATION_MILLISECONDS %FLOW_END_MILLISECONDS %FLOW_SERVER_NAME %FLOW_START_MILLISECONDS %FLOW_USER_NAME %FLOW_UUID %HASSH_CLIENT %HASSH_SERVER %HTTP_HOST %HTTP_RET_CODE %HTTP_URL %HTTP_USER_AGENT %ICMP_TYPE %INPUT_SNMP %IN_BYTES %IN_PKTS %IPV4_DST_ADDR %IPV4_SRC_ADDR %IPV6_DST_ADDR %IPV6_SRC_ADDR %IP_DST_ADDR %IP_PROTOCOL_VERSION %IP_SRC_ADDR %JA4C_HASH %L4_DST_PORT %L4_SRC_PORT %L7_APP_PROTOCOL %L7_APP_PROTOCOL_NAME %L7_CONFIDENCE %L7_PROTO %L7_PROTO_CATEGORY %L7_PROTO_NAME %L7_PROTO_RISK %L7_RISK_INFO %L7_RISK_SCORE %L7_SERVICE %L7_SERVICE_NAME %LAST_SWITCHED %NPROBE_SOURCE_ID %OOORDER_IN_PKTS %OOORDER_OUT_PKTS **%OUTPUT_SNMP %OUT_BYTES %OUT_PKTS %PROTOCOL %QOE_DST_TO_SRC %QOE_SRC_TO_DST** %RETRANSMITTED_IN_PKTS %RETRANSMITTED_OUT_PKTS %RTP_IN_PAYLOAD_TYPE %RTP_OUT_PAYLOAD_TYPE "SERVER_NW_LATENCY_MS "SERVER_TCP_FLAGS "SRC_AS "SRC_AS_MAP "SRC_IP_CITY "SRC_IP_COUNTRY "SRC_MAC "SRC_TOS "SRC_TO_DST_BYTES "SRC_TO_DST_PKTS "SRC_VLAN "TCP_FLAGS "TCP_STATS_DST_TO_SRC %TCP STATS SRC TO DST %TLS ALPN %TLS CERT AFTER %TLS CERT ISSUER DN %TLS CERT NOT BEFORE %TLS_CERT_SHA1 %TLS_CERT_SUBJECT_DN %TLS_CIPHER %TLS_REQUESTED_SNI %TLS_SERVER_NAME %TLS_SERVER_NAMES %TLS_UNSAFE_CIPHER %TLS_VERSION %UNIQUE_SOURCE_ID %UPSTREAM_TUNNEL_ID



What's New in Cento [Offloads]

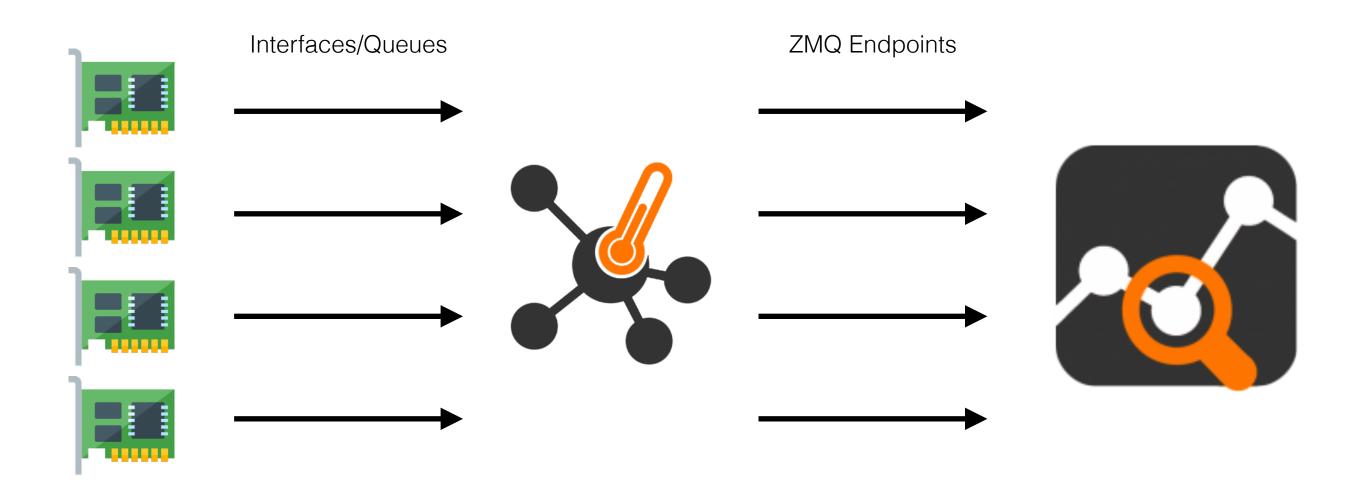
- Consolidated flow offload with Napatech Flow Manager
 - Implemented flow slicing (interim updates) for long-living flows





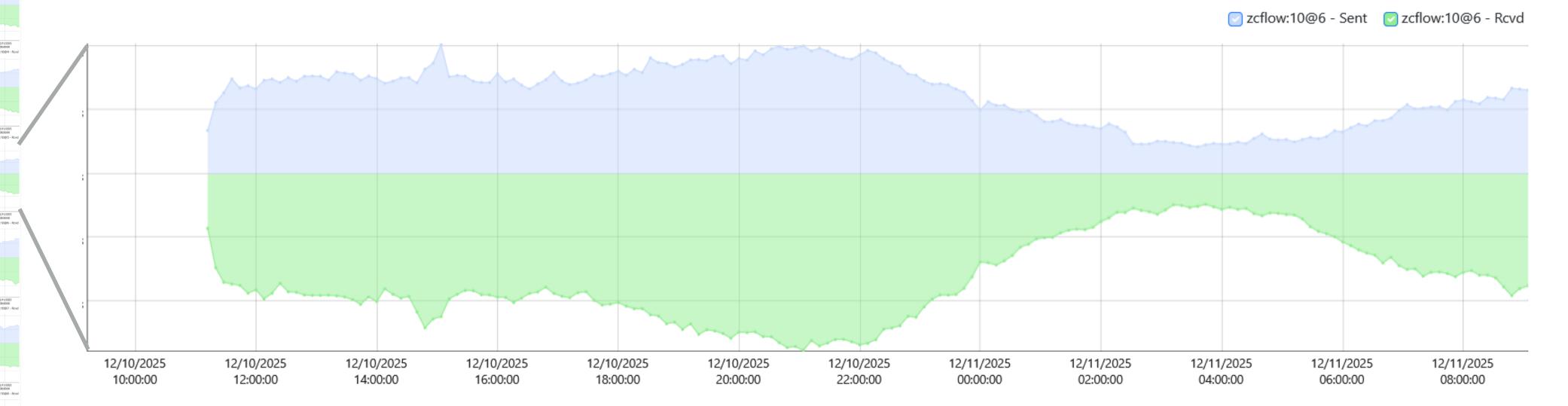
What's New in Cento [Scalability]

ZMQ direct interface to endpoint mapping, useful when scaling up



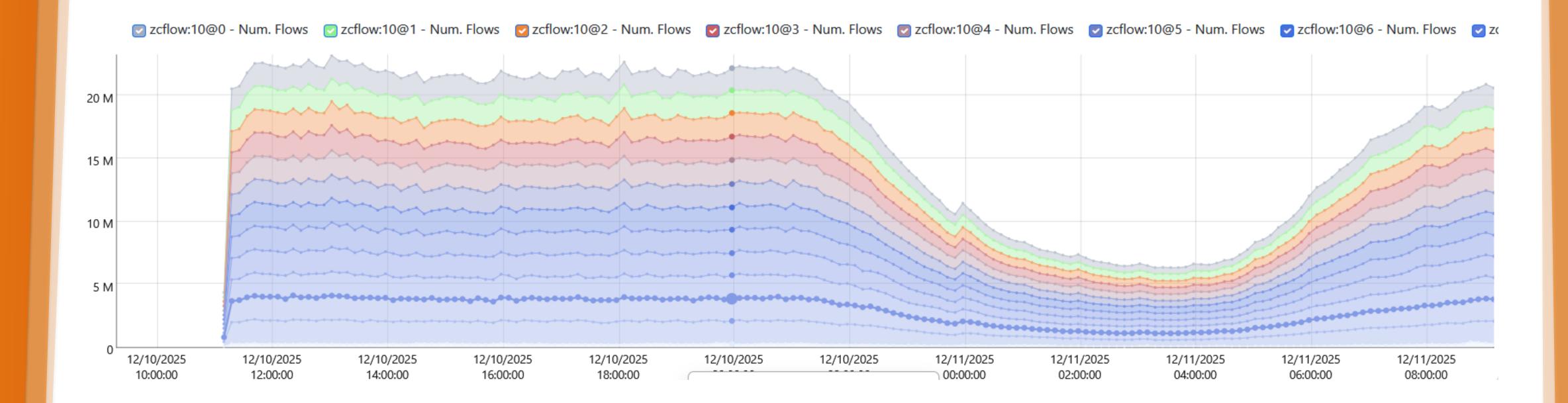


Offload + RSS + Direct ZMQ





Combined Flow Rate





ntopng 6.6



SNMP

- What was the upper limit of devices?
- More and more people have huge networks or many small devices (or both), and require to poll a huge number of those
- What's the role of the various interfaces of a Router?
 Do they talk with the Internet? Or just talk internally with the network?



SNMP Improvements...

 A lot of improvements where done in order to upgrade the SNMP Polling performances... More devices in less time

Now up to 500 SNMP devices polled per 5 minutes!



SNMP Improvements...

Optimized caching and names lookup

This also vastly improved the performances of the GUI

 Added the possibility to tag Interfaces with various roles (Internet Exchange, Internal LAN, ...)

Flow Exporter	Interface Name	Role ▼	Bytes Sent	Bytes Rcvd
devele	eno2 (2)	IX (Internet Exchange)	2.44 KB	0.00 B
devele	enp5s0f1 (7)	Internal LAN	0.00 B	58.27 KB



...and Integrated into Assets

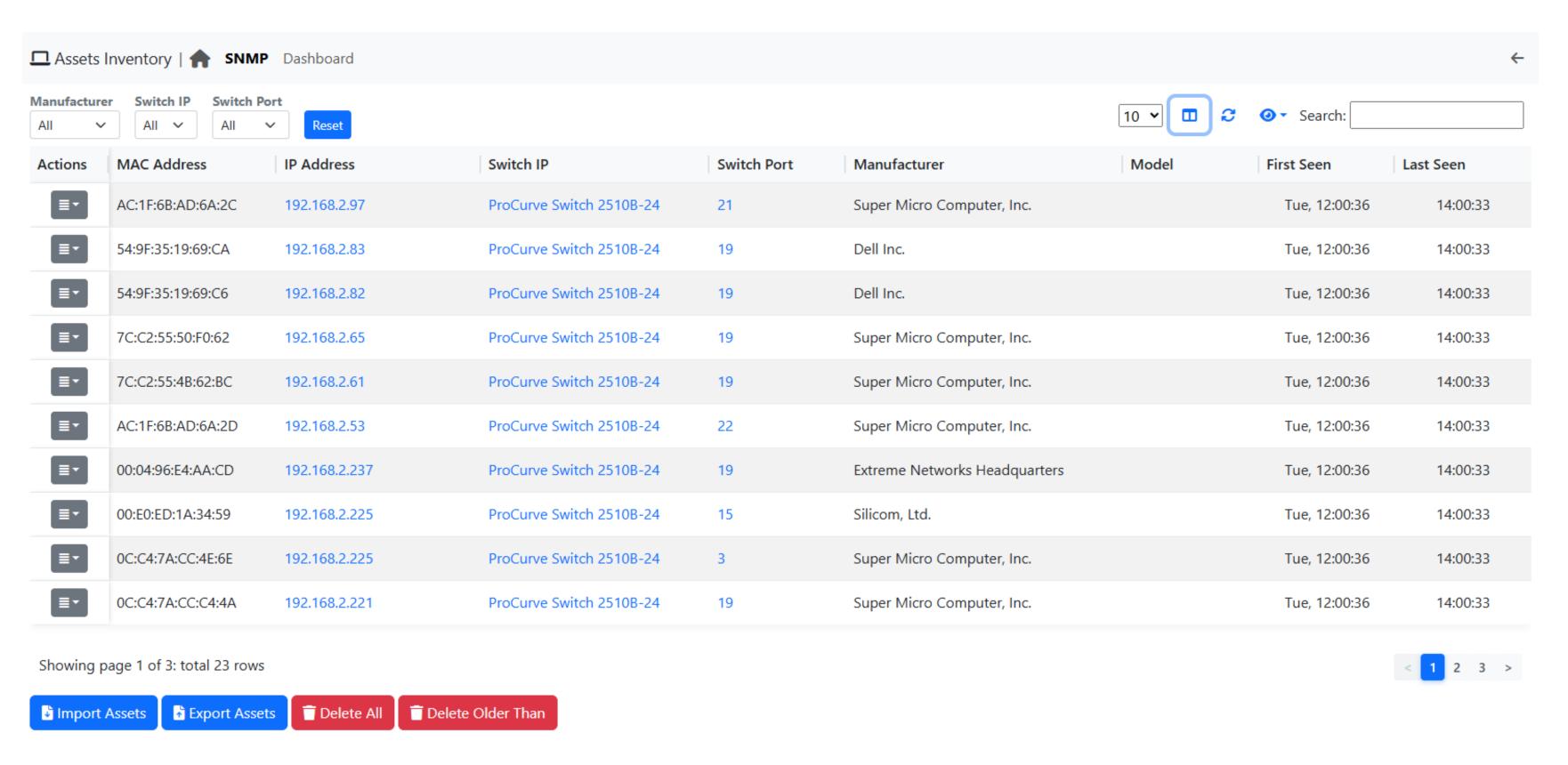
 Assets, know your network: monitoring can't happen without contextual information.

 With the SNMP Bridge MIB it is possible to know each MAC Address that passed through each interface

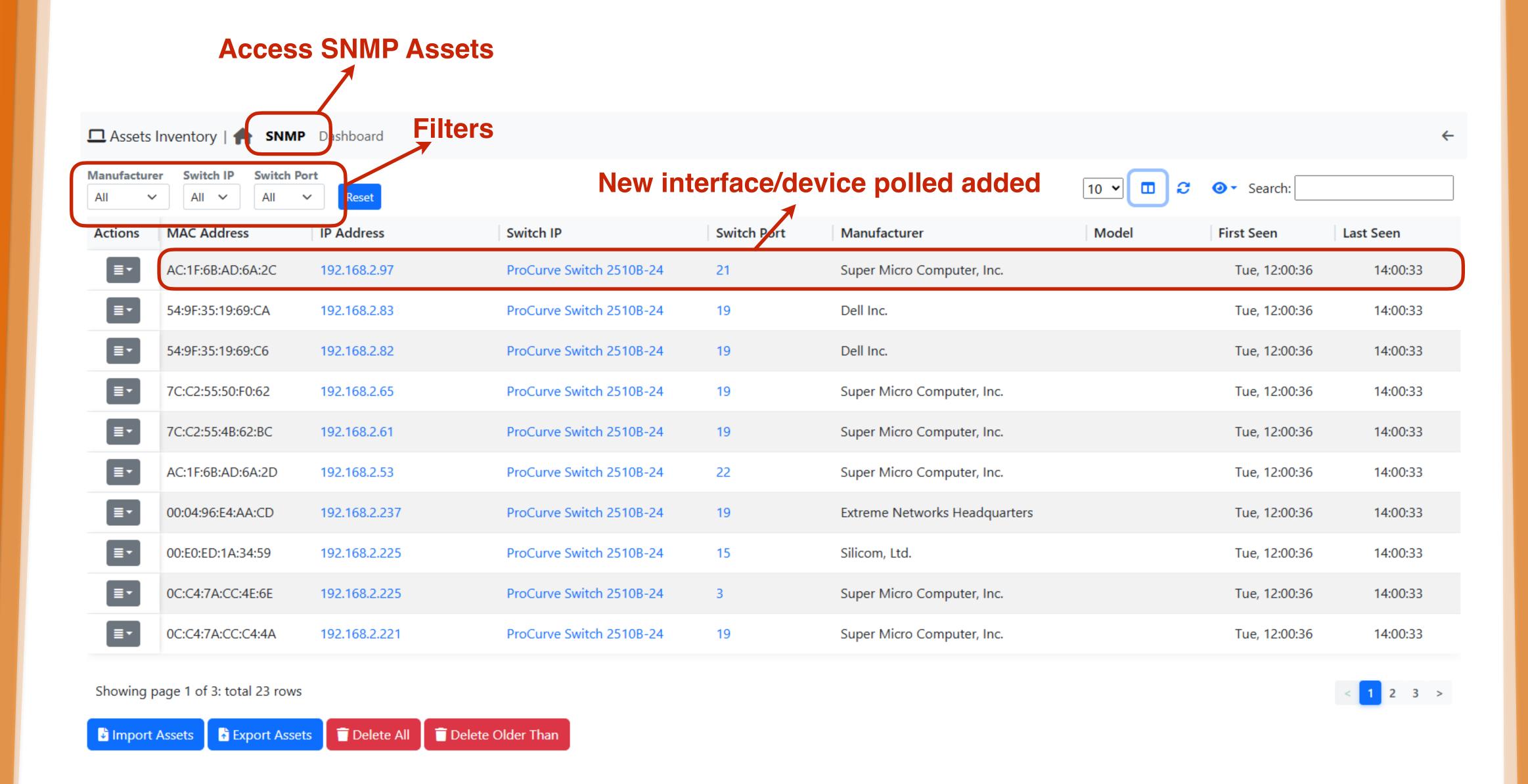


SNMP Assets

 Now it is also possible to monitor your assets using SNMP, with the support of the Bridge MIB





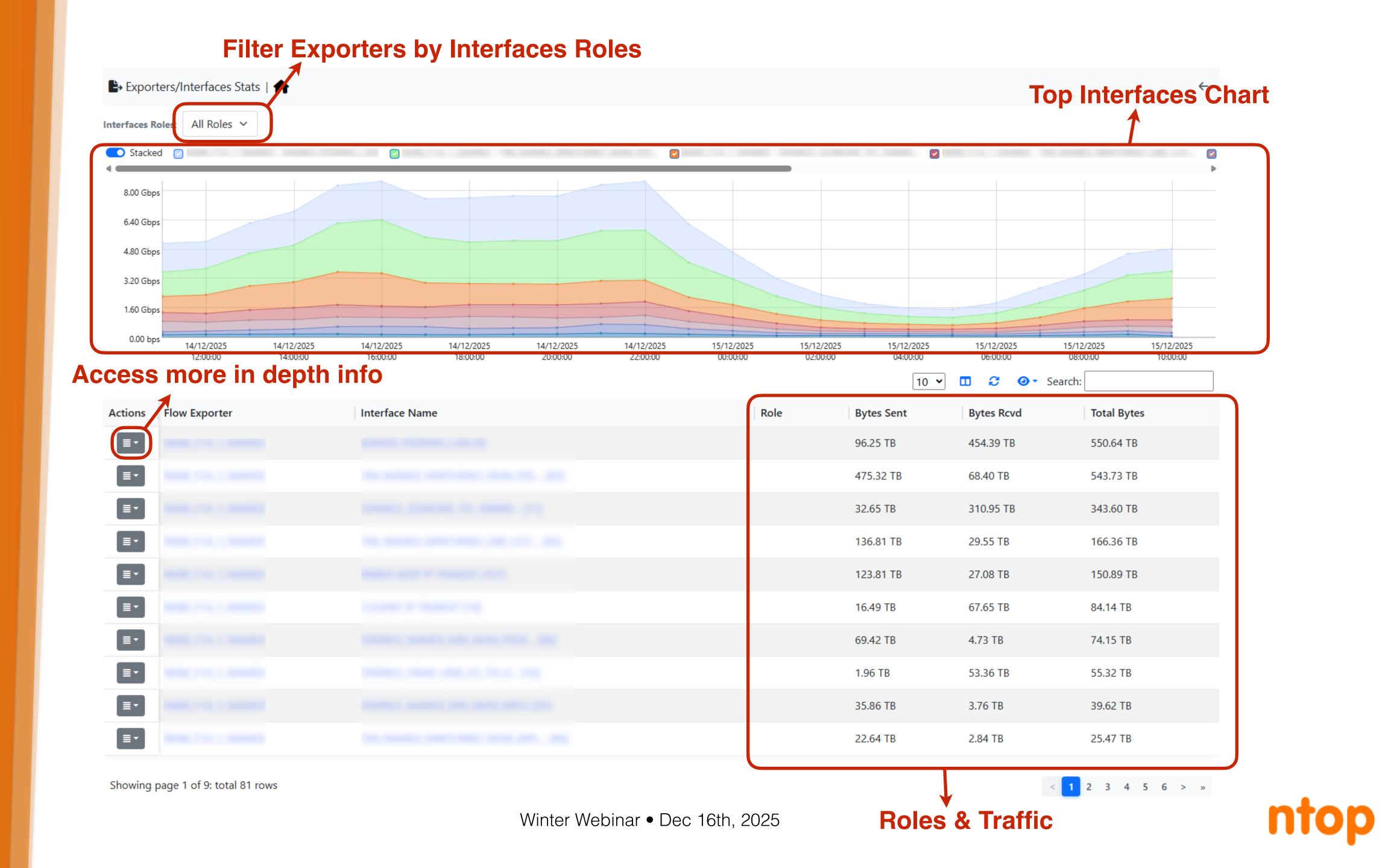




Flow Exporters

- Sometimes it is important to answer simple questions, like:
 - A. Who's exporting a lot of traffic?
 - B. Is the Interface okay or not?

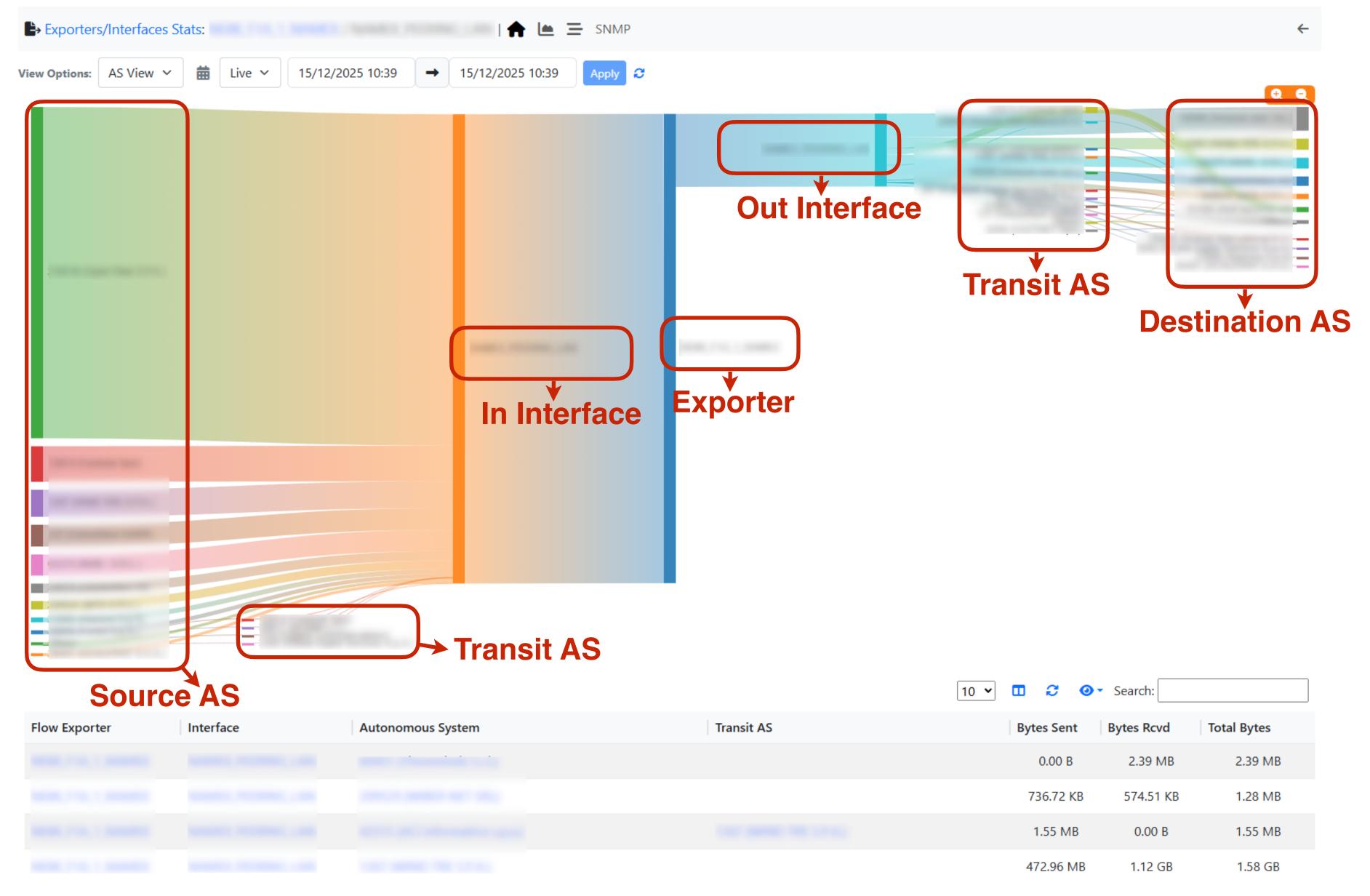




Flow Exporters

- Other times, instead we need to answer more difficult questions:
 - A. From which Switch/Router Interface is it flowing the traffic?
 - B. Is it a direct communication or does it Transit from someone?







Flow Exporters

 Also, the performances were a bit lacking when receiving the data from a probe

Optimized exporters/probes statistics:

- Better data structures
- Better parsing



ClickHouse Support

- Before this release:
 - Query performance were poor when running analysis, also due to data type conversion (through MySQL API).
 - Pages too slow (with million of records) even when listing records only.
 - Data was dumped to file and imported to ClickHouse via periodic scripts.

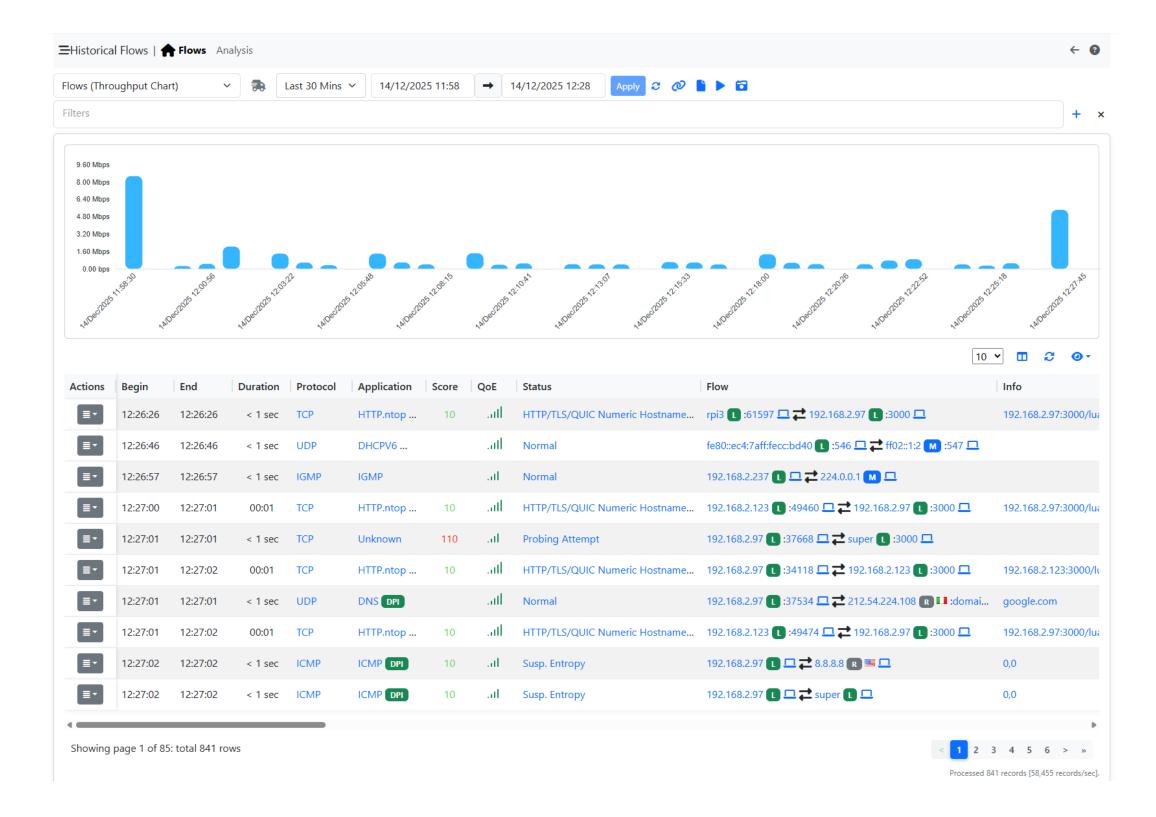


Native ClickHouse Client [Queries]

 Fully replaced MySQL API with a native C++ library for a native connection

Huge performance boost for queries!

- Native data types in queries
 - No need to convert data
 - Queries simplified
- Changed timeseries query





Native ClickHouse Client [Dump]

- Direct dump from C++ with in-memory buffering
- No CSV encoding/decoding
- No pressure on filesystem
- Records dump performance boost: from <100Kfps to 300+Kfps



Direct Flow Dump

- Collected flows are written directly to ClickHouse, before any further processing → Near-Instant Availability for Queries!
- Flows still proceed through the processing pipeline in parallel, for statistics, alerts, and enrichment → Better Scalability!
- Packet capture based flows continue following the standard processing path.

Standard Mode

```
Flow Received → Processing & Enrichment → Database Dump
```

Direct Dump Mode

```
Flow Received → Database Dump (immediate)
→ Processing & Enrichment
```



ClickHouse Cloud

Native support for ClickHouse Cloud with SSL connections







More Improvements

- Increased maximum Host Pools -> Up to 4096
- Improved Redis operations by optimizing caching

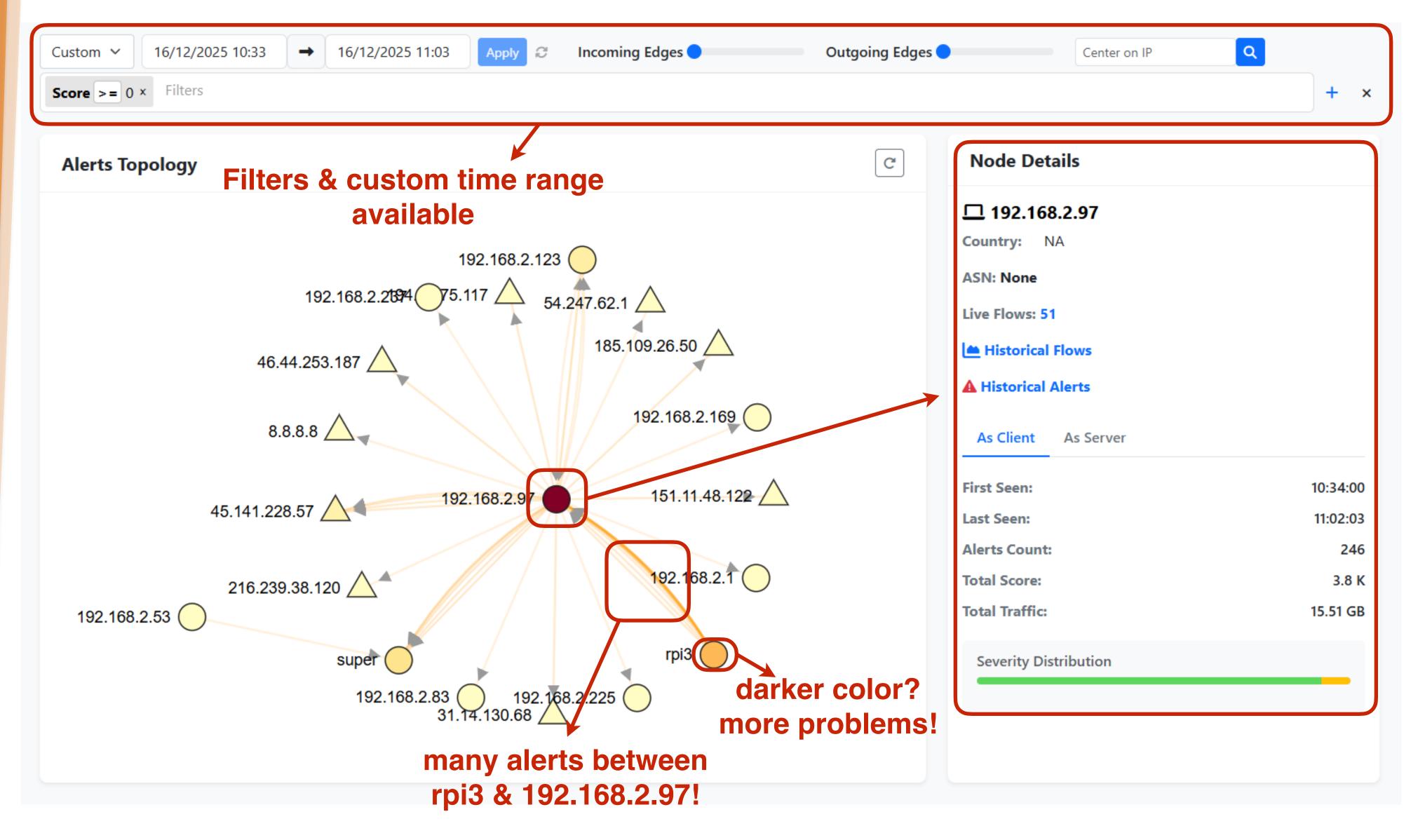
Faster GUI, periodic activities, ecc.



Alerts Graph

- Sometime it is a bit difficult to find problems by using the Alerts page, even more so when you have thousands of alerts/hosts
- Need a way to easily detect who suffered or generated a flow alert, and how alerts spread across the network





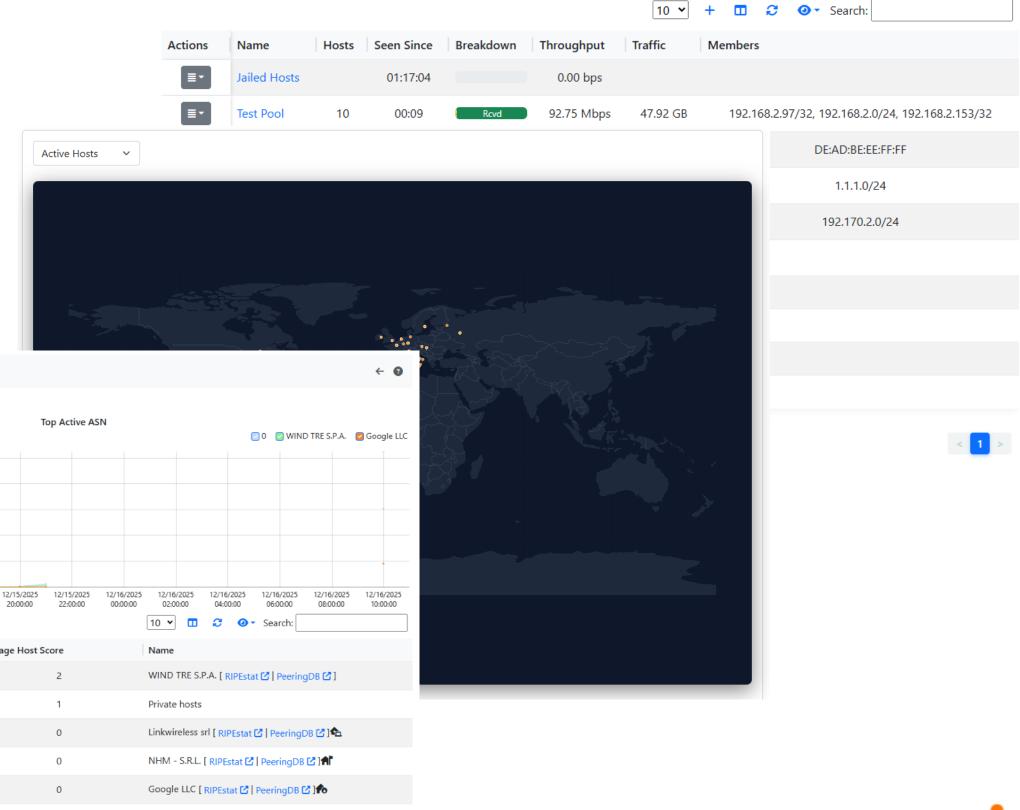


Additional GUI changes

 More and more old pages migrated to the new responsive VueJS:

A. Faster loading

B. More responsiveness



★ Host/Network/MAC Pool List | ★



📠 Autonomous Systems | 🋖 🐚

AS Traffic Monitoring

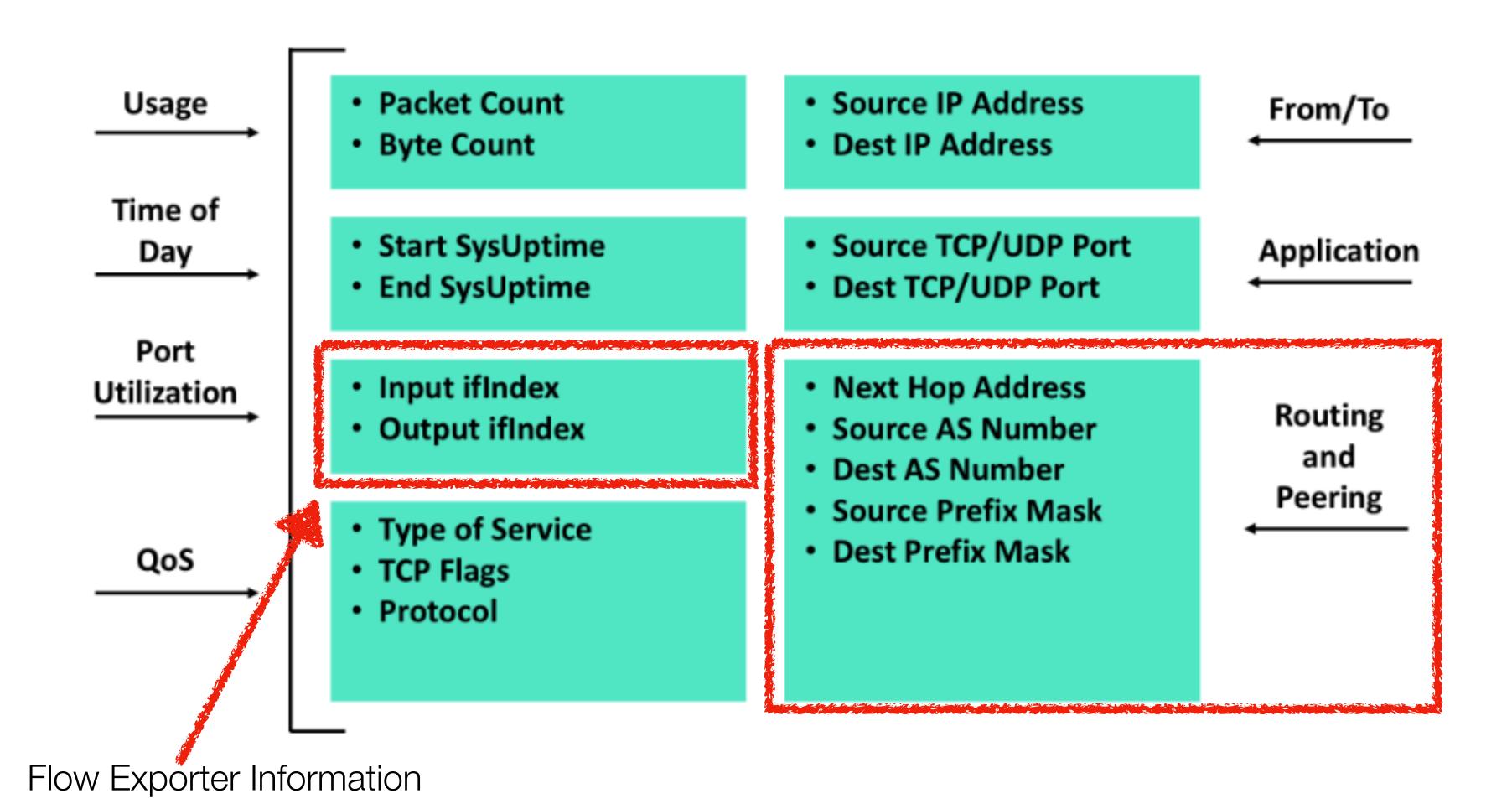


AS Traffic Monitoring

- Data Source
 Usually routers (NetFlow/IPFIX) and switches
 (sFlow). Packets would be the best but they carry
 too many details, and often they are too many to
 analyze.
- Routing Information
 Flow contain "mild" routing information that is enough for basic traffic analysis. More advanced BGP data access would be desirable (work in progress).

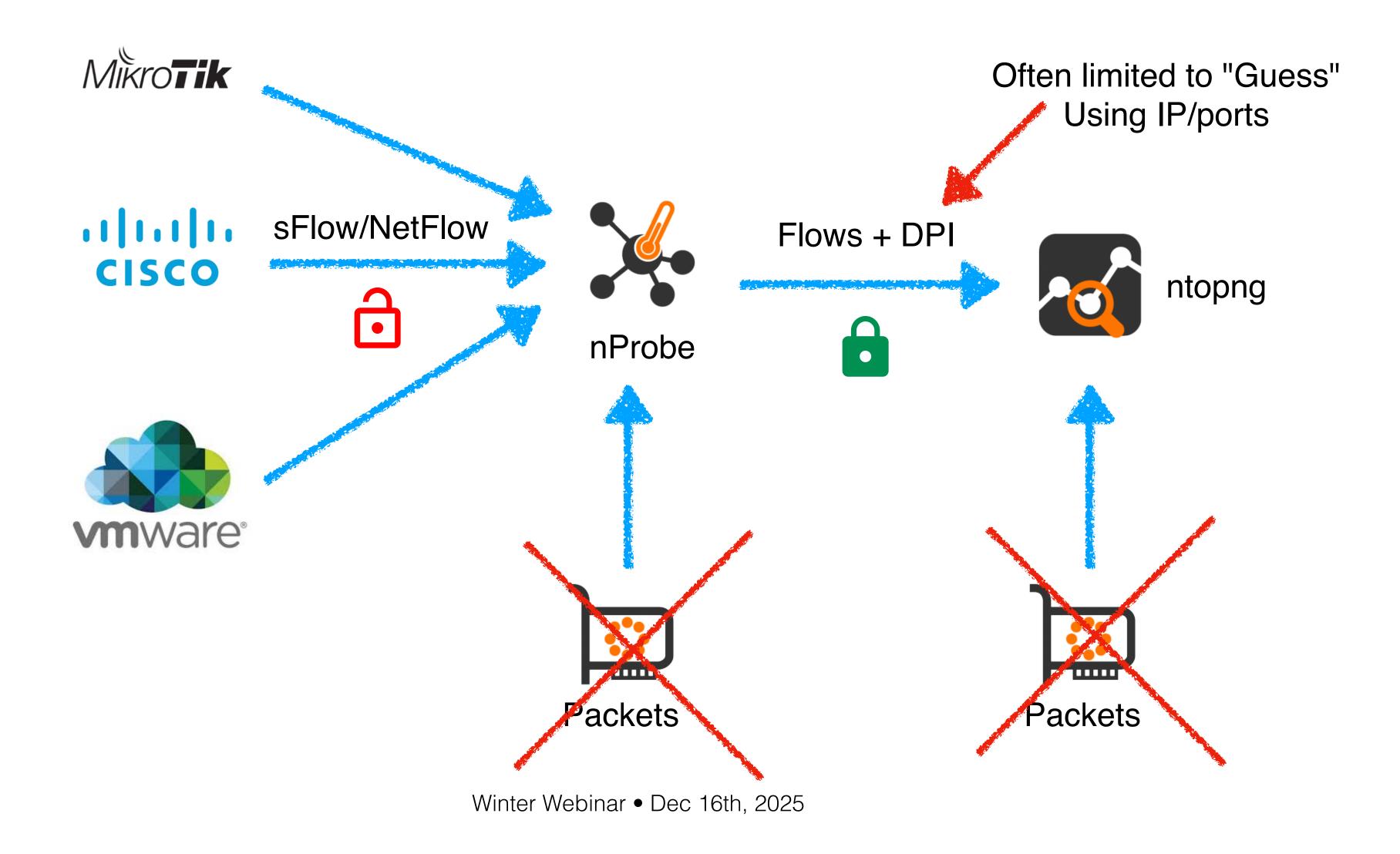


What's Inside a Flow?





Flow Collection in ntopng





Enabling ASN Mode: nProbe

- You have the option to:
 - Collect flows as they are received (i.e. with full IP information).
 - Mask IP addresses (according to the flow netmask) in order to hide the exact IP address.

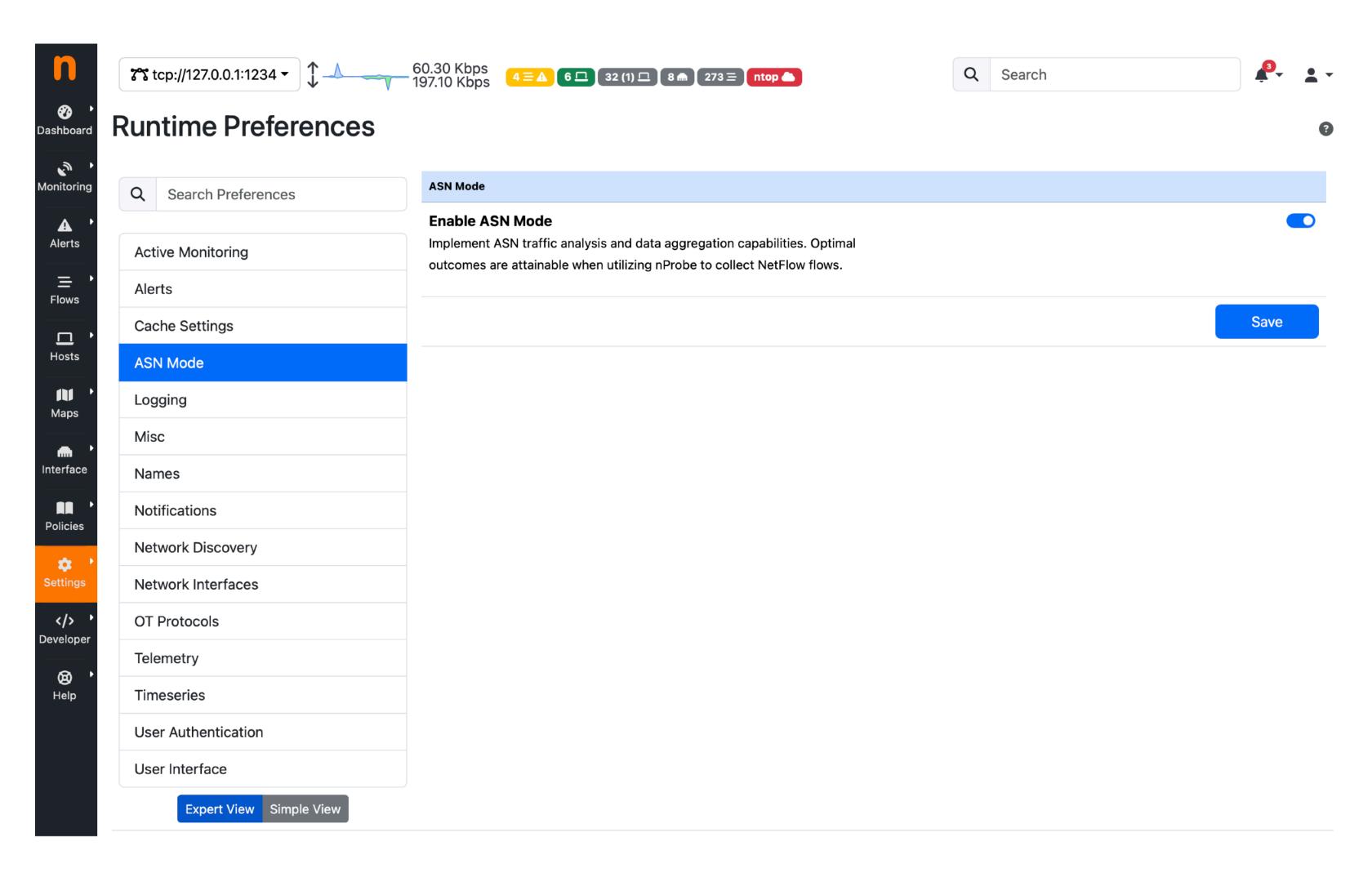
--asn-mode

Collect flows and optimize export for AS traffic analysis. This CLI option has no effect in packet mode

• Note: DPI in flow collection operates partially (no packets) using IP addresses (e.g. the Office365 IP range) and protocol+ports.

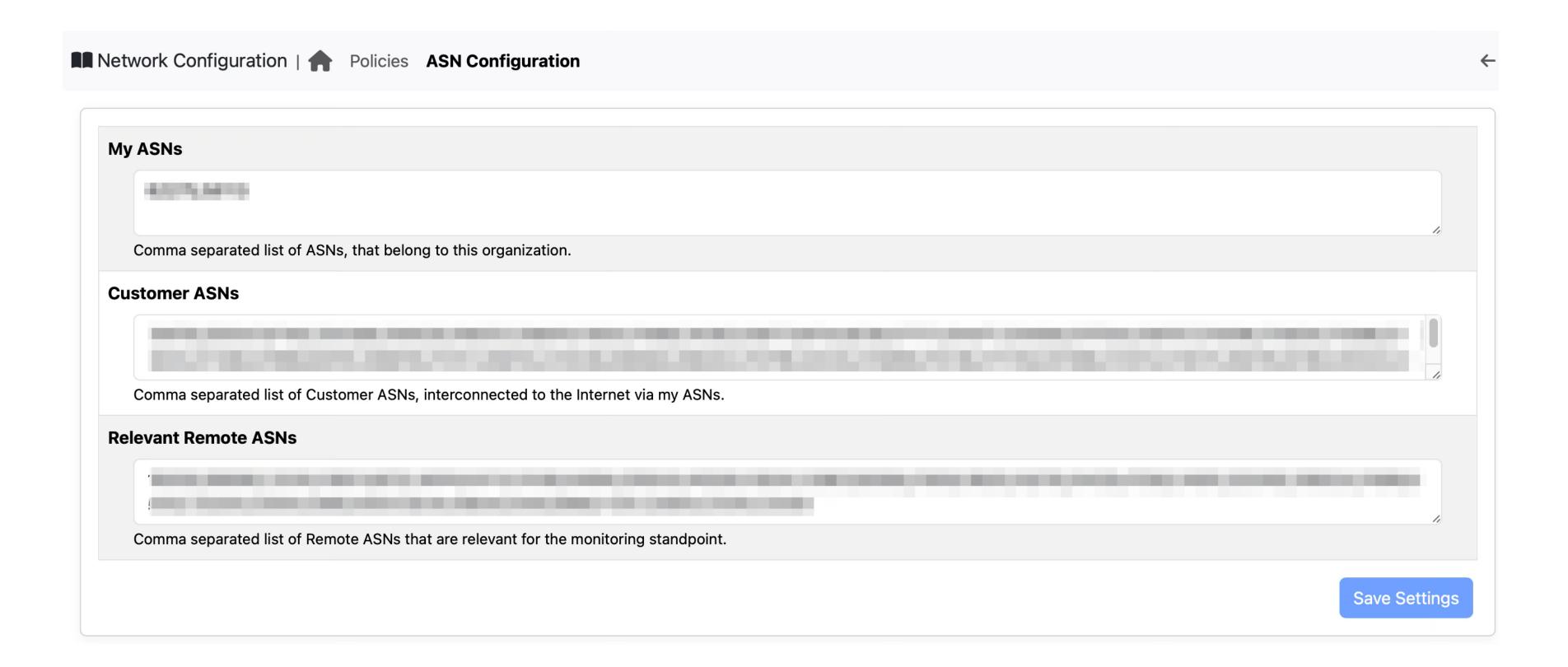


Enabling ASN Mode: ntopng



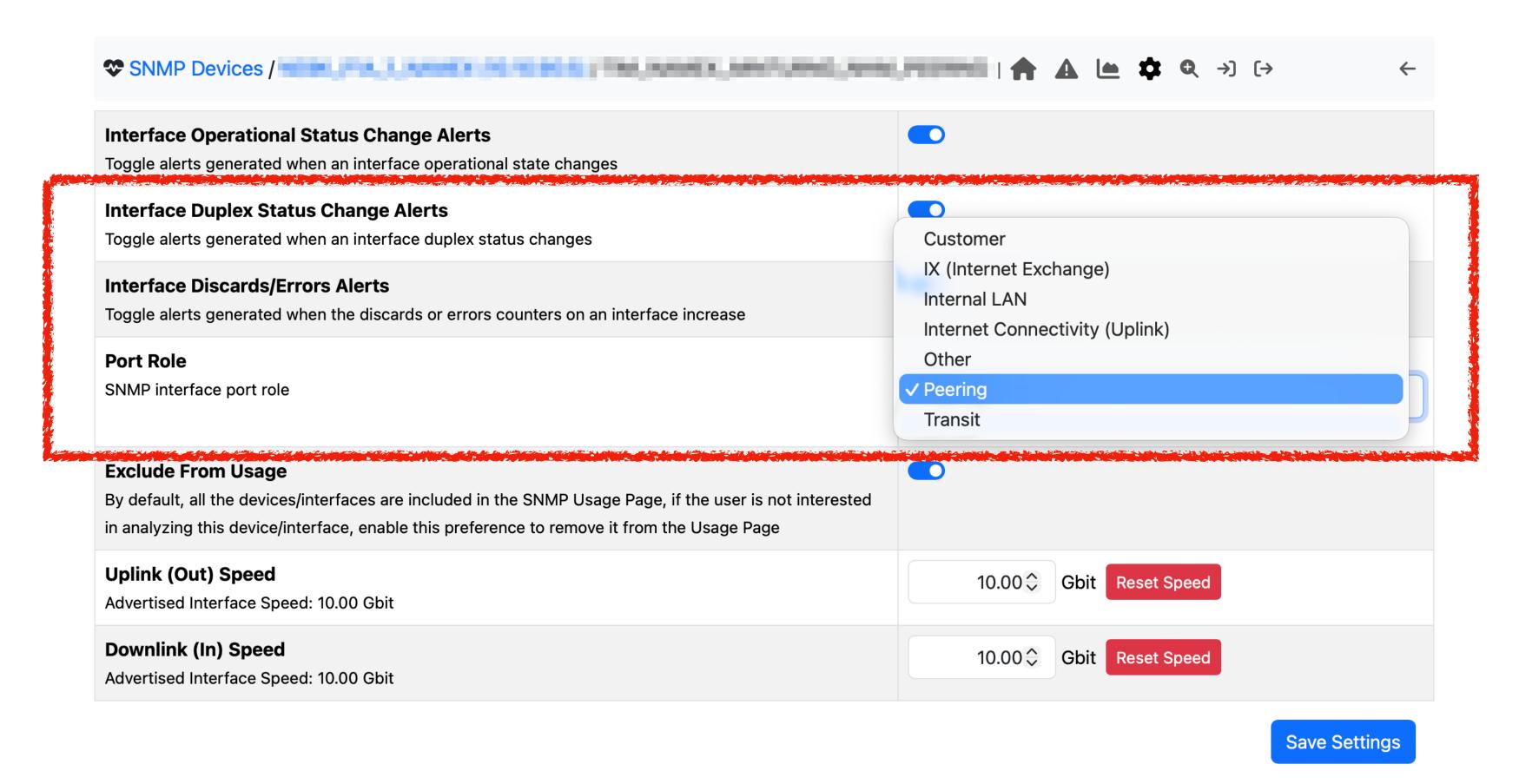


Configure Your ASNs



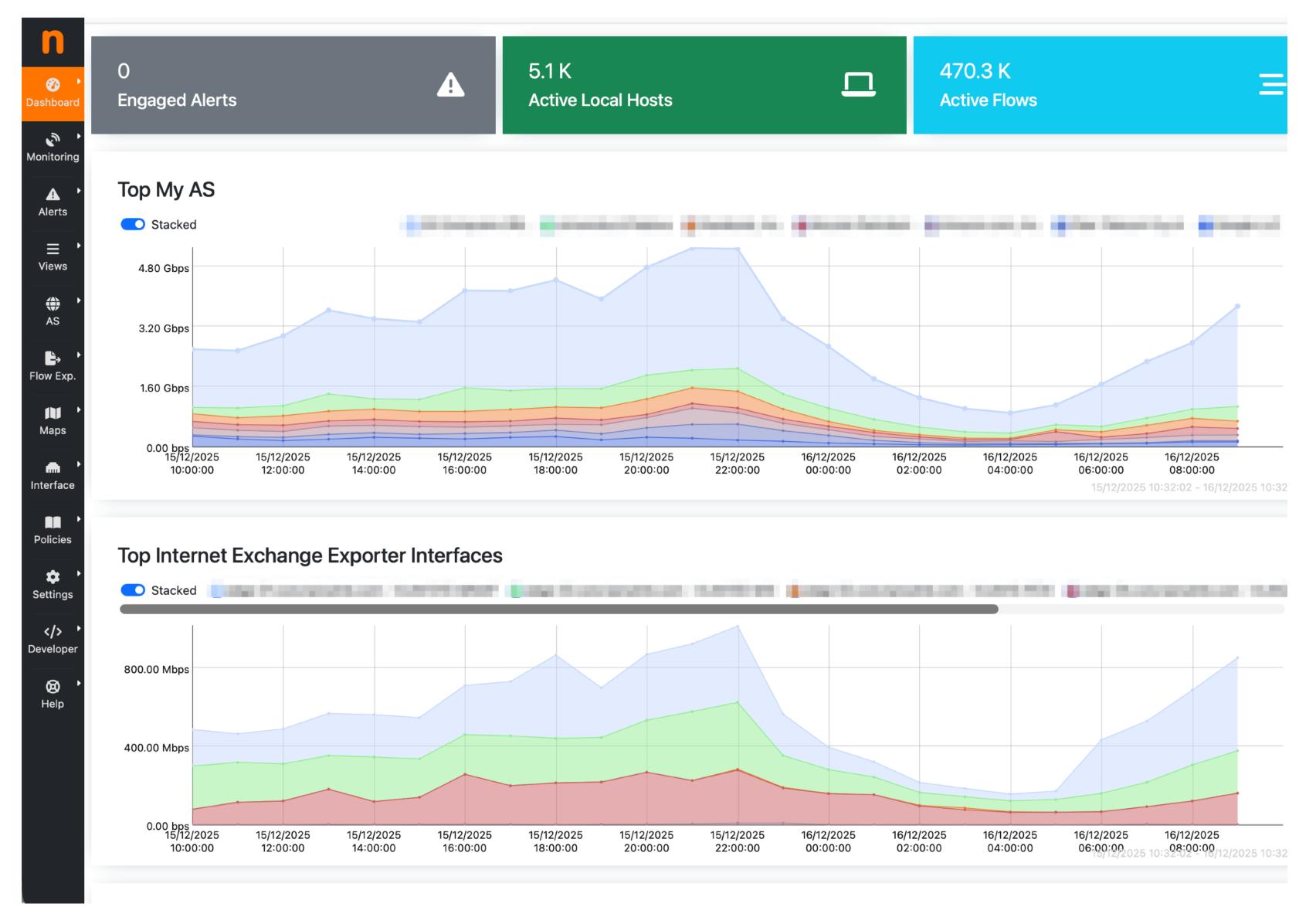


Configure Your Interface Types



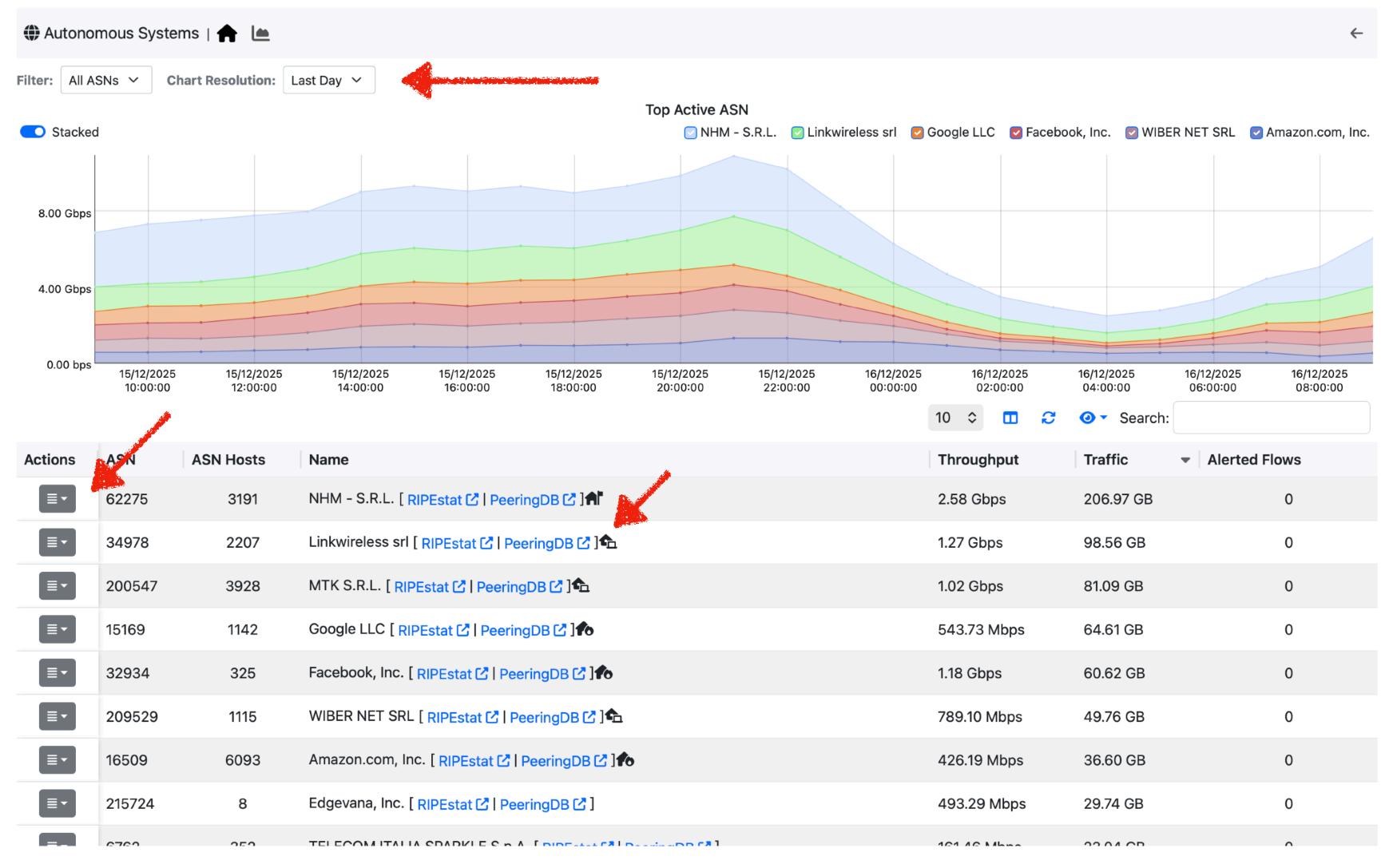


AS Dashboard



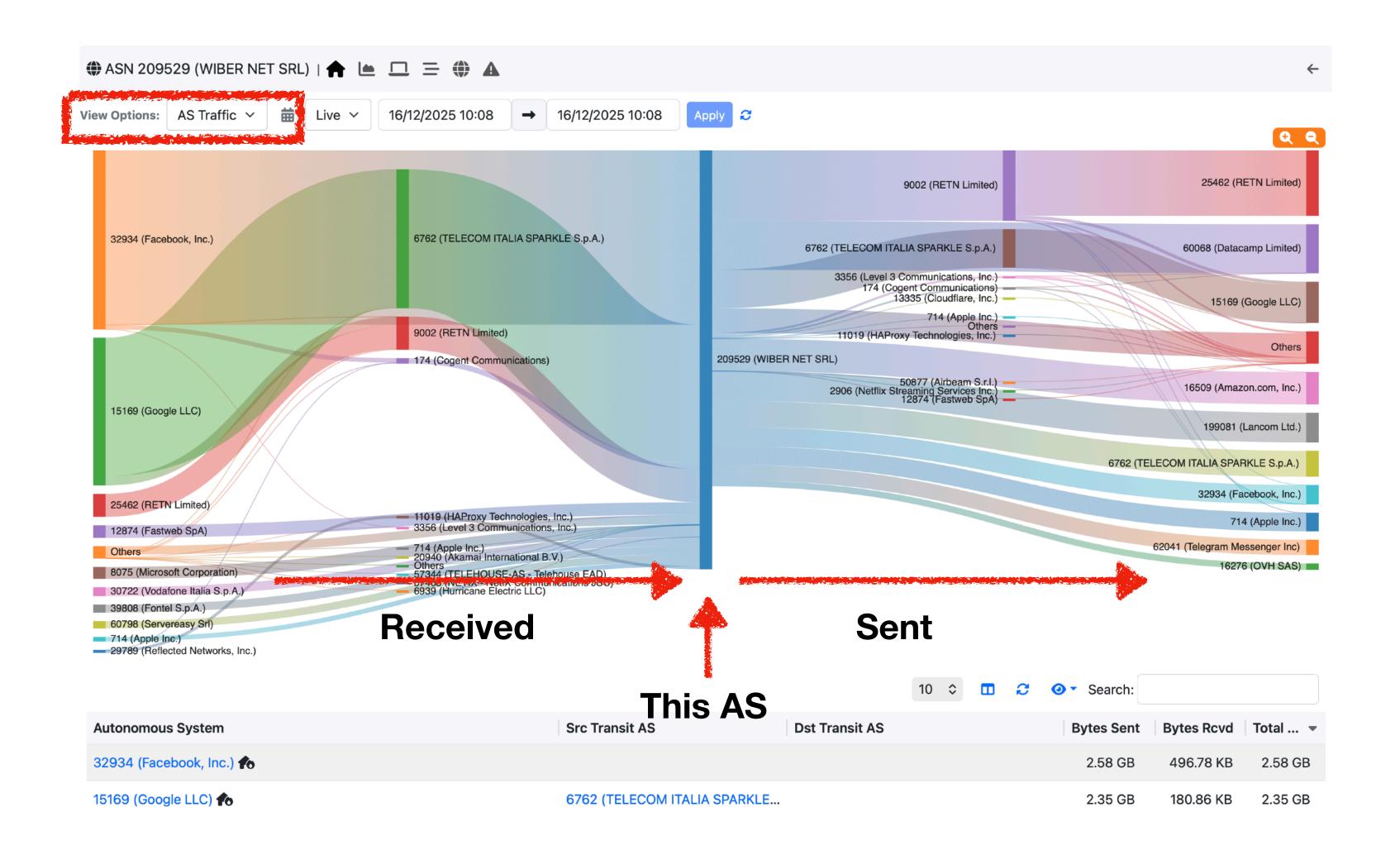


AS View



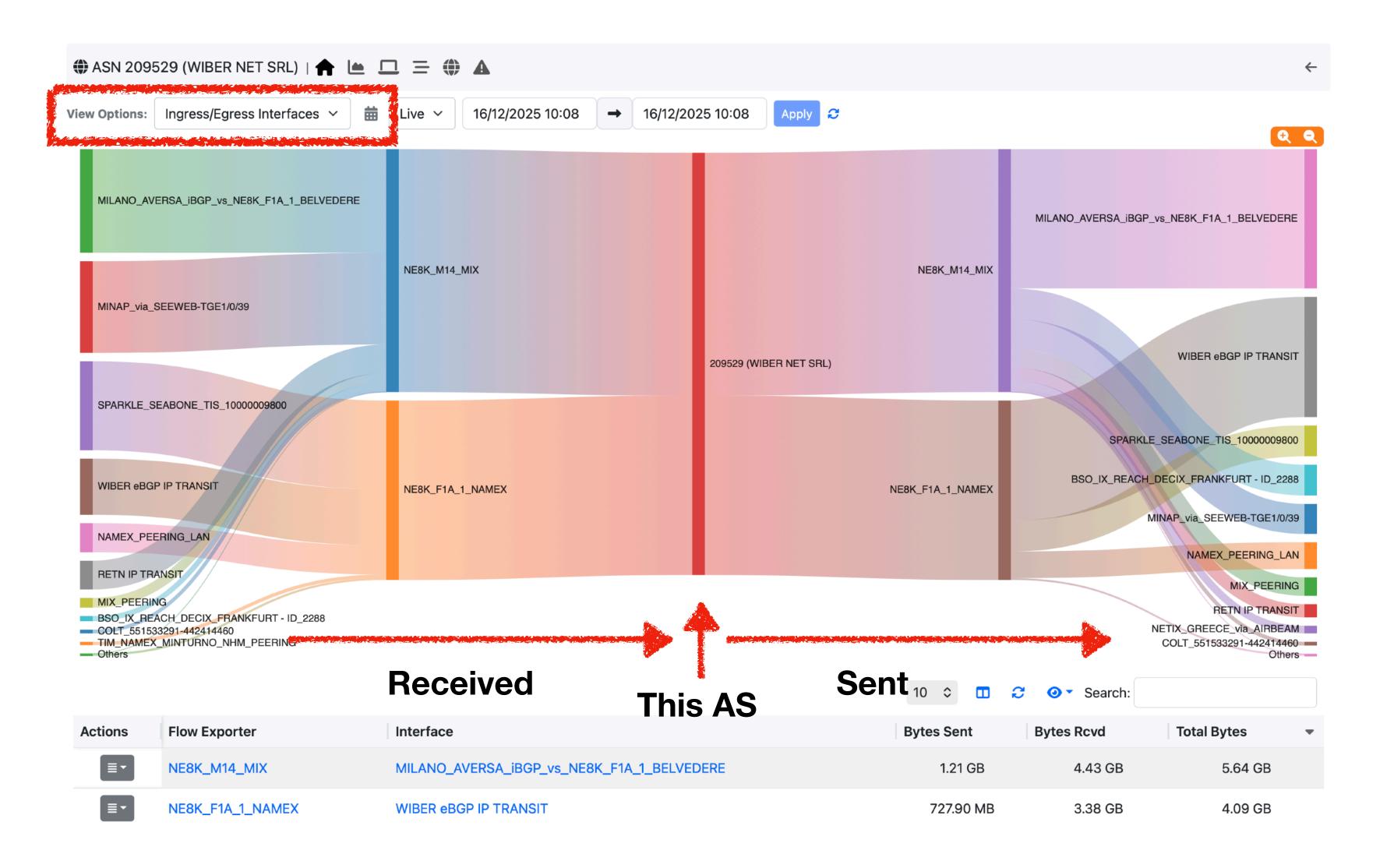


AS View: Traffic View



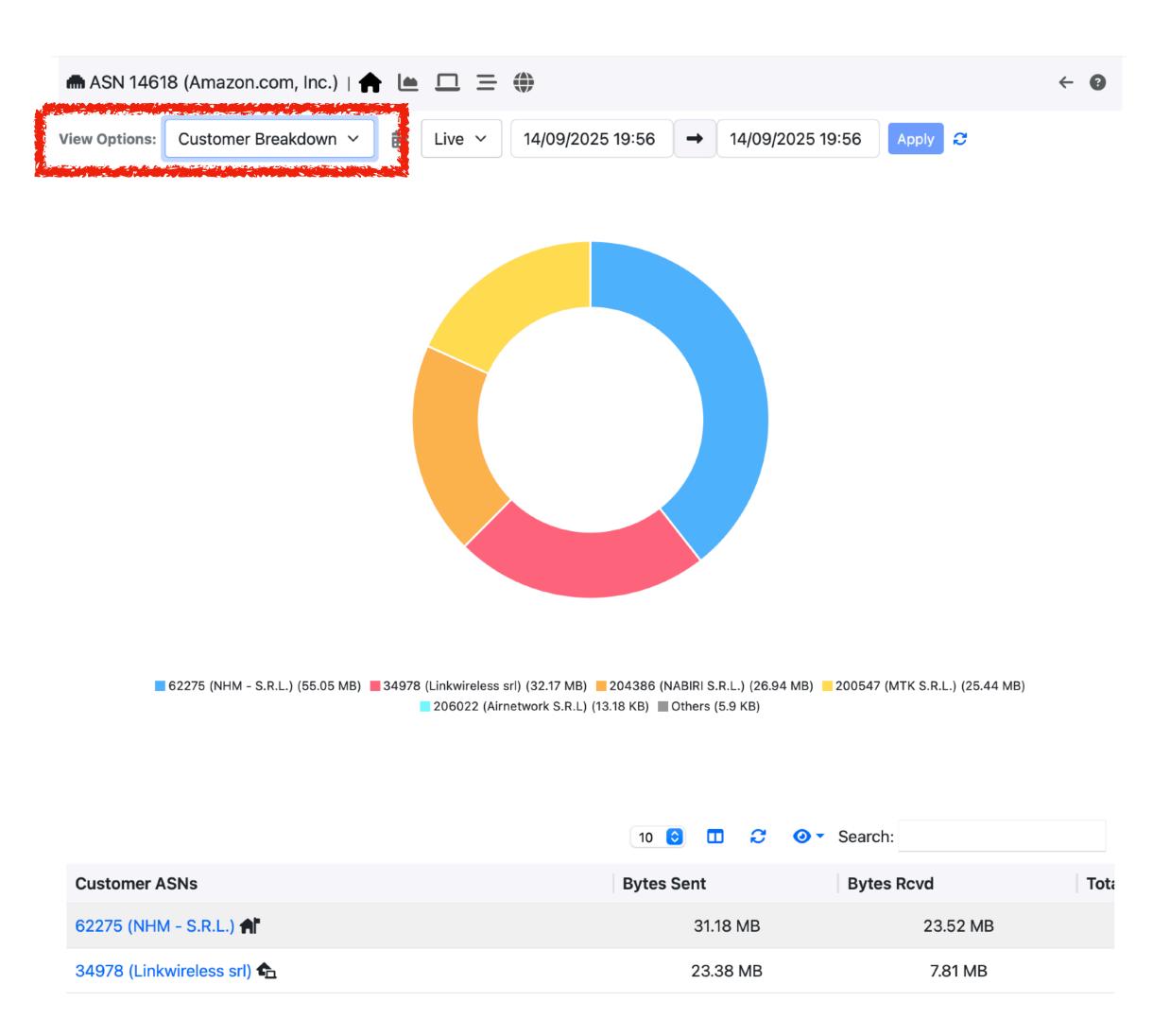


AS View: Router/Interfaces View



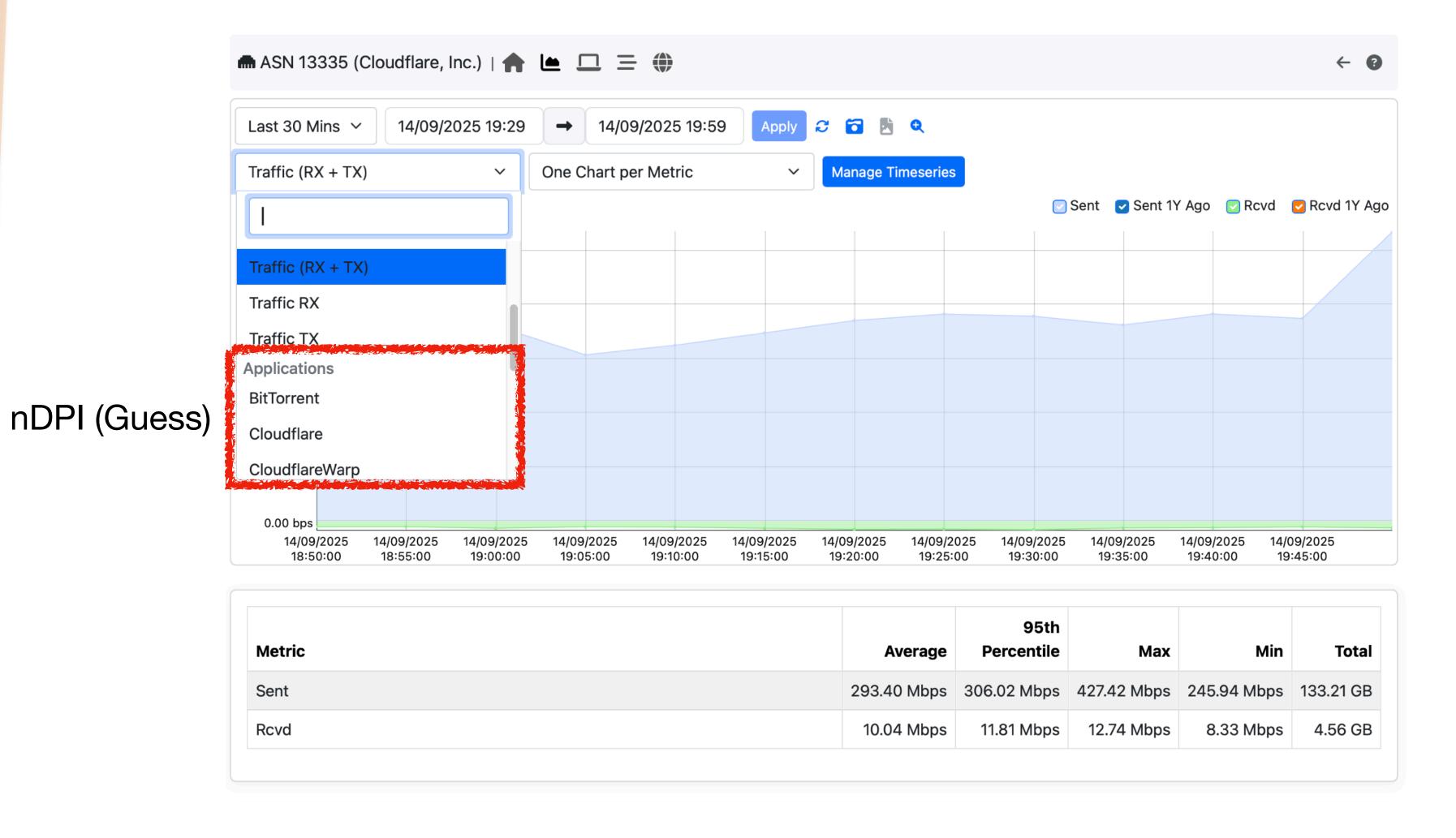


AS View: My Customers Breakdown





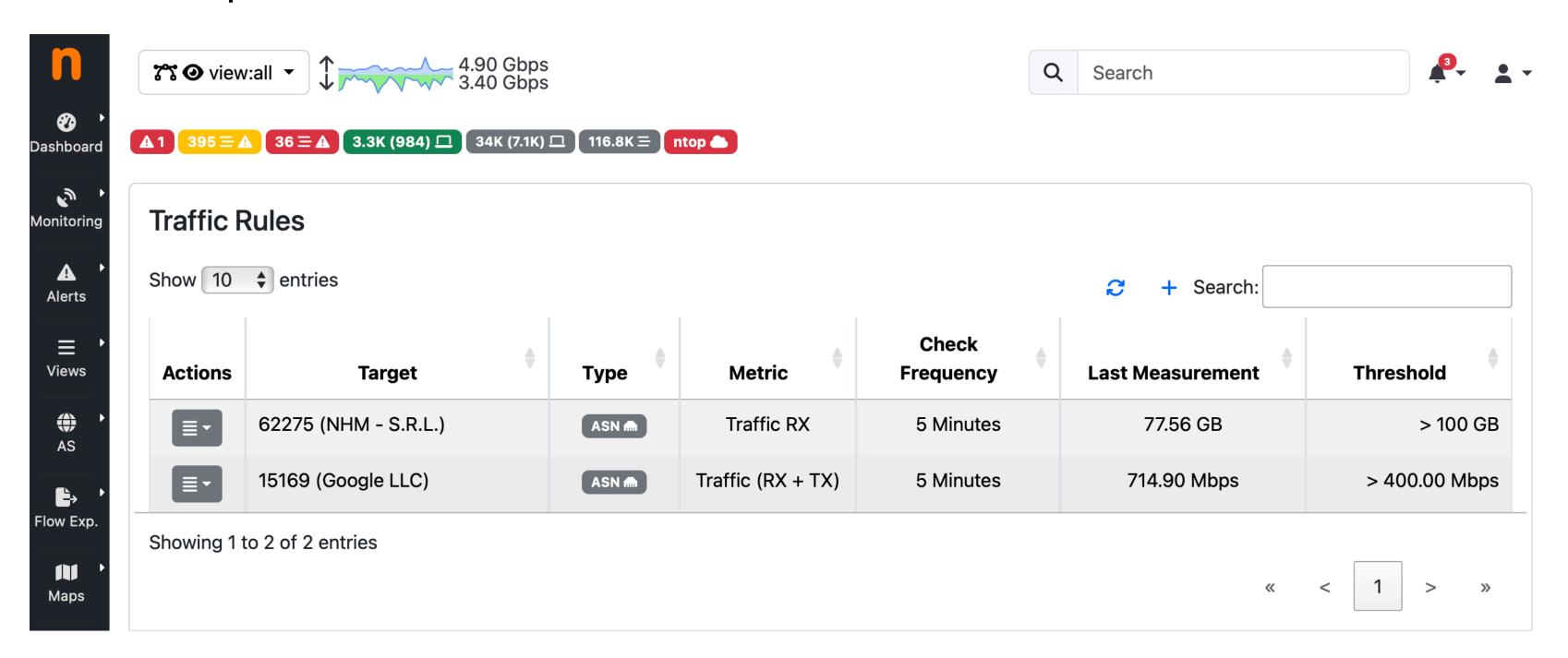
AS Timeseries Analysis





Traffic Rules [1/2]

- Trigger alerts based on specific traffic conditions.
- Multiple rules can be defined.



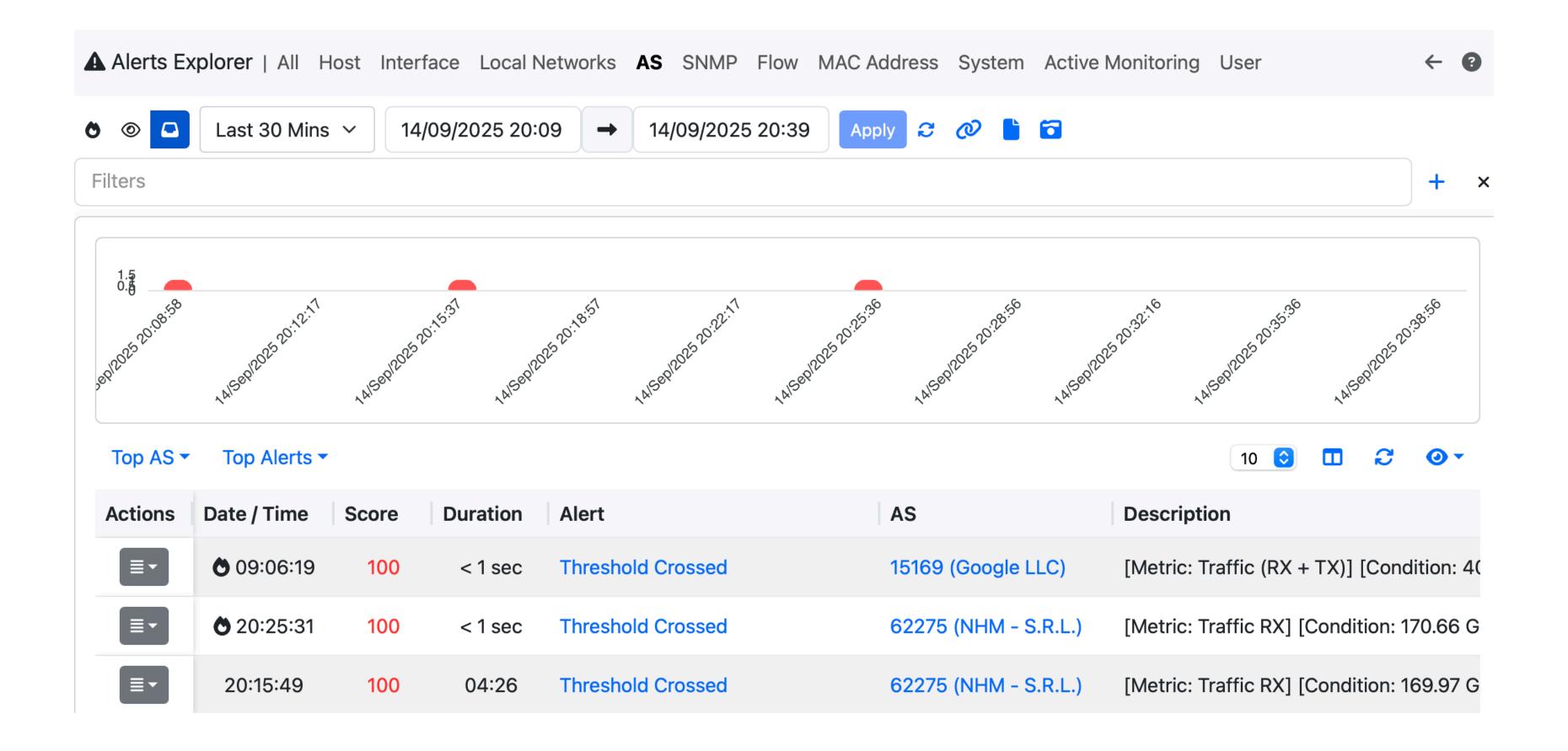


Traffic Rules [2/2]

Rule type	Host Interface Flow Exporter Device Host Pools Networks ASN	
ASN	13335 (Cloudflare, Inc.)	~
Metric	Traffic (RX + TX)	Traffic TX
Check Frequency	5 Minutes	Traffic (RX + TX)
Threshold	Volume × KB MB GB > < 1	Traffic TX
		Traffic RX Applications
NOTES	Volume	1kxun
Target: insert analyzed) or s	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	AFP
Frequency: seThreshold: seupperbound,	Percentage IS -> the DNS traffic) elect the frequency of the analysis (e.g. 5 Min -> analyzed every 5 minutes) elect the type of threshold (Volume, Throughput or Percentage), lowerbound or and the threshold that, if exceeded, is going to trigger an alert	
frequency	ige Change: is calculated between the last two frequency checks (e.g., <1% with by of 5 minutes; if the difference between the preceding frequency and the last the last the last is lower than 1%, trigger an alert).	

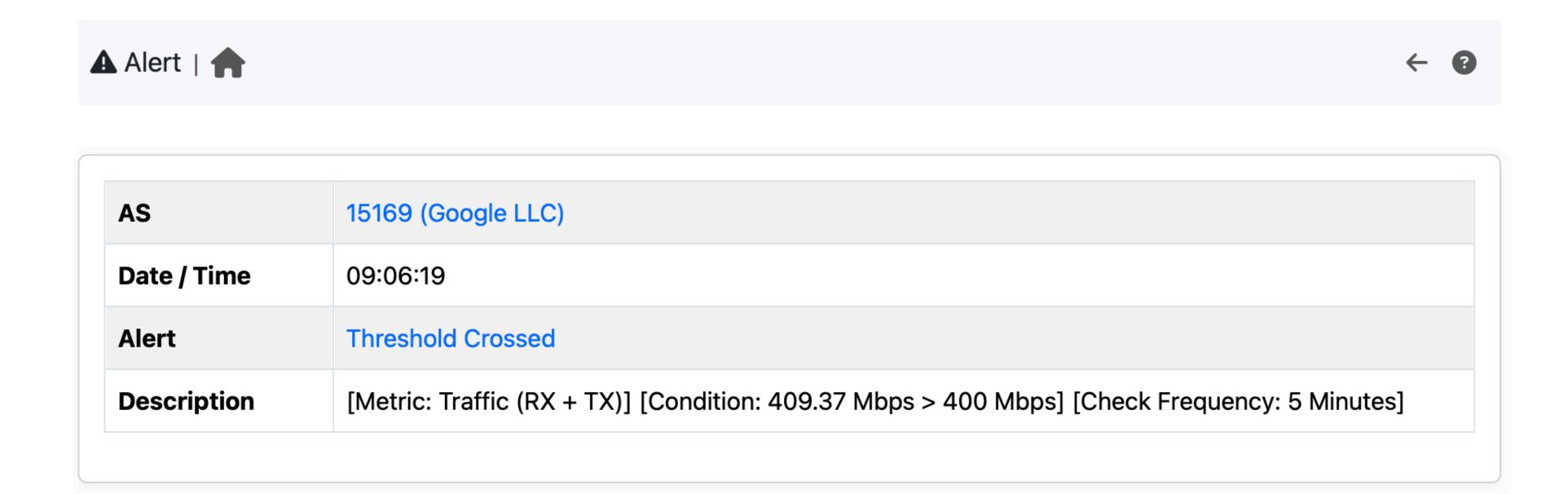


Alerts [1/3]





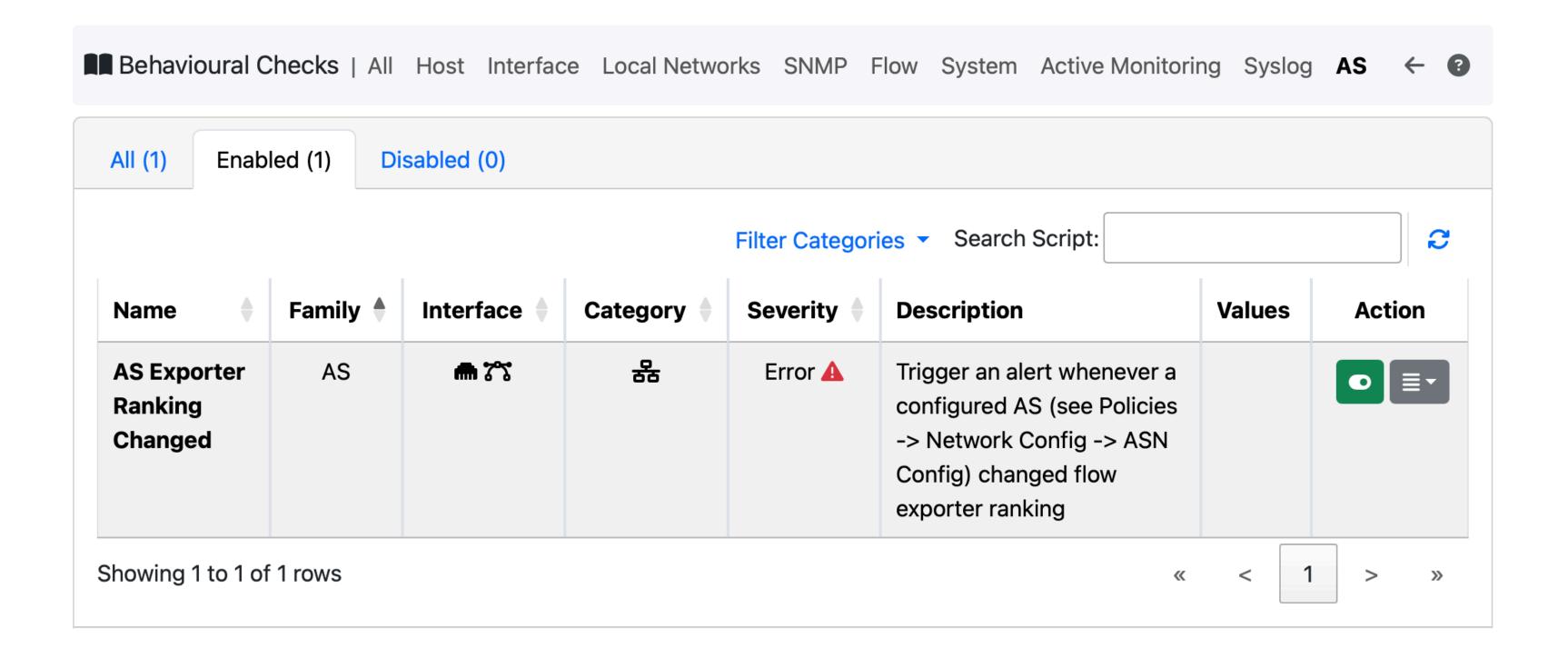
Alerts [2/3]





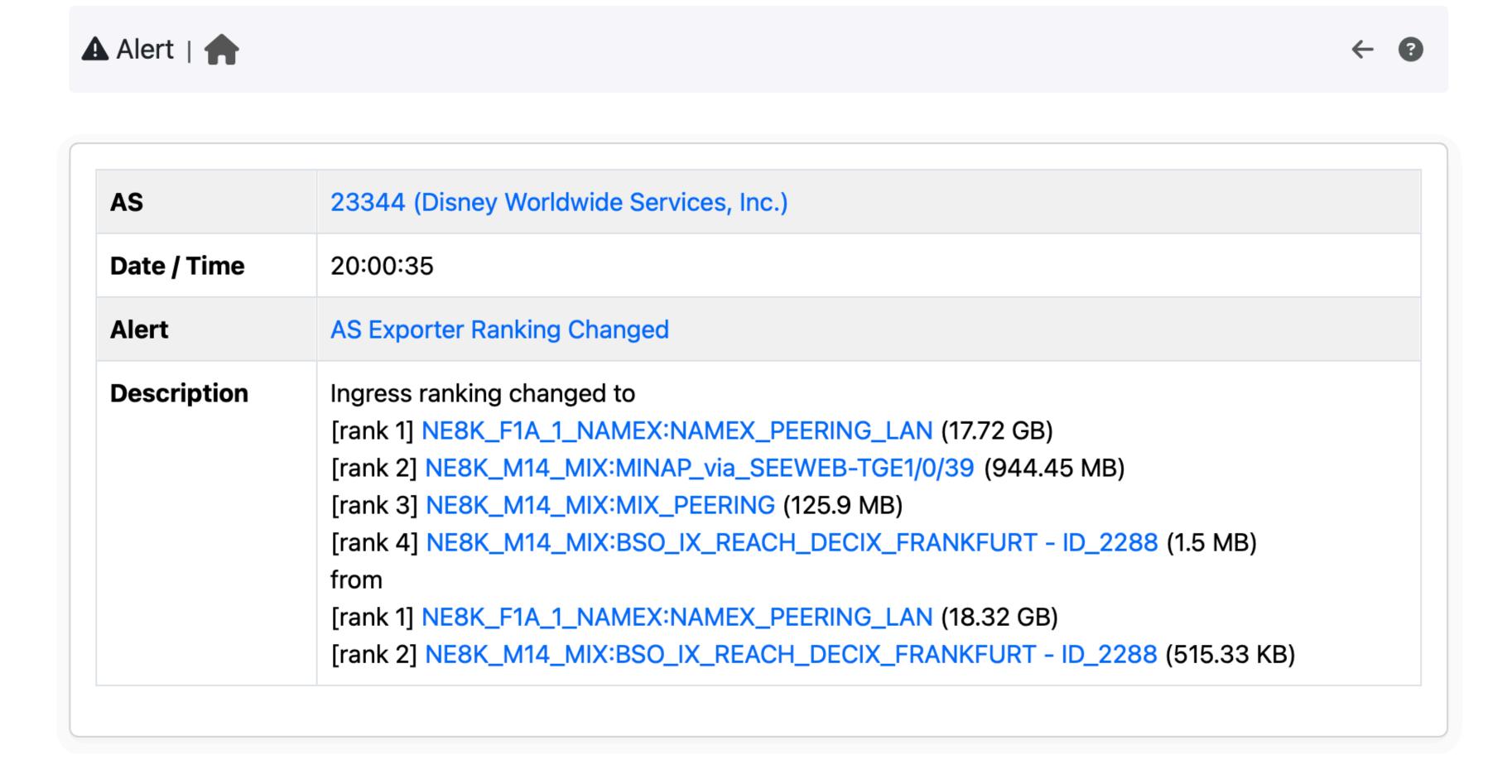
AS Ranking Check [1/2]

Track traffic changes for configured ASNs





AS Ranking Check [2/2]





Billing Monitoring [1/4]

- Some router ports are paid flat, others only if usage exceeds a specified threshold.
- In order to avoid costly fees, you need to supervise the Internet links where billing can become problematic.
- We can monitor usage using both flow traffic and SNMP MIB-II interfaces polling an traps.

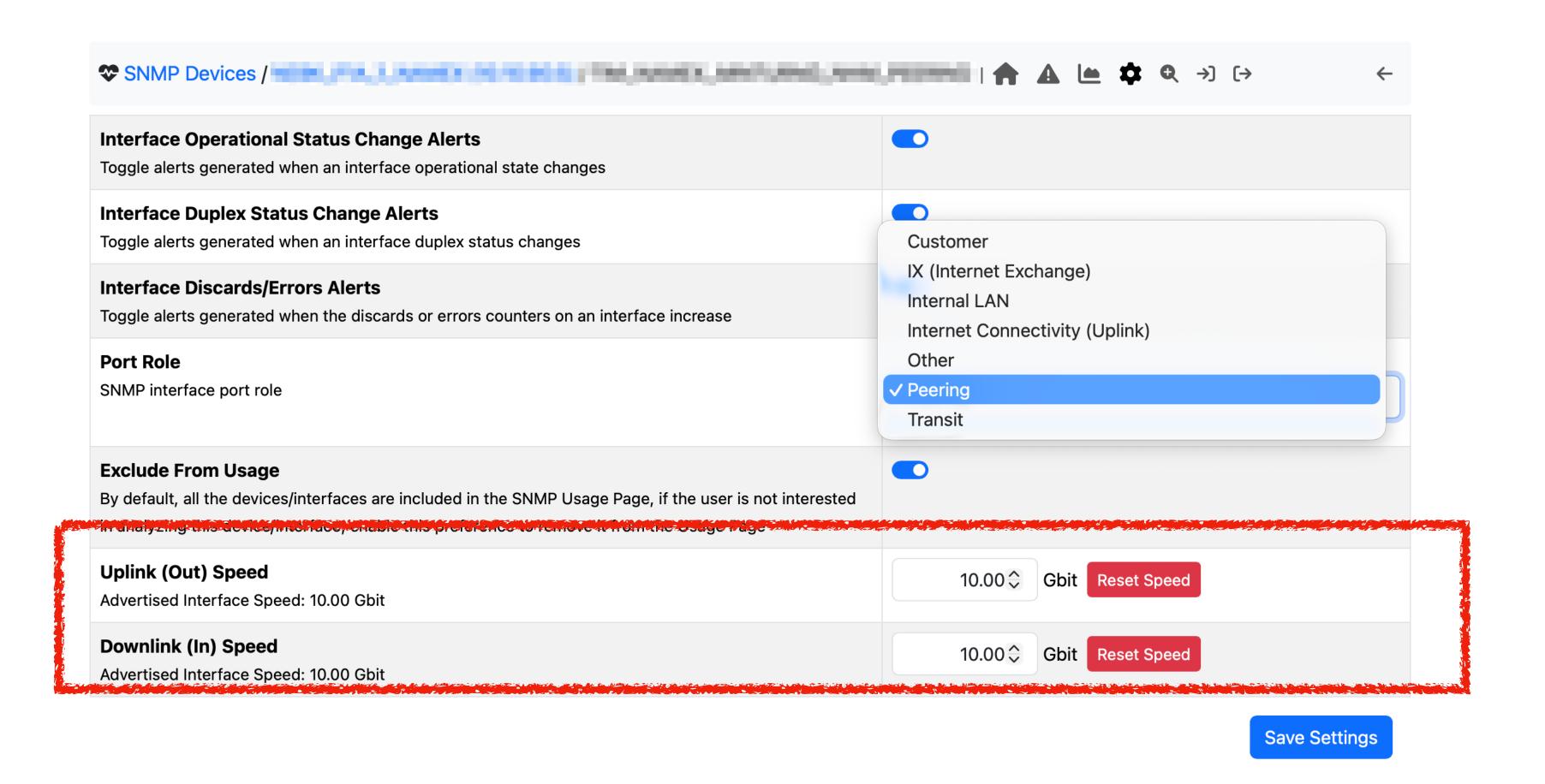


Billing Monitoring [2/4]

SNMP Devices / NE8K_F	1A_1_NAMEX (10.10.90.5) /
Interface Index	11
Name	GigabitEthernet0/1/5
Alias	SPARKLE THE SPAN SPAN SPAN SPAN SPAN SPAN SPAN SPAN
Interface Type	ethernetCsmacd (6)
Uplink (Out) Speed	10 Gbit 💠
Downlink (In) Speed	10 Gbit 💠
Administrative Status	Up
Operational Status	Up
In Discards	0
In Errors	0
Out Errors	0
Last Change	235 Days, 09:29:06
In Bytes	5991.14 TB
Out Bytes	872.58 TB
Last In Usage	13 %
Last Out Usage	1%

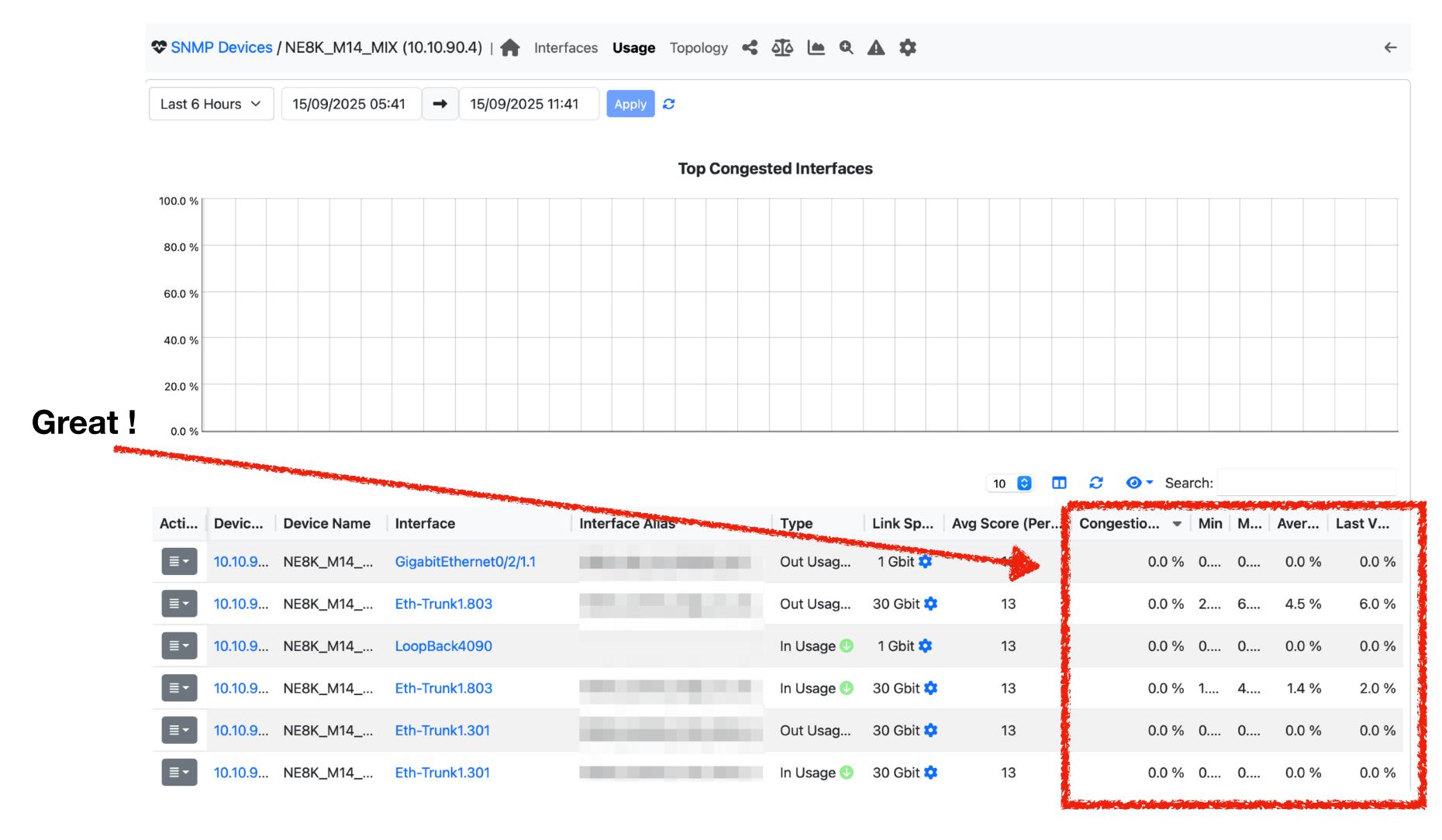


Billing Monitoring [3/4]





Billing Monitoring [4/4]





Community vs Enterprise Edition

- The enterprise edition includes all the features shown in this presentation (commercial editions are free for educational, research, and non-profit).
- The community edition has the following limitations due to a lack of database support:
 - AS transit/peer analysis is limited to real-time (no historical).
 - Alerts are limited to timeseries (e.g. no ranking changes).



ASN: Future Work Items

- BGP integration in order to monitor AS paths or routing changes.
- Additional alerts (e.g. DDoS, BGP peers state...).
- Detection of traffic spikes not due to a DDoS (e.g. soccer match).
- Add new traffic analysis tools to provide hints about new peering agreements that could improve your costs.
- What else?



nDPI 5.0



Major Highlights [1/2]

- In short: this release introduces a powerful new fingerprinting system, unlimited protocol support, and enhanced detection capabilities that go beyond traditional methods.
- Introduced new unified *nDPI fingerprint* that combines TCP fingerprint (Operating System), JA4 fingerprint (Application), and (Optional) TLS SHA1 certificate hash (or JA3S if SHA1 is missing).
- Detection of hosts contacted without DNS resolution: useful for identifying anomalies, evasive behaviors, or covert channels.
- Now you can define up to 2^16 rules (JAx, nDPI...)



Major Highlights [2/2]

- New protocols defined (including Microsoft Delivery Optimization, Matter, TriStation, ESPN, Akamai) for a total of over 450 protocols.
- Defined 30 new content categories.
- Implemented protocol stack support (Example STUN.DTLS.GoogleCall).
- Implemented API classification states: NDPI_STATE_INSPECTING, NDPI_STATE_PARTIAL, NDPI_STATE_MONITORING, NDPI_STATE_CLASSIFIED.



Some Open Items for 2026

- Alerts consolidation, clustering and categorization, easier management and reporting.
- Ultra high speed traffic aggregation (optimized/unified view for 100 Gbit+ networks).
- OT Monitoring: IEC104/ModBus will be complemented with active probing and new protocols such as S7comm, Profinet and OPC-UA.
- Al-assisted traffic classification and anomaly detection: is it time for Al in ntop?
- Soon to be announced: OEM Layer-7 firewall (nFW) with domains categorization support (testing now).



Q&A



