pktvisor.

summarizing traffic for observability and DDoS mitigation

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sweyrick@ns1.com

pktvisor.com · IDS 2021

NS1.

1. pktvisor in 15 mins

2. Deeper Dive

3. The Future: Orb

pktvisor in 15 mins

What is pktvisor?

- Open Source observability *Agent*
- *Taps into* pcap and (soon) DNSTAP streams
- *Summarizes* critical data from streams
- Provides both *Local* and *Global* visibility

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What is pktvisor *not*?

- A full packet capture system
- A query audit log system
- A database
- Resource heavy

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Why pktvisor?

- Deep L7 analysis with streaming algorithms
- Not based on flow/sampling
- Small data, big information

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pktvisor extracts signal and produces summaries

- “Signal” is critical Net and DNS info
- Summarizes into live + 1 minute buckets
- JSON output is ~4kb *per bucket*
- ...regardless of input throughput!

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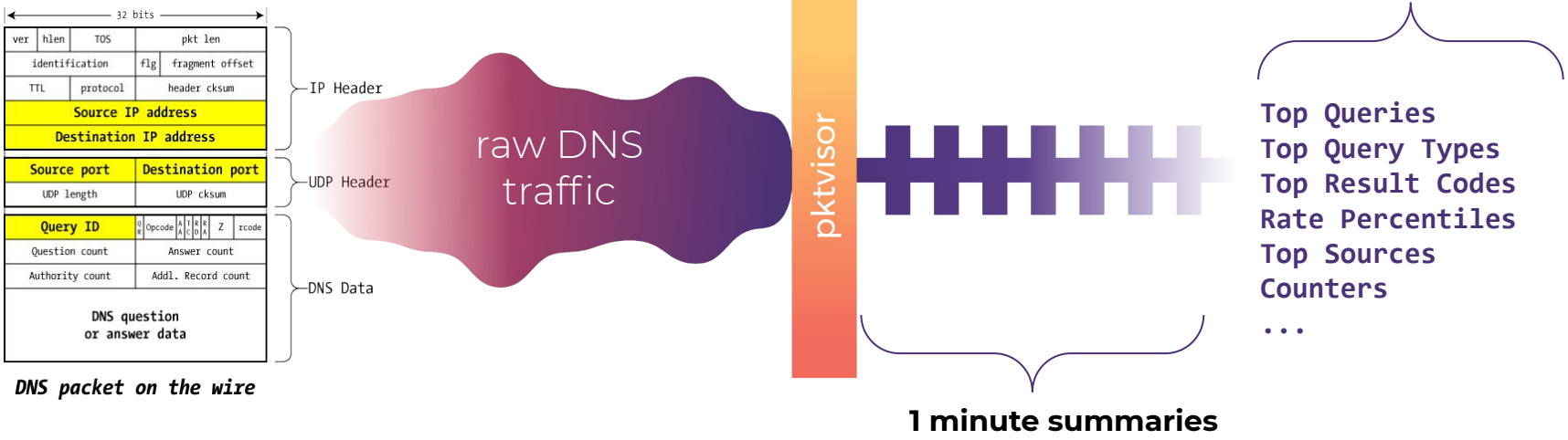
DNS signal extraction



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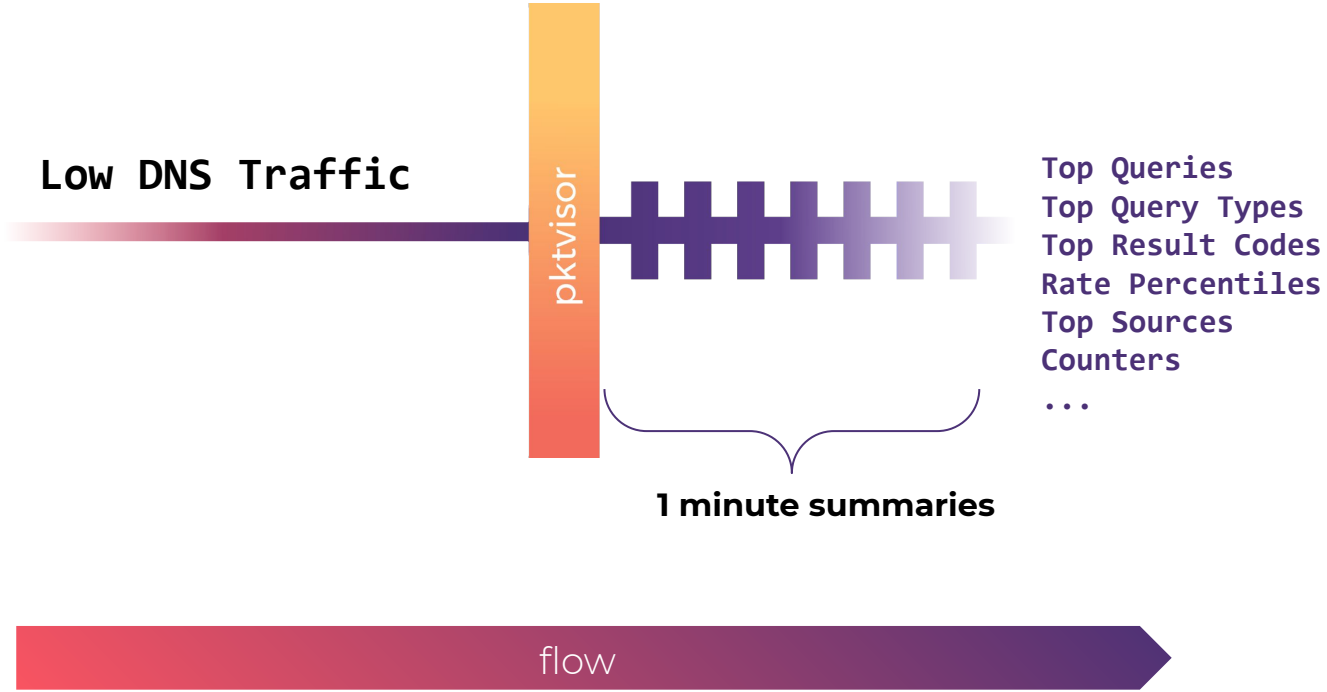

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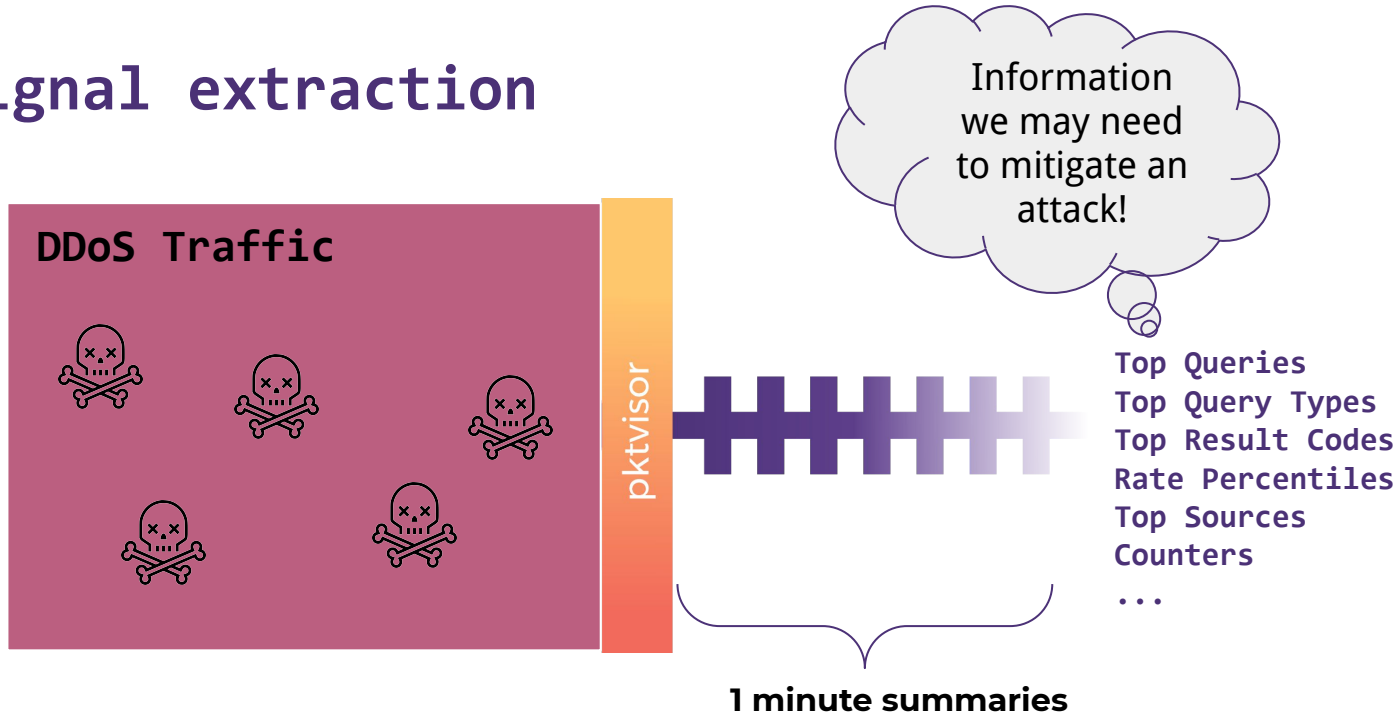

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Pkts 1730 | UDP 443 (25.6%) | TCP 1229 (71.0%) | Other 58 (3.4%) | IPv4 1666 (96.3%) | IPv6 6 (0.3%) | In 848 (51.0%) | Out 816 (49.0%) | Deep Samples 1730 (100.0%)
Pkt Rates Total 2/s 2/18/27/42 pps | In 1/s 1/9/15/23 pps | Out 1/s 1/8/14/29 pps | IP Card. In: 76 | Out: 81

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DNS NOERROR 185 (90.2%) | SRVFAIL 0 (0.0%) | NXDOMAIN 20 (9.8%) | REFUSED 0 (0.0%) | Time Window 4:35PM to 4:40PM, Period 296s

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Top QName 3

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Command Line UI (think “dns top”)
Updates display once / sec

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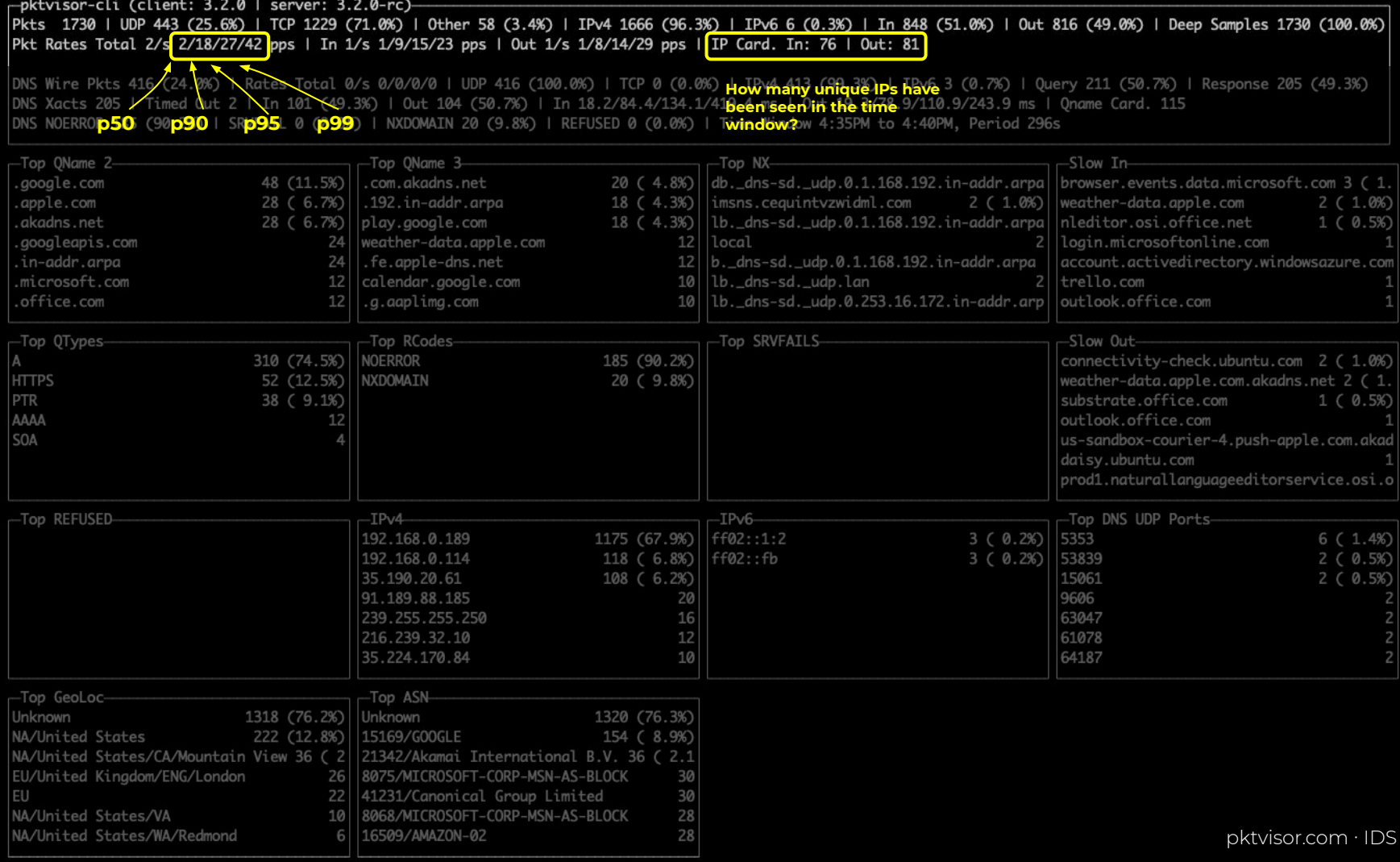
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p50
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p50 p90 p95 p99

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Central Collection

- Provides a *Global* view of distributed Agents
- Metric database agnostic
- Tools for Prometheus and Elasticsearch
- Grafana Dashboard

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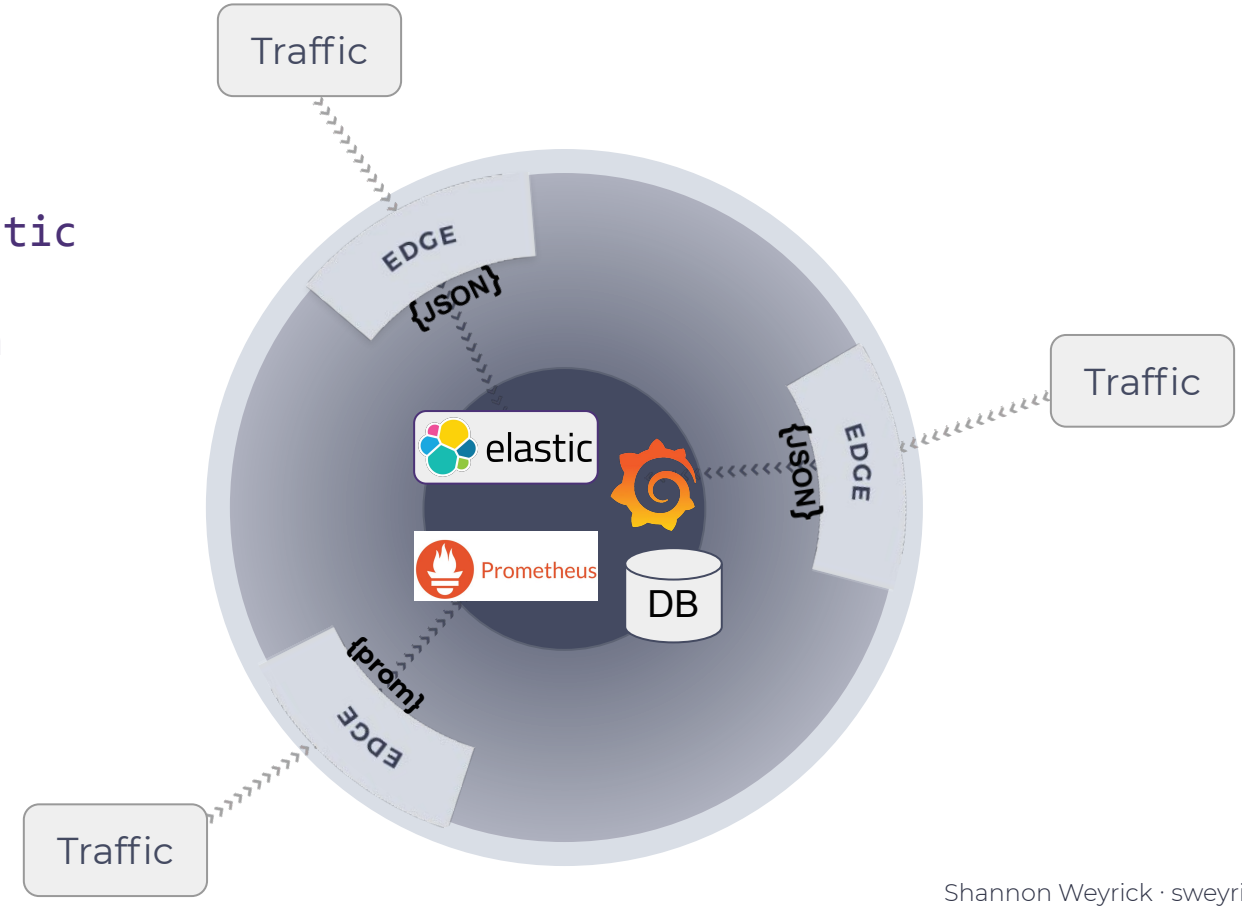
Central Collection

- Database agnostic
- Scrape or Push
- Small Data



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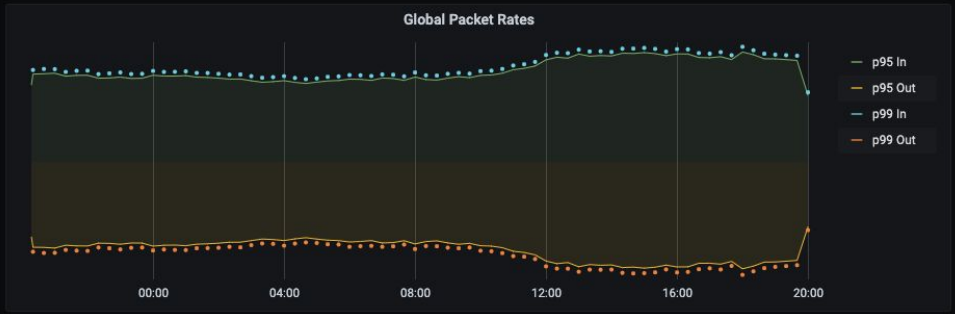
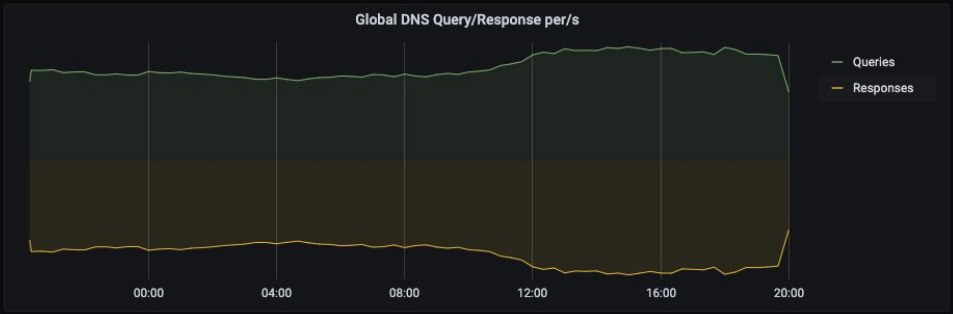
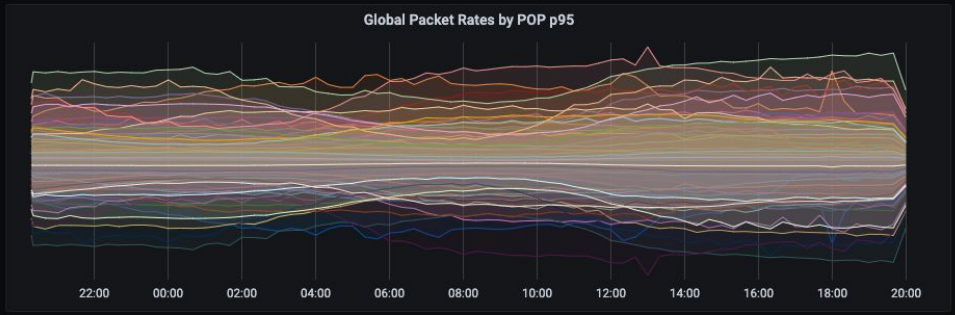
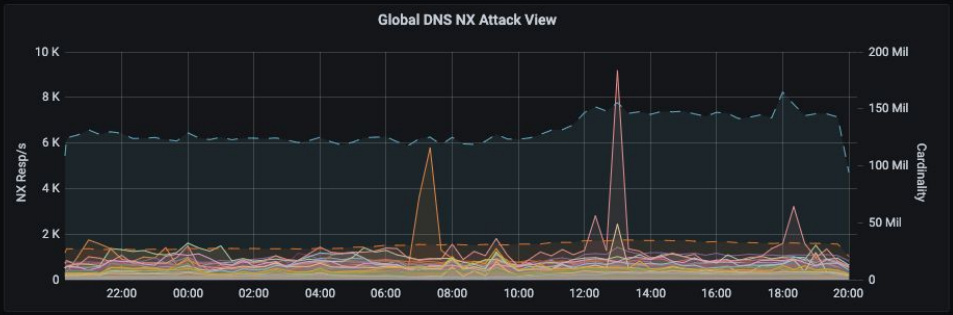
Grafana Dashboard: Elasticsearch

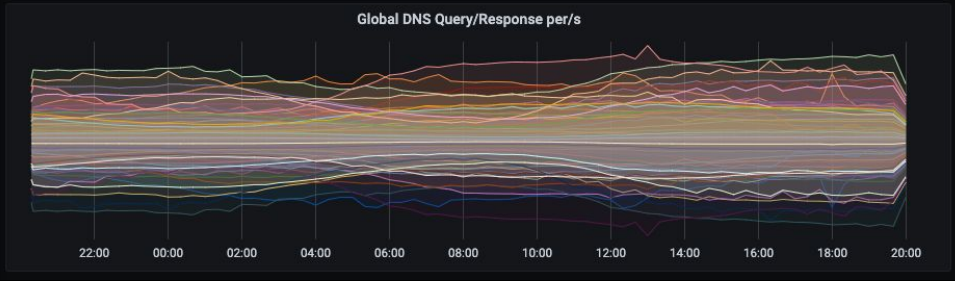
Global

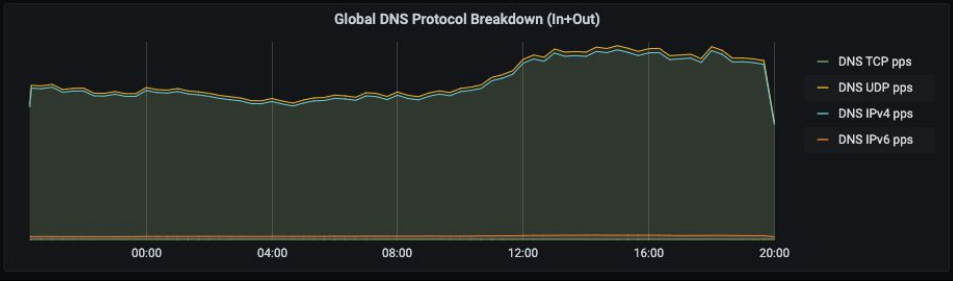




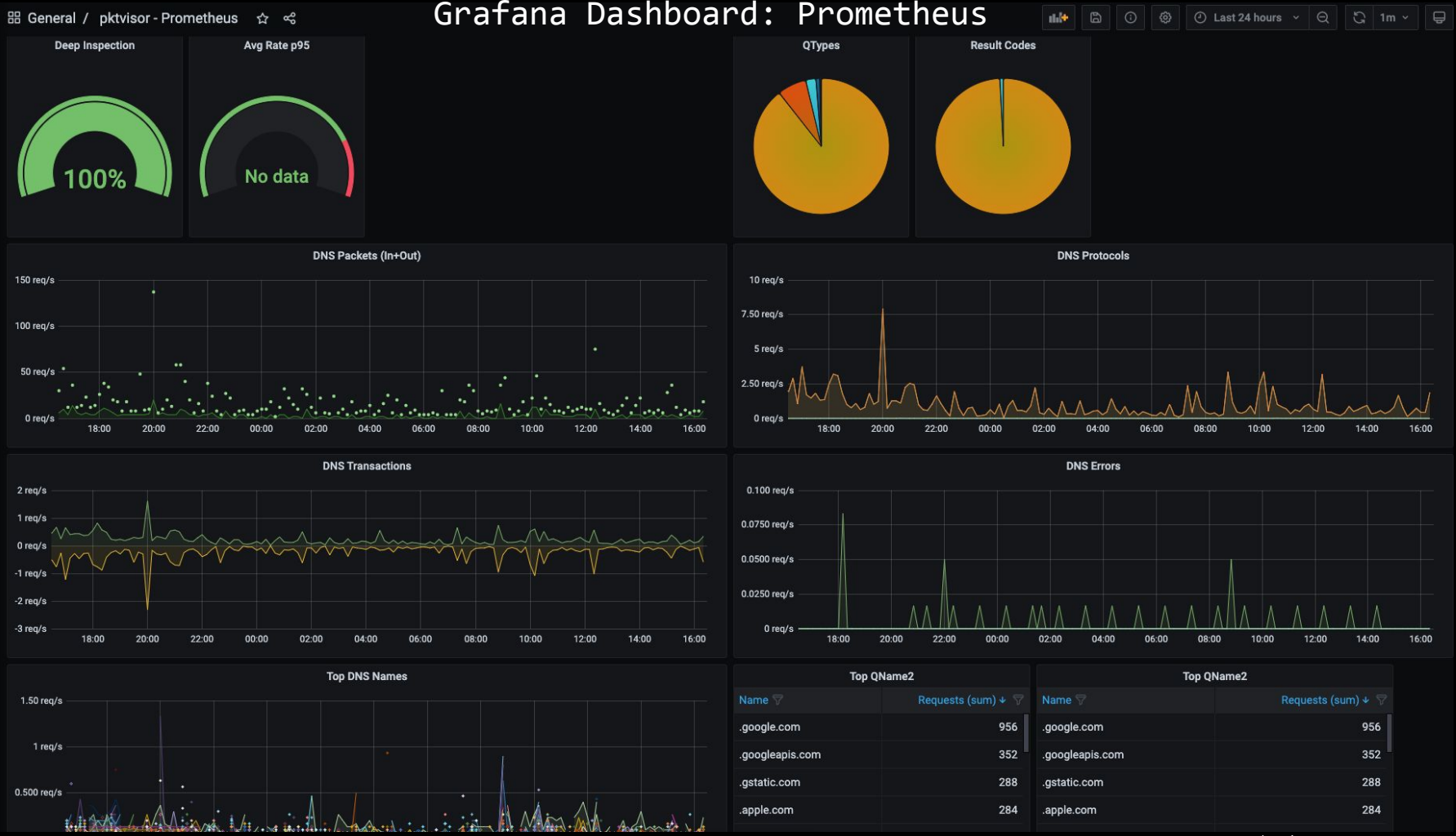








Grafana Dashboard: Prometheus



http://pktvisor.com

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develop | 2 branches | 9 tags | Go to file | Add file | Code

weyrick Merge pull request #86 from ns1labs/feature/taps ... 5206763 21 days ago 204 commits

.github/workflows	no automatic build for master	26 days ago
3rd	remove unnecessary max mind files (#67)	last month
RFCs	switch type to input_type. add taps endpoint to admin api	21 days ago
appimage	require binary arg to appimage to be consistent with docker image.	27 days ago
centralized_collection	configurable pktvisor tag for composite docker builds.	27 days ago
cmake	feature/deps (#36)	2 months ago
cmd	refactor CoreManagers out of CoreServer. add unit tests for taps	21 days ago
docker	require binary arg to appimage to be consistent with docker image.	27 days ago
docs	rfcs	26 days ago
golang	readme work	26 days ago
integration_tests	metric abstraction: add prometheus (#42)	2 months ago
src	refactor CoreManagers out of CoreServer. add unit tests for taps	21 days ago
.clang-format	import	15 months ago
.dockerignore	Feature AppImage (#46)	last month
.gitignore	yaml configuration	22 days ago
.gitmodules	Modularize #23 (#27)	3 months ago
CMakeLists.txt	merge 3.2.0 release, go 3.3.0-develop	26 days ago
CONTRIBUTING.md	Improve READMEs, other minor improvements (#25)	5 months ago
LICENSE	switch to MPL (#30)	2 months ago
README.md	readme updates	23 days ago

About

pktvisor summarizes network data streams in real time, enabling on-node and centralized data visibility and analysis

pktvisor.com

agent | monitoring | grafana | prometheus | observability | packet-capture | api-first | data-streams | collector-agent | datasketches | stream-processors | stream-summarization

Readme

MPL-2.0 License

Releases 9

3.2.0 Latest
26 days ago

+ 8 releases

Contributors 6

Languages

C++ 86.1% C 5.6%

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Releases | Tags

Draft a new release

3 days ago

latest-develop

5037e13 zip tar.gz

Latest release

v3.2.0

e2b0048

Compare

3.2.0

Edit

weyrick released this on Apr 16

New Features

- Introduce native Prometheus support into pktvisord with `--prometheus` flag, which will expose Prometheus compatible metrics at `/metrics` endpoint. Also see `--prom-instance`
- Add a new docker container for easily collecting and sending Prometheus compatible metrics, see docker hub
- Add a new Grafana dashboard for Prometheus, both to the repo and to Grafana dashboard community
- Begin building and distributing an AppImage (static Linux binary) which includes pktvisord, pktvisor-cli, and pktvisor-pcap
- Ability to deamonize pktvisord with the `-d` flag
- Ability to send pktvisord logs to either an output file (`--log-file`), or to syslog (`--syslog`)

Other Improvements

- CI and build improvements including better use of Conan and automatic dependency installation
- Improved documentation and READMEs

Bug Fixes

- #47 Fix live rates in pktvisor-cli

Assets 3

pktvisor-x86_64-3.2.0.AppImage	8.96 MB
Source code (zip)	

Easy Install

pull the image

```
root@dnshost:~$ docker pull ns1labs/pktvisor
```

start the agent

```
root@dnshost:~$ docker run --net=host -d ns1labs/pktvisor pktvisord eth0
```

run the command line UI

```
root@dnshost:~$ docker run -it --rm --net=host ns1labs/pktvisor pktvisor-cli
```


Shannon Weyrick · sweyrick@ns1.com

Easy Install  Static Linux Binary

download the binary, make executable

```
root@dnshost:~$ curl -L http://pktvisor.com/download -o pktvisor-x86_64.AppImage
root@dnshost:~$ chmod +x pktvisor-x86_64.AppImage
```

start the agent

```
root@dnshost:~$ sudo ./pktvisor-x86_64.AppImage pktvisord eth0
```

run the command line UI

```
root@dnshost:~$ ./pktvisor-x86_64.AppImage pktvisor-cli
```


Shannon Weyrick · sweyrick@ns1.com

Easily Plugin To Prometheus

Readme

pktvisor + centralized Prometheus collection

This container combines pktvisord with the Grafana Agent for collecting and sending metrics to Prometheus through remote write, including to cloud providers like Grafana Cloud.

There is a sample Grafana dashboard which provides a good starting point for visualizing pktvisor metrics. You can also find it online via the Grafana community dashboards, allowing you to import easily into any Grafana installation (ID 14221).

Example:

```
docker pull ns1labs/pktvisor-prom-write
docker run -d --net=host --env PKTVISORD_ARGS="--prom-instance <INSTANCE> <INTERFACE>" \
--env REMOTE_URL="https://<REMOTEHOST>/api/prom/push" --env USERNAME="<USERNAME>" \
--env PASSWORD="<PASSWORD>" ns1labs/pktvisor-prom-write
```

Example with Geo enabled (assuming files are located in `/usr/local/geo`):

```
docker pull ns1labs/pktvisor-prom-write
docker run -d --mount type=bind,source=/usr/local/geo,target=/geo --net=host --env \
PKTVISORD_ARGS="--prom-instance <INSTANCE> --geo-city /geo/GeoIP2-City.mmdb --geo-asn /geo/GeoIP2-ISP.mmdb <INTERFACE>" \
--env REMOTE_URL="https://<REMOTEHOST>/api/prom/push" --env USERNAME="<USERNAME>" --env PASSWORD="<PASSWORD>" ns1labs/pktvisor-prom-write
```

There are a several pieces of information you need to substitute above:

- `<INSTANCE>` : The prometheus "instance" label for all metrics, e.g. "myhost"
- `<INTERFACE>` : The ethernet interface to capture on, e.g. "eth0"
- `<REMOTEHOST>` : The remote host to remote_write the prometheus metric to
- `<USERNAME>` : If required by your prometheus setup, the user name to connect. If not required, leave off this environment variable.
- `<PASSWORD>` : If required by your prometheus setup, the password to connect. If not required, leave off this environment variable.

Other pktvisor arguments may be passed in the PKTVISORD_ARGS environment variable.

Easily Plugin To Elasticsearch

telegraf™

elastic

Metrics Collection

Metrics from the REST API

The metrics are available from the agent in JSON format via the REST API.

For most use cases, you will want to collect the most recent full 1-minute bucket, once per minute:

```
curl localhost:10853/api/v1/metrics/bucket/1
```

This can be done with tools like telegraf and the standard HTTP plugin. Example telegraf config snippet:

```
[inputs]
[[inputs.http]]
urls = [ "http://127.0.0.1:10853/api/v1/metrics/bucket/1",]
interval = "60s"
data_format = "json"
json_query = "1m"
json_time_key = "period_start_ts"
json_time_format = "unix"
json_string_fields = [
  "dns_*",
  "packets_*",
]

[inputs.http.tags]
t = "pktvisor"
interval = "60"
```

Install Grafana Dashboard

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All dashboards » pktvisor - prometheus

pktvisor - prometheus by ns1labs

DASHBOARD

A dashboard for pktvisor observability tool (https://github.com/ns1labs/pktvisor), showcasing Network and DNS metrics.
Last updated: a month ago

Start with Grafana Cloud and the new FREE tier. Includes 10K series Prometheus or Graphite Metrics and 50gb Loki Logs

Downloads:

Reviews:

Add your review!

Overview | Revisions | Reviews

pktvisor summarizes network data streams in real time. It can capture Network, DNS, and other metrics via packet capture, dnstap, sflow, and other input methods.

This dashboard can be used as a starting point to visualize pktvisor metrics. See the Github page for information on how to deploy and collect these metrics.

Get this dashboard:

14221

Copy ID to Clipboard

Download JSON
How do I import this dashboard?

Dependencies:

Deeper Dive

History

- pktvisor v1 2014 (forked netsniff-ng, remains open source)
- operations, debugging, DDoS visibility
- essentially simple DNS “top”
- deficiencies
  - central collection was a hack
  - resource usage
  - missing IPv6 and TCP support
  - did not track transactions (query/reply pair)

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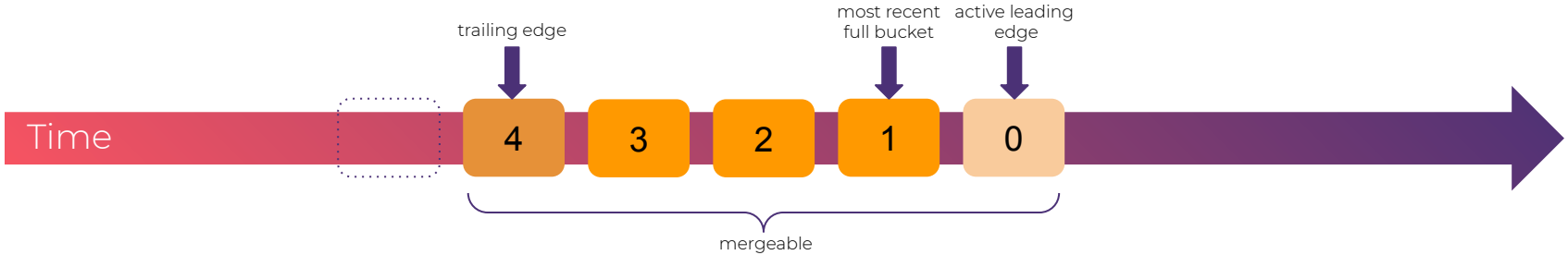
Rewrite

- move to Agent paradigm
- fix deficiencies
- modularize: inputs, dissectors, analyzers, sinks
- parallelize
- summarize with stream processing techniques (DataSketches)
- API first: built-in HTTP control plane

Shannon Weyrick · sweyrick@ns1.com

Sliding time window, JSON interface



- maintain mergeable 1m buckets of metrics to provide summary across full window
- always-on Agent supplies information to CLI UI and central collection via HTTP
- both merged and individual buckets are available for collection in REST API
  - CLI UI uses the merged window
  - Central collector gathers a single minute, once a minute

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Under The Hood

- agent written in modern C++
- CLI UI is written in Go
- PcapPlusPlus abstraction for pcap input + custom AF_PACKET
- Apache Data Sketches
- optional MaxMind support for GeoIP and ASN
- HTTP(S) API, JSON + native Prometheus output
- Linux, OSX. Windows?

Shannon Weyrick · sweyrick@ns1.com

Data Sketches

- fast, probabilistic data structures designed for streaming
- results are approximate but within well defined error bounds
- provide cardinality, heavy hitters (frequent items), quantiles
- designed to be merged, which is how we support time window
- possible to expose raw binary sketch data via API so that it can be merged across hosts and data centers

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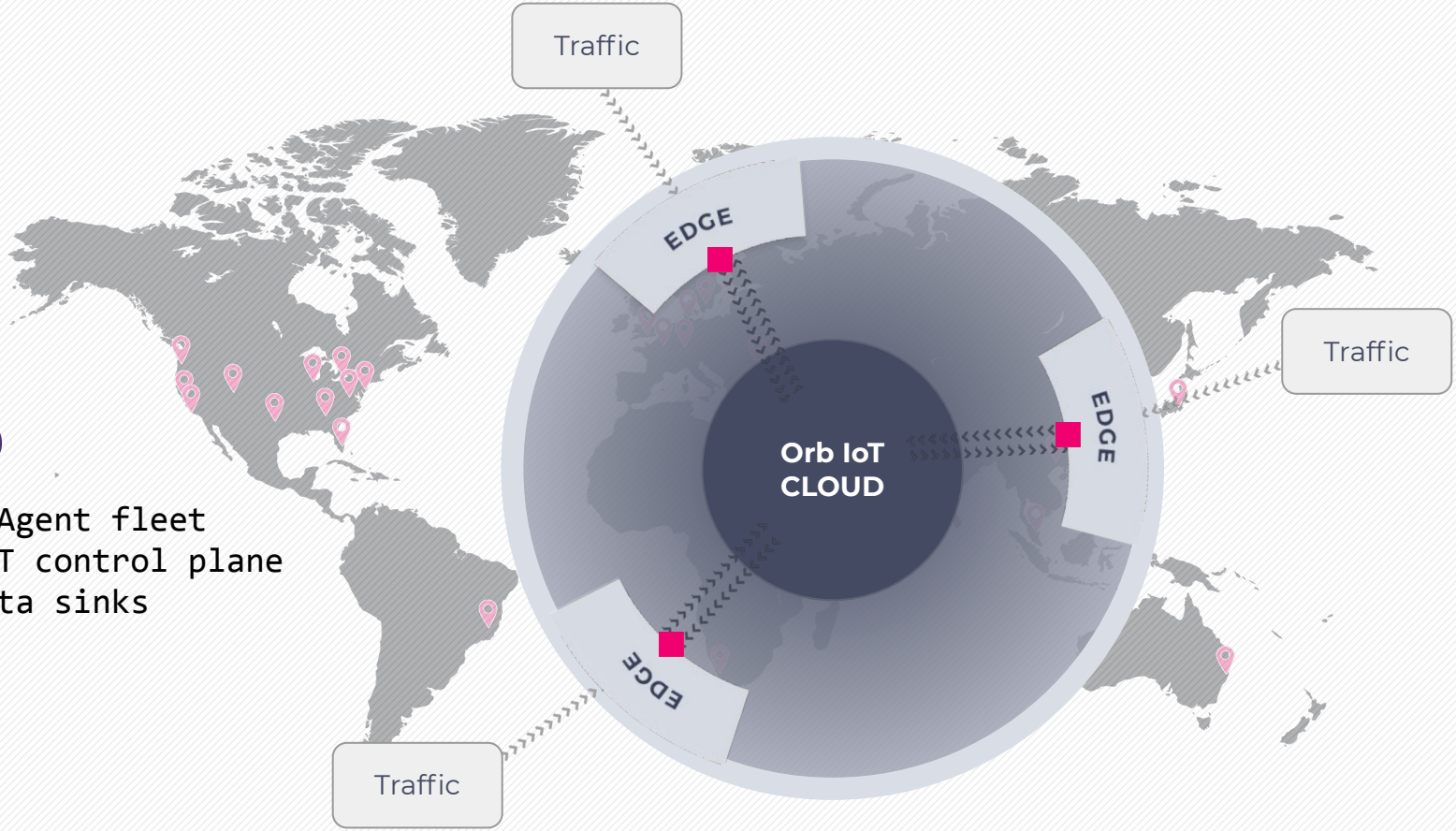
The Future: Orb

IoT Inspired Cloud Control Plane for Fleet of pktvisor Agents

Orb

1. Agent fleet
2. IoT control plane
3. Data sinks



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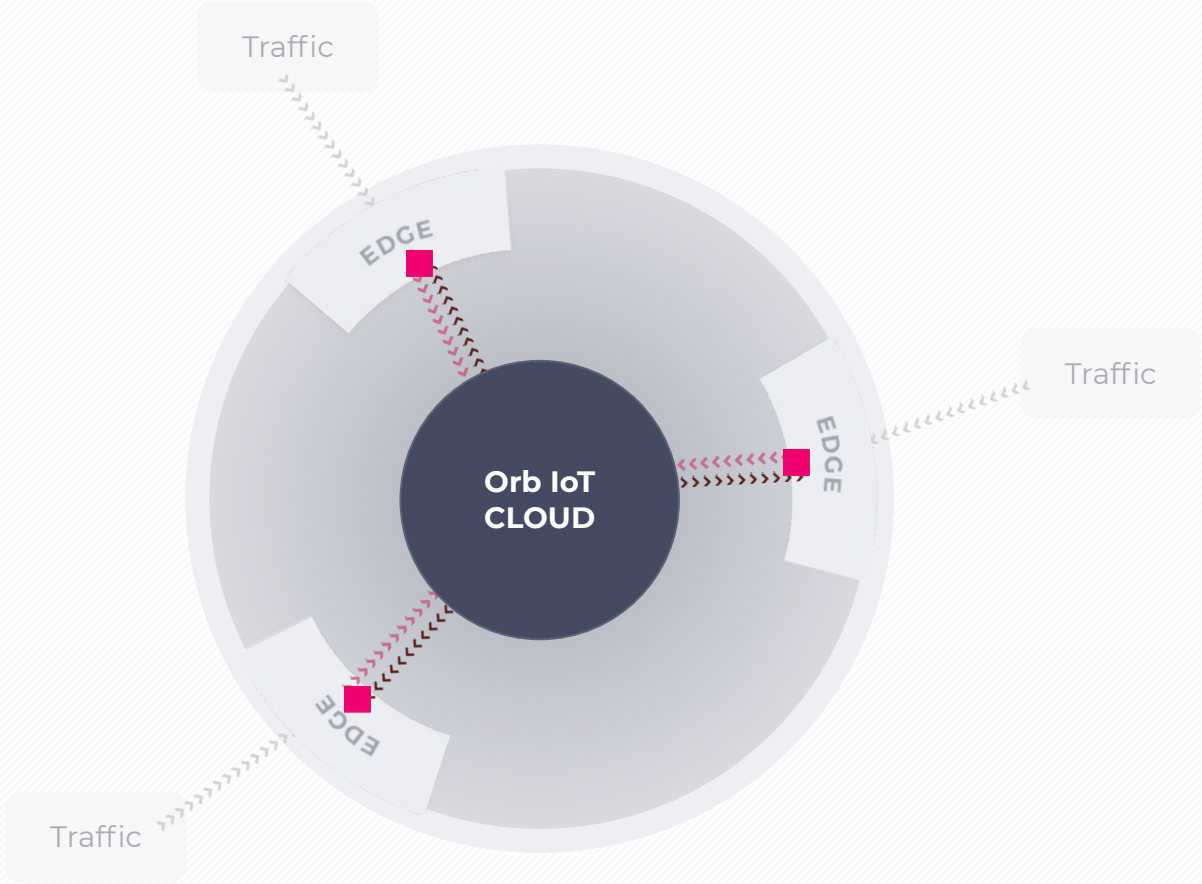
Orb

1. Agent fleet
2. IoT control plane
3. Data sinks



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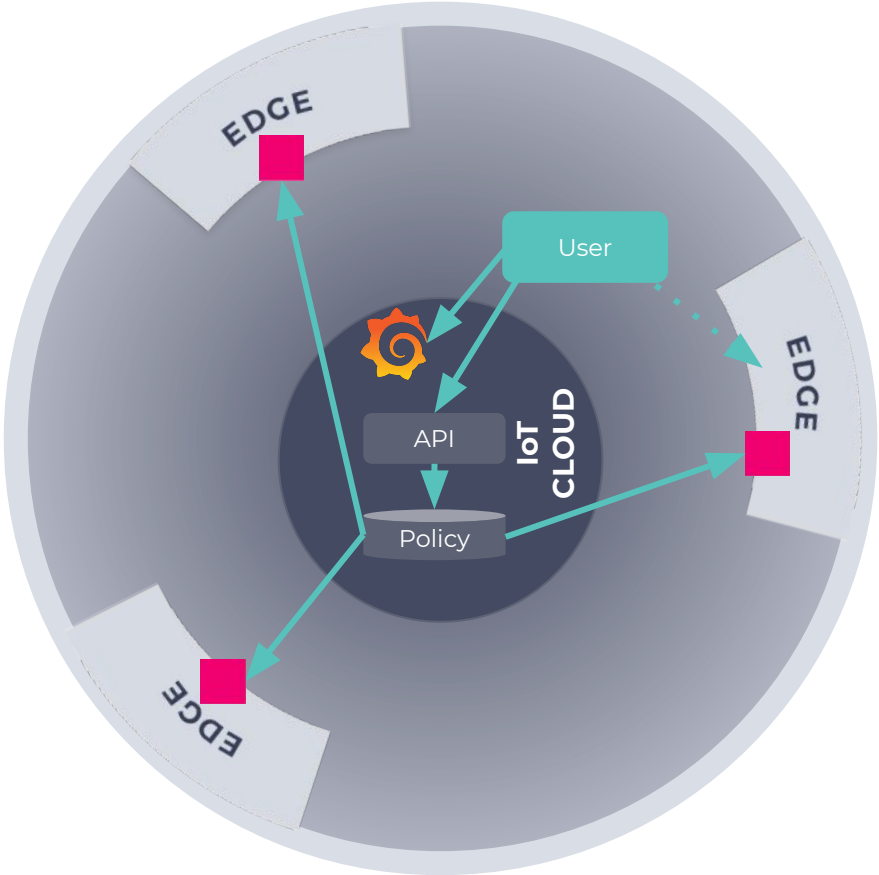


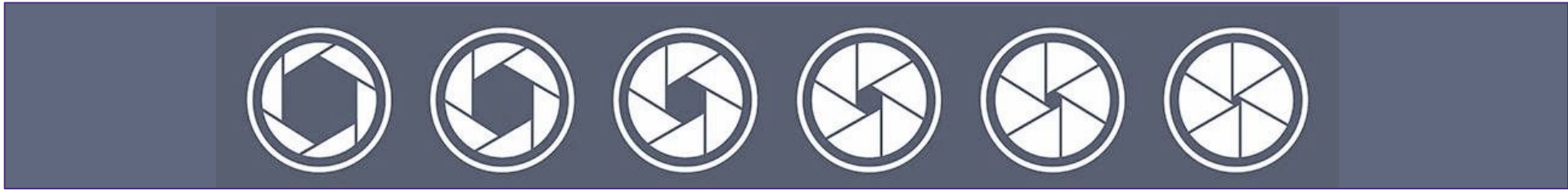
IoT Control Plane

API based configuration management

Agents connect via MQTT

Shannon Weyrick · sweyrick@ns1.com

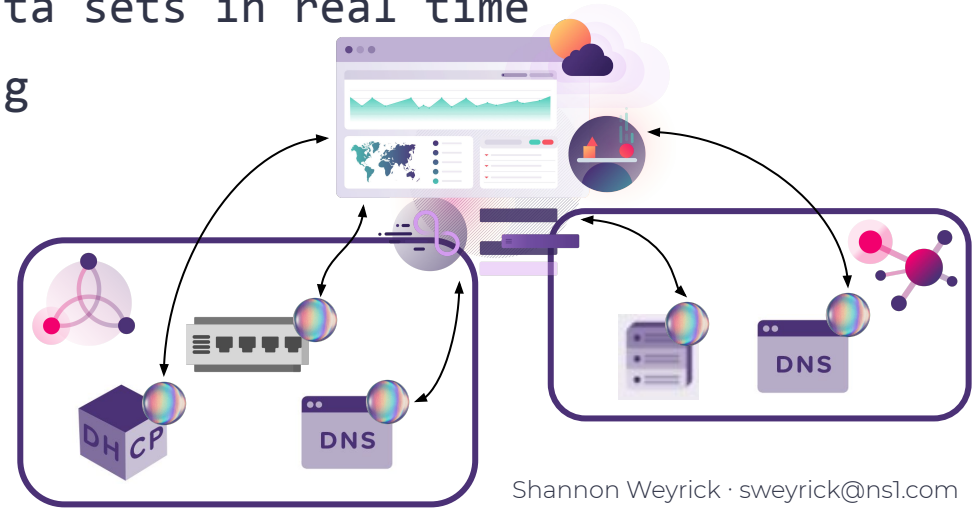
Exploring Edge Data with Dynamic Datasets



- apply multiple layered policies per Agent to extract different dimensions of Signal
- separate datasets for each policy
- filter out unwanted upstream data
- choose which summary data to collect
- choose where to send the data (built-in TSDB, S3 bucket, etc)

Orb Project Goals

- open source, vendor neutral, cloud native (microservices, k8s)
- orchestrate fleet of pktvisor Agents
- single pane of glass dashboarding
- create and explore Signal data sets in real time
- central analysis and alerting



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http://orb.community

ns1labs / orb

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develop | 4 branches | 0 tags | Go to file | Add file | Code

weyrick license notice (#12) e1eb864 4 days ago 18 commits

RFCs	initial rfcs for data model (#6)	23 days ago
cmd	license notice (#12)	4 days ago
docker	license notice (#12)	4 days ago
docs/images	add header	2 months ago
pkg	license notice (#12)	4 days ago
.dockerignore	initial sketch of project	2 months ago
.gitignore	feature/mainflux bootstrap (#11)	5 days ago
LICENSE	Initial commit	3 months ago
Makefile	license notice (#12)	4 days ago
README.md	Update README.md	2 months ago
go.mod	feature/mainflux bootstrap (#11)	5 days ago
go.sum	feature/mainflux bootstrap (#11)	5 days ago
version.go	license notice (#12)	4 days ago

README.md

Orb.

About

Network observability platform, based on http://pktvisor.com

orb.community

kubernetes | iot | ui | docker-compose | metrics | self-hosted | cloud-native | control-plane | observability | fleet-management | edge-computing

Readme

MPL-2.0 License

Releases

No releases published
Create a new release

Contributors 3

weyrick Shannon Weyrick

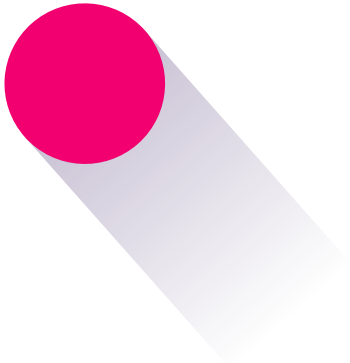
jabyrd3 Jordan Byrd

CheRuisiBesares Che Ruisi-...

Languages

Go 84.4% JavaScript 6.1%

NS1.



Thank You!

Questions?

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sweyrick@ns1.com

NS1.