Network Security @ ICS MU

Jan Vykopal

vykopal@ics.muni.cz

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FI MU, Brno

Part I

Introduction

Present Computer Security

Present Essentials and Best Practices

- host-based: firewall, antivirus, automated patching, NAC[1]
- network-based: firewall, antispam filter, IDS[2], UTM[3]

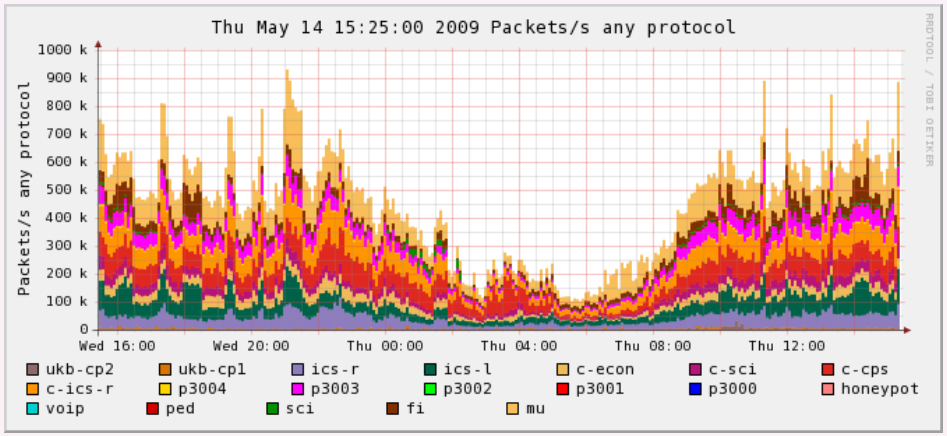
Network Security Monitoring

- **Necessary complement to host-based approach.**
- NBA[4] is a **key approach** in large and high-speed networks.
- Traffic acquisition and storage is almost done,
  security analysis is a challenging task.

[1]Network Access Control, [2]Intrusion Detection System
[3]Unified Threat Management, [4]Network Behavior Analysis

Flow Based Monitoring

- Provides information about who communicates with whom, for how long, which protocol, how much data and so on.
- Based on CISCO NetFlow v5/v9 technology and IETF IPFIX.
- Enables you to watch your network traffic in real-time.
- GEANT2 Security Toolset = FlowMon probe + NfSen.



Detailed network view with NetFlow data.

NetFlow Applications in Time

Originally

Accounting

NetFlow Applications in Time

Originally

Accounting

Then

Incident handling
Network forensics

NetFlow Applications in Time

Originally

Accounting

Then

Incident handling
Network forensics

Now

Intrusion detection
Network protection

Part II

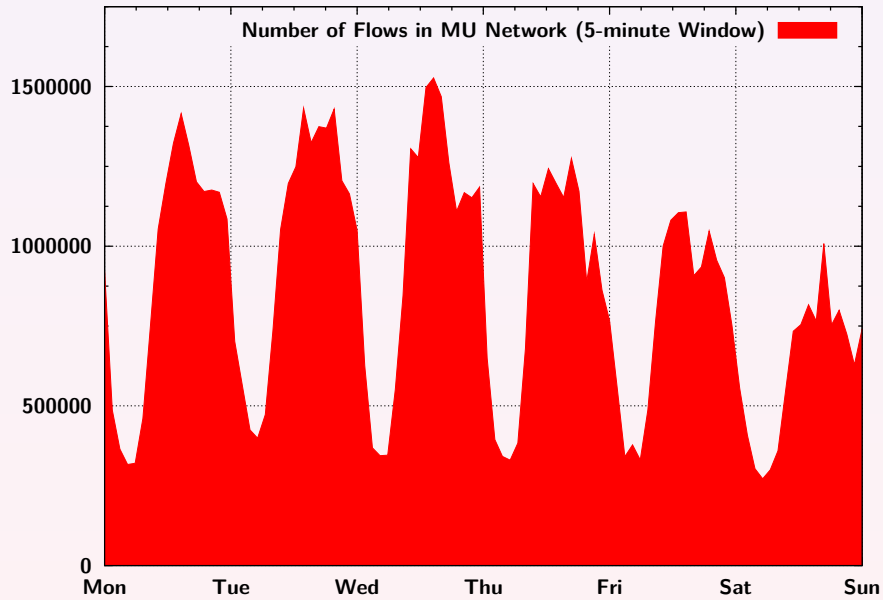
NetFlow Monitoring at MU

Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

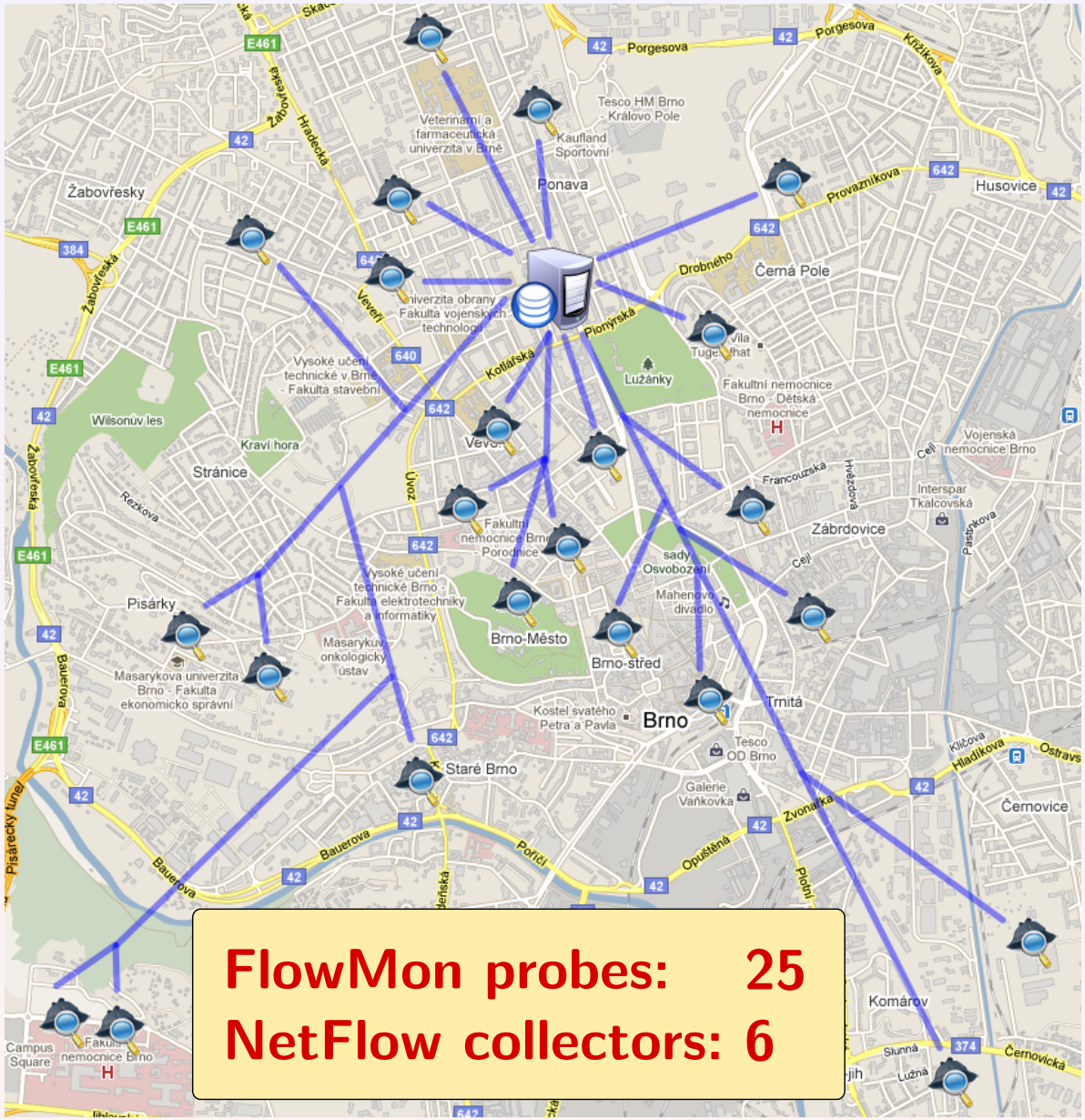
- 9 faculties: 200 departments and institutes
- 48,000 students and employees
- **15,000 networked hosts**
- 2x 10 gigabit uplinks to CESNET (NREN)

Interval	Flows	Packets	Bytes
Second	5 k	150 k	132 M
Minute	300 k	9 M	8 G
Hour	15 M	522 M	448 G
Day	285 M	9.4 G	8 T
Week	1.6 G	57 G	50 T

Average traffic volume at the edge links in peak hours.



FlowMon Probes at Masaryk University Campus



FlowMon probes: 25
NetFlow collectors: 6

NetFlow Monitoring at Masaryk University

1/10 GE

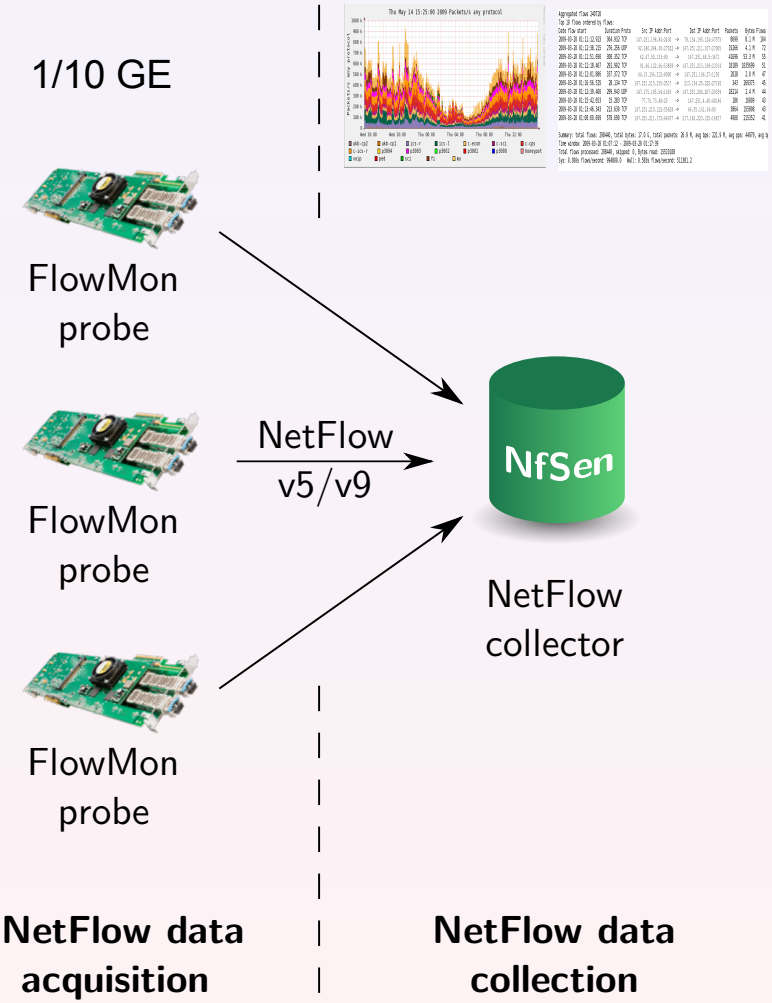
FlowMon probe

FlowMon probe

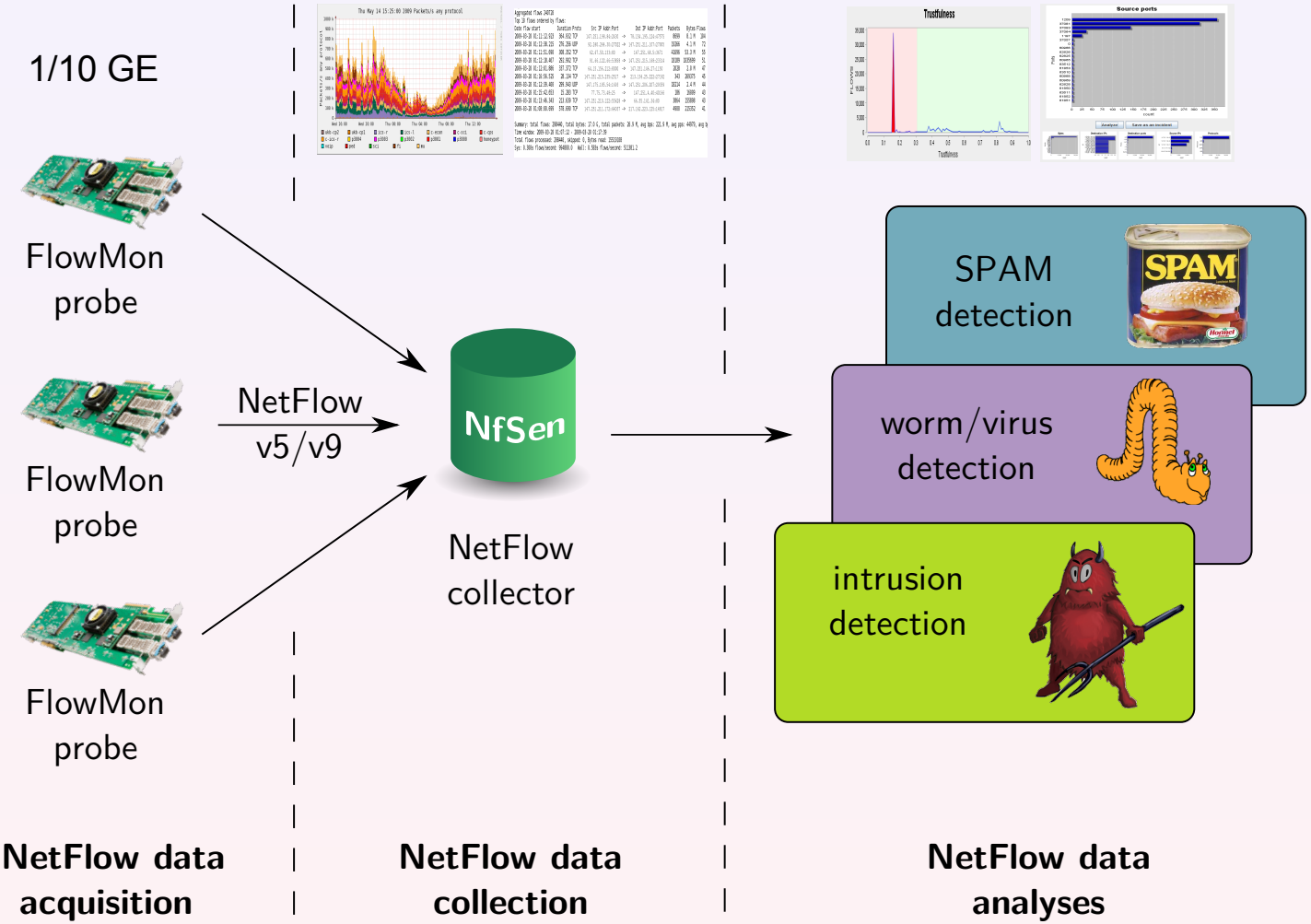
FlowMon probe

NetFlow data acquisition

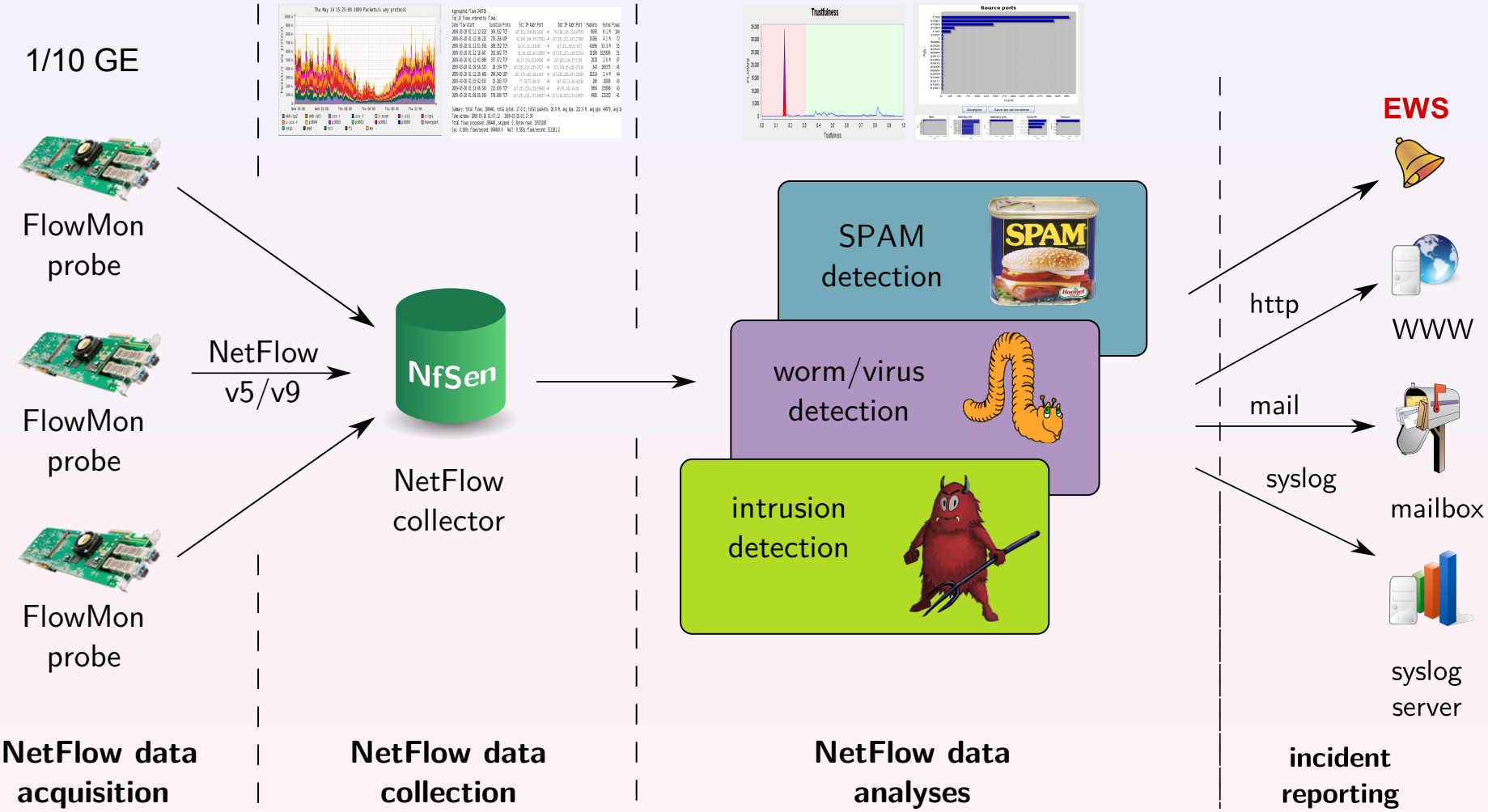
NetFlow Monitoring at Masaryk University



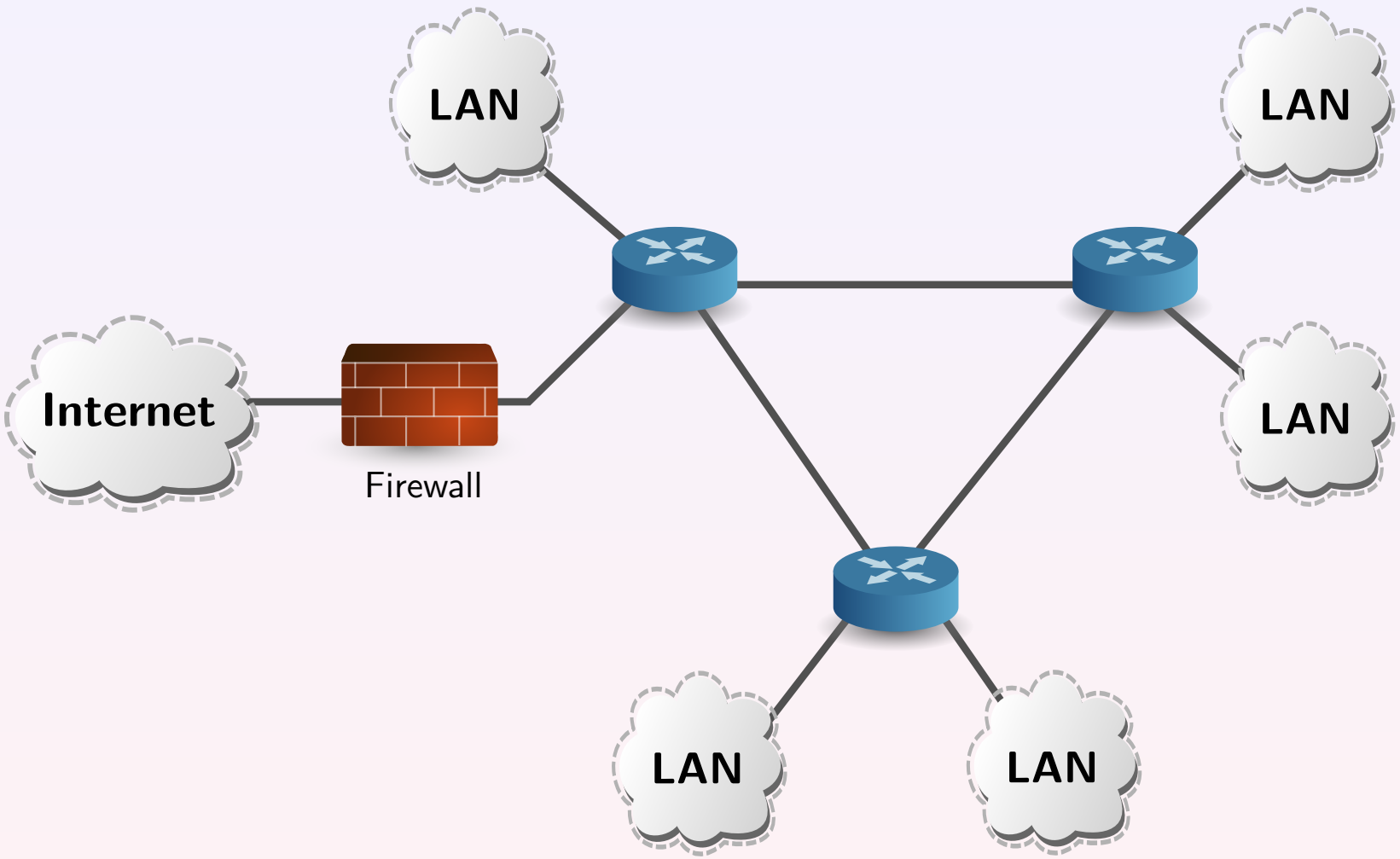
NetFlow Monitoring at Masaryk University



NetFlow Monitoring at Masaryk University

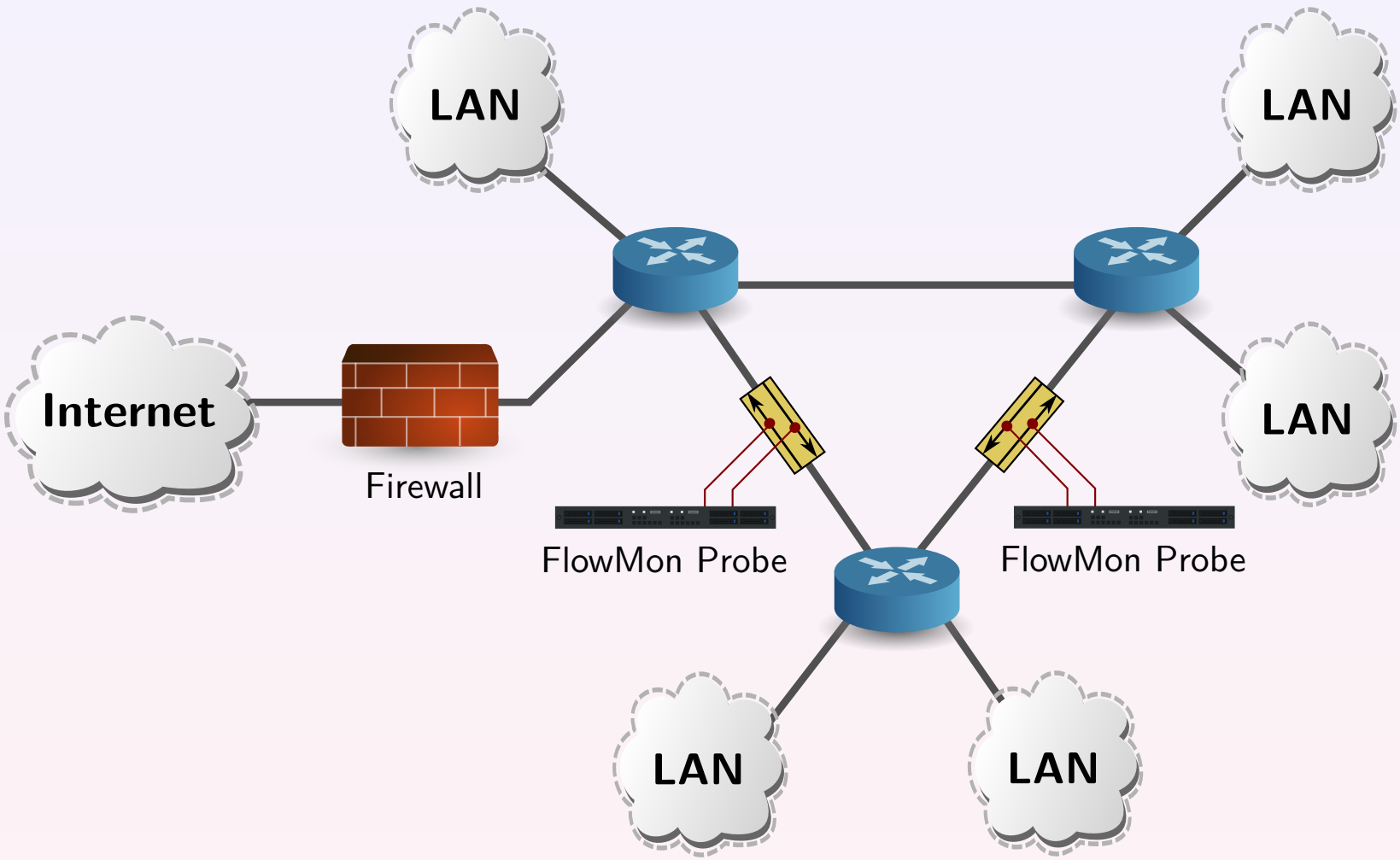


Flow-based Traffic Monitoring System



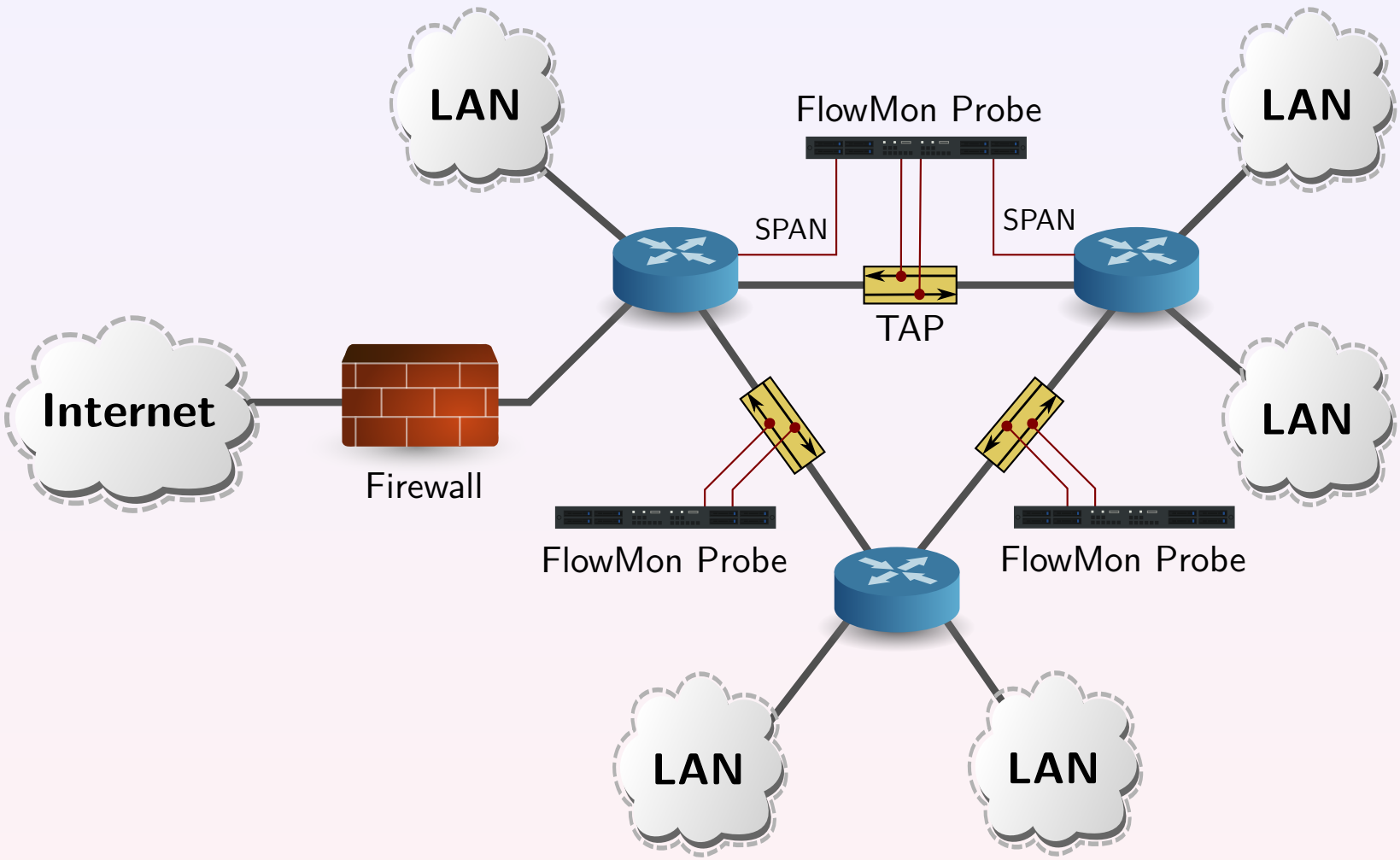
Network without any flow monitoring system.

Flow-based Traffic Monitoring System



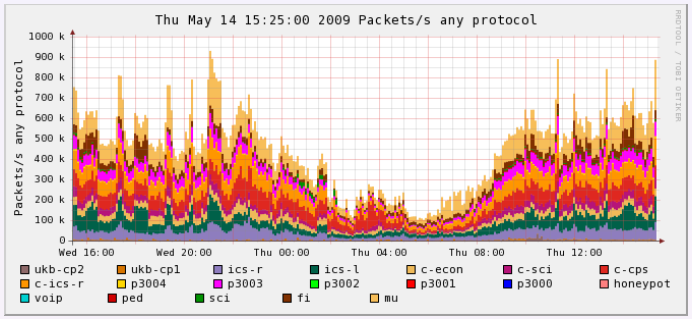
FlowMon probe connected to in-line TAP.

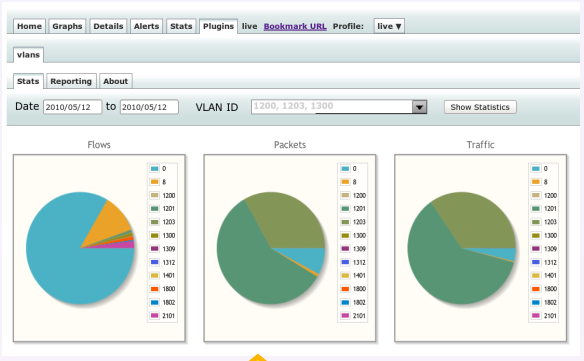
Flow-based Traffic Monitoring System

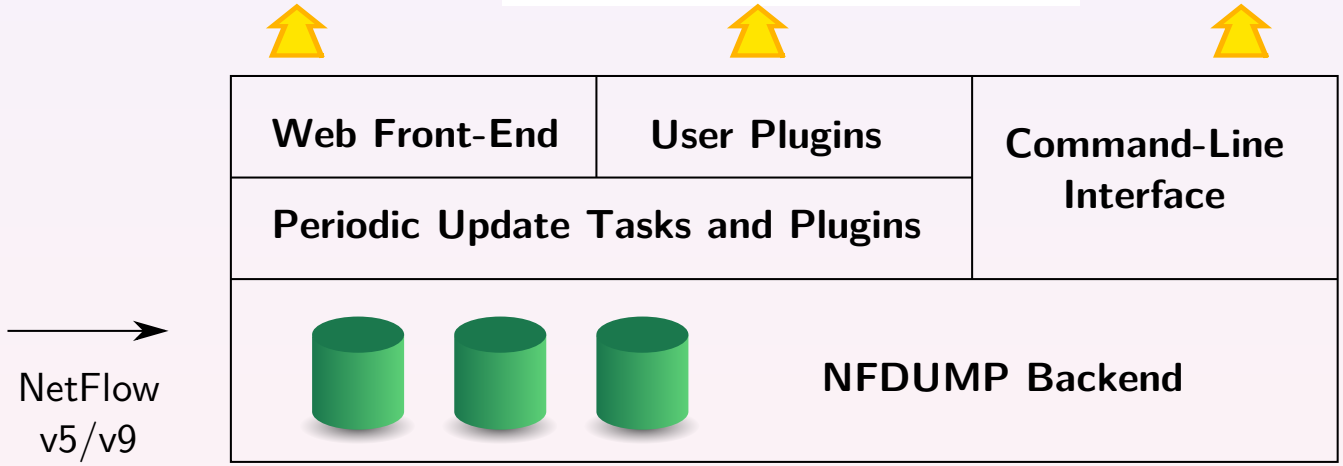


FlowMon observes data from TAP and SPAN ports.

NfSen/NFDUMP Collector Toolset Architecture







- **NfSen – NetFlow Sensor** – http://nfsen.sf.net/
- **NFDUMP – NetFlow display** – http://nfdump.sf.net/

Methods for Data Analysis I

TCP SYN scanning detection

- Very simple, but effective general method.
- Reveals compromised hosts in our network.
- Very low false positive rate.

Honeypot monitoring

- Uses subnet allocated for high- and low-interaction honeypots.
- Eliminates false positives, mainly catches hosts from outside.
- Besides flow, passwords attempted by attackers are stored.

Methods for Data Analysis II

Brute force attack detection

- Online password guessing is ubiquituos, still a threat.
- Similar flows may be symptoms of this attack.
- Suitable even for encrypted services such as SSH.
- One attacker often aims to more targets $\Rightarrow$ easier detection.

Round trip time anomaly detection

- (D)DOSes overwhlem servers and increase response time.
- Abrupt increase of RTT may point to attack/misconfiguration.
- Number of incoming flows/packets is often correlated to RTT.

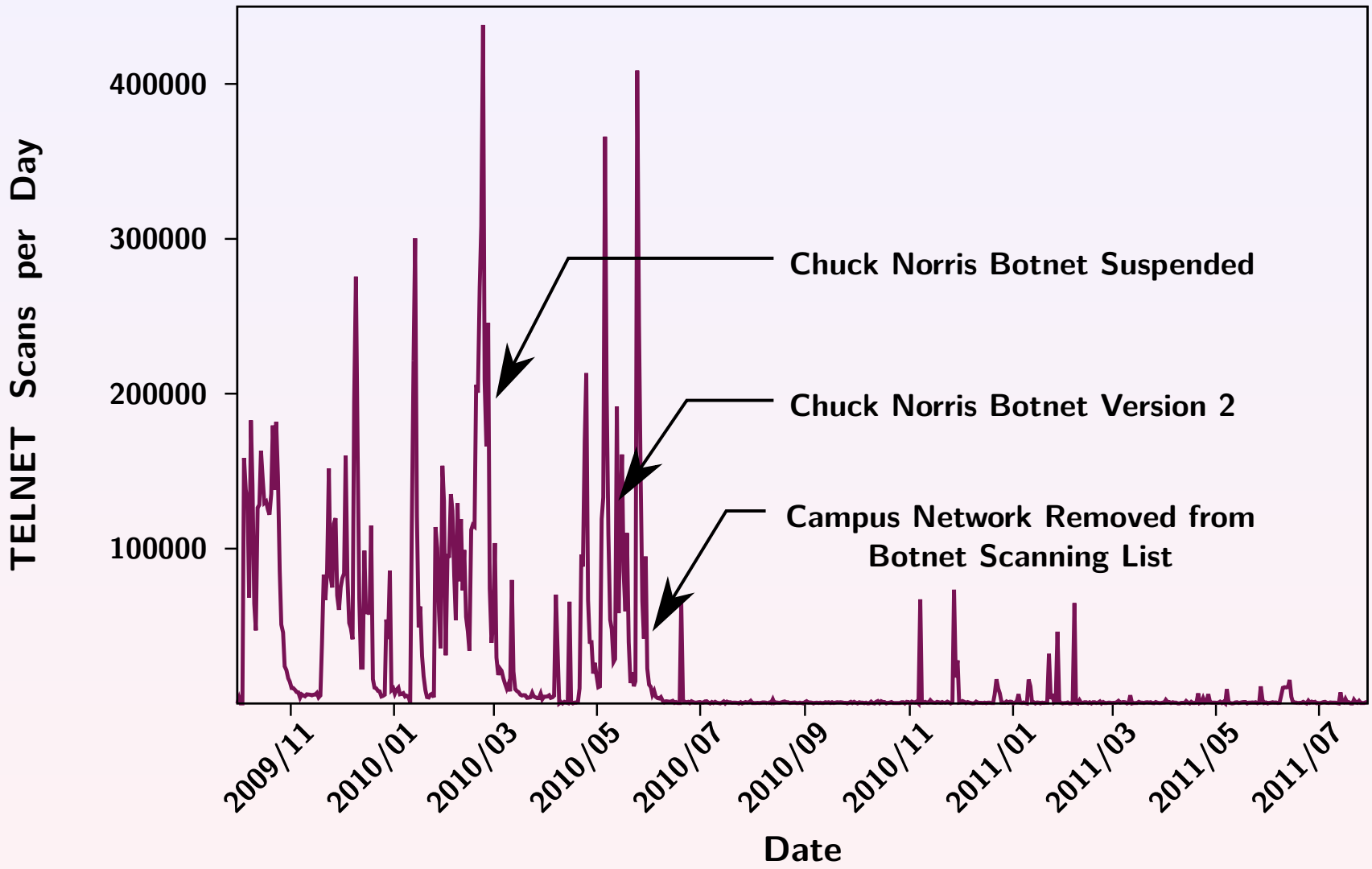
Chuck Norris Botnet in Nutshell

- **Linux malware** – IRC bots with central C&C servers.
- Attacks **poorly-configured** Linux **MIPSEL** devices.
- Vulnerable devices – **ADSL modems** and **routers**.

- Uses **TELNET brute force** attack as infection vector.
- Users are **not aware** about the malicious activities.
- **Missing** anti-malware **solution** to detect it.

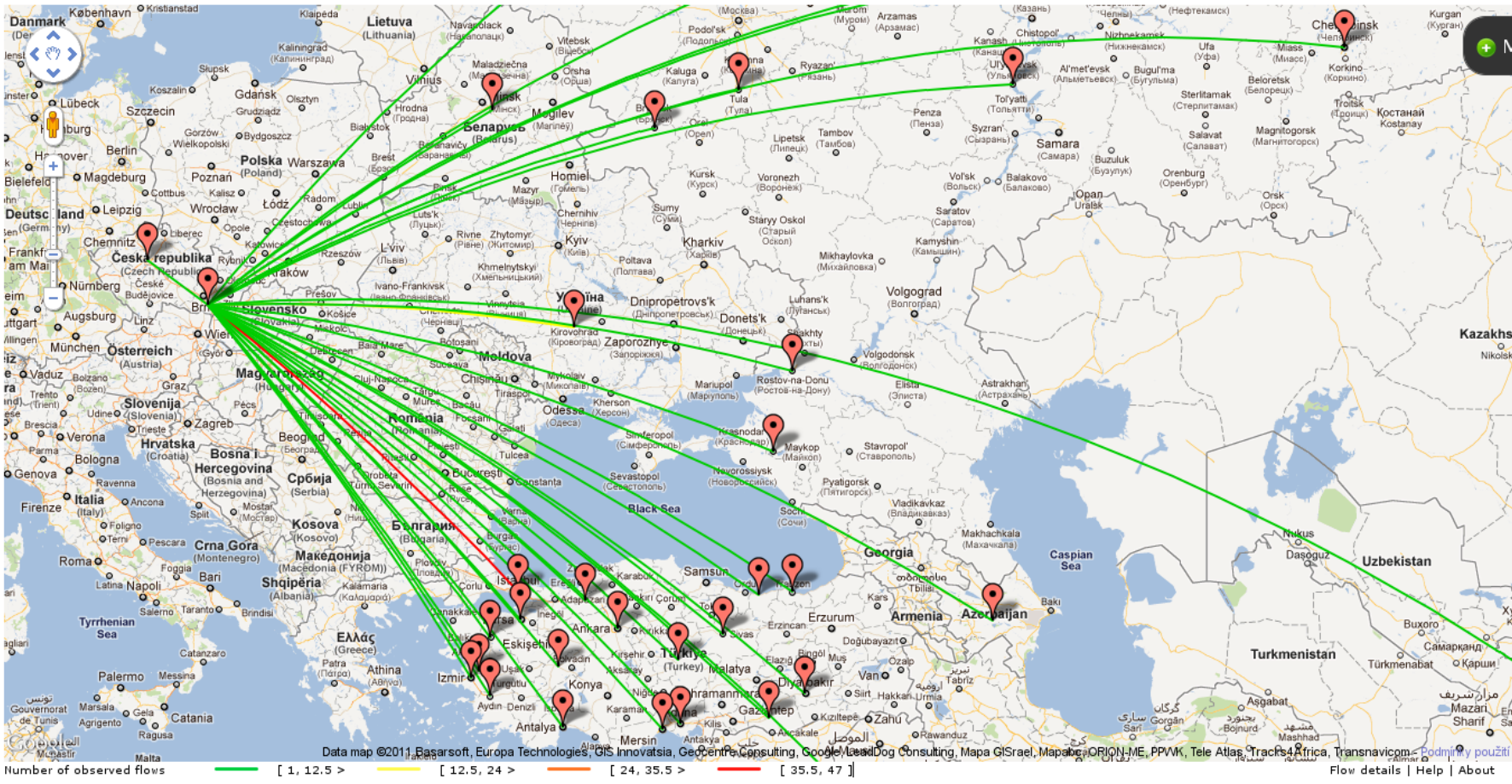
Discovered at Masaryk University on 2 December 2009. The malware got the Chuck Norris moniker from a comment in its source code `[R]anger Killato : in nome di Chuck Norris !`

TELNET Malware Activities – 2009/11 - 2011/7



Chuck Norris Will Never Die or Cyber War ?

TELNET scans against single host – 2011/10/20.



SURFmap – http://surfmap.sf.net

Part III

Flow-based Network Protection

Goals and Components

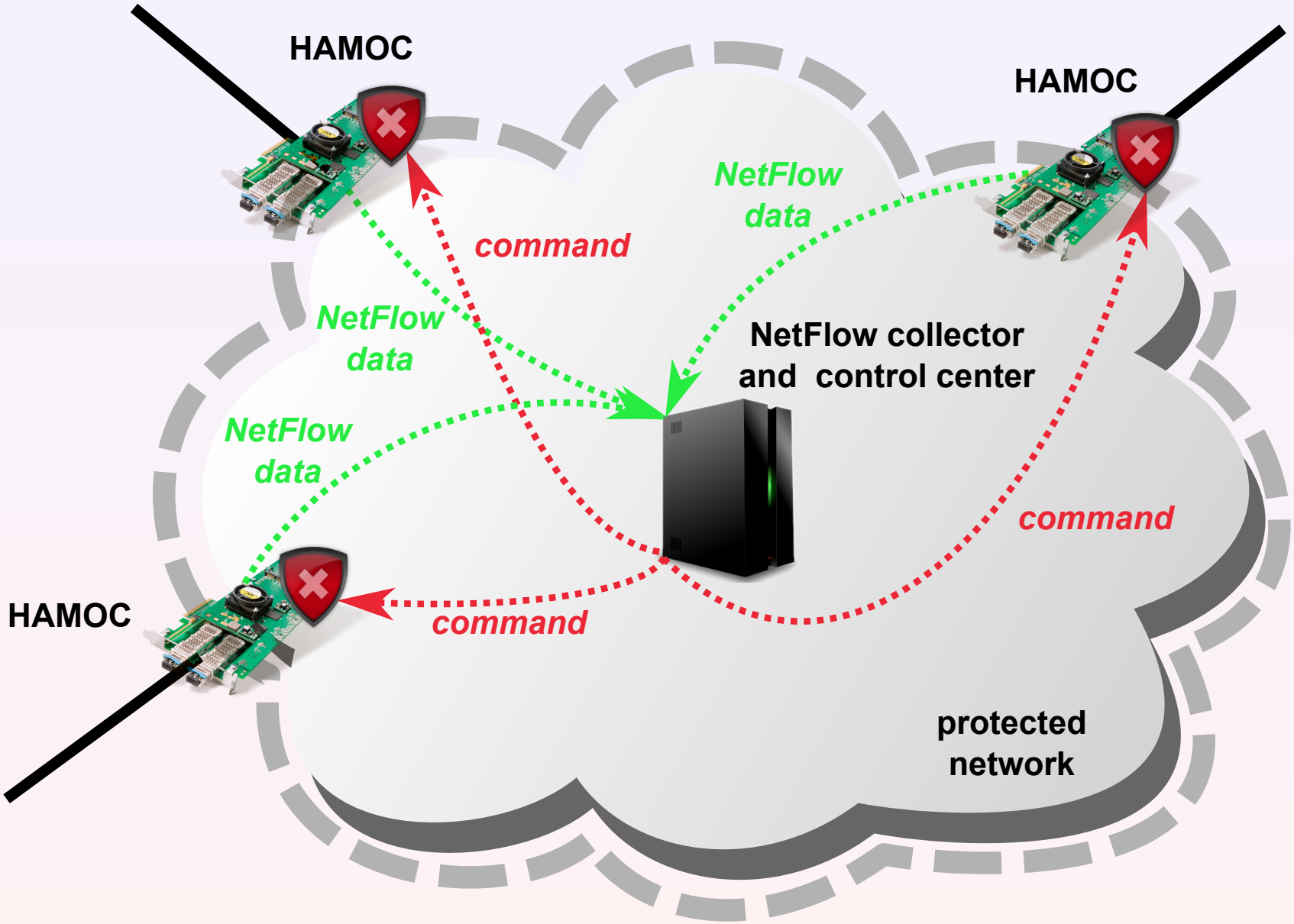
Goals of Network Protection

- Using **NetFlow data** to protect network.
- Defending perimeter against **attacks from outside**.
- **Automated** attack detection.
- Suitable for **high speed networks** (10 Gbps+).

System Parts

- Sensors ($\Rightarrow$ NetFlow data).
- Control center ($\Rightarrow$ commands).
- Active network components ($\Rightarrow$ blocking/filtering).
- HAMOC platform – both sensor and active component.

Architecture of Network Protection



Part IV

Integration with Early Warning Systems

Warden: Czech academic EWS

Client/server achitecture

- Security-related events are sent to the center.
- Clients (periodically) poll the center for new events.
- Events: port scanning, brute force attack, phishing, etc.
- Transport protocols: SOAP over HTTPS (+ SSL certificates)

Integration

- Control center also calls remote procedure to store a newly detected event.
- Events coming from center may trigger an action.
- Trustworthiness of participants is a key factor!

Part V

In Daily Operation

Computer Security Incident Response Team of MU

The **first university CSIRT** in the Visegrad Four listed and accredited in the **Trusted Introducer** public database.

Provided services:

- Incident handling and response (and its coordination).
- **Intrusion detection** based on NetFlow probes and honeypots.
- Network policy checks and network analysis (e. g., reverse DNS records, live IPs, accounting, . . .).
- User education, alerts&warning: security advisories and bulletins.

Constituency: tens of thousands of university students and staff.

Part VI

Conclusion

Conclusion

- Flow-based network protection is suitable for large networks.
- Online network monitoring contributes to the overall security.
- Early warning systems may profit from flow-based detection.
- Automated network protection based solely on the EWS may be dangerous.

Thank you for your attention!

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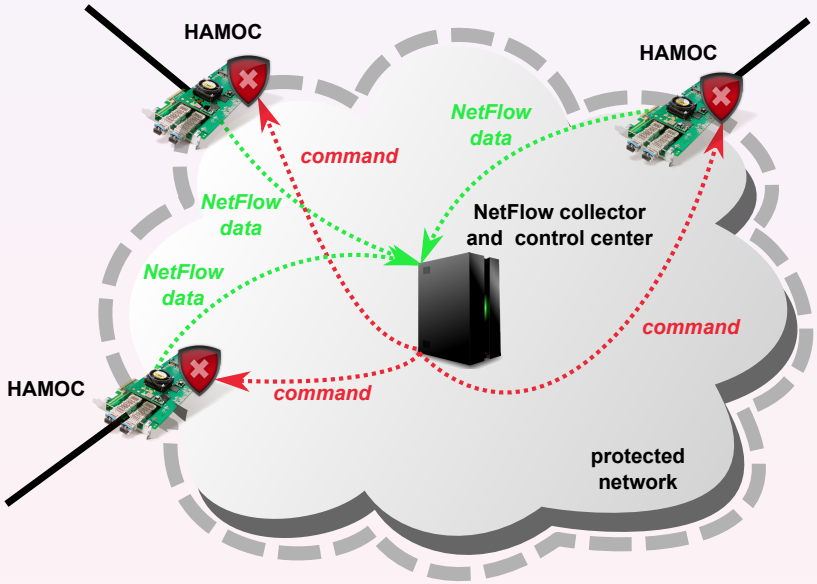

Jan Vykopal

vykopal@ics.muni.cz

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http://www.muni.cz/ics/cyber

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