



SharkFest '18 Europe



Hands-on analysis of multi-point captures

... or how much can YOU learn while waiting at a railway crossing

PACKET-FOO

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About me?



- Working for **AIRBUS**
- Reading trace files for the fun of it
- Sharkfest addict since Stanford



Why Multipoint ?



- A single measure point is not sufficient for certain network analysis tasks
- Typical scenarios for multipoint analysis
 - Assumed packet loss between client and server
 - Determining Latency
 - Investigating packet manipulation when passing certain network devices
 - Asymmetric routing
 - Link Aggregation
 - Active/Passive and Active/Active High Redundancy Solutions



Multipoint Analysis: Best Practices



- Extremely important: Document your traces as detailed as possible!
 - Especially when dealing with loads of trace files from multiple capture points
- Sync the time of your capture devices



Comparing trace files



Comparing trace files



- Comparing traces taken at multiple points at the same time is often necessary
- Major points of interest are:
 - Identify identical packets at each capture point
 - Isolate conversations and match them
 - Determine latency
 - Determine packet loss
- Can be quite time consuming unless done automatically



Identifying Packet Matches



- Find identical TCP/UDP conversations:
 - Determine client/server socket pairs
 - Create conversation filter, apply to all capture points
 - When using multiple files per location: batch job
- For other protocols, try
 - ARP: sender/target MAC and IP in the ARP header
 - ICMP: type, code, ping sequence, packet quote
 - DHCP, DNS: transaction ID
 - GenericIP: IP-ID, TTL



Isolating TCP Conversations



- Filter on the conversation, e.g.
 - `(ip.addr==10.0.0.1 and tcp.port==1025) and (ip.addr==10.0.0.2 and tcp.port==80)`
- Save into separate file using “Export specified packets” -> “Selected displayed packets”
- If possible: isolate initial SYN packet
 - `tcp.flags==2`
- Best Practice: deactivate relative TCP sequence numbers!



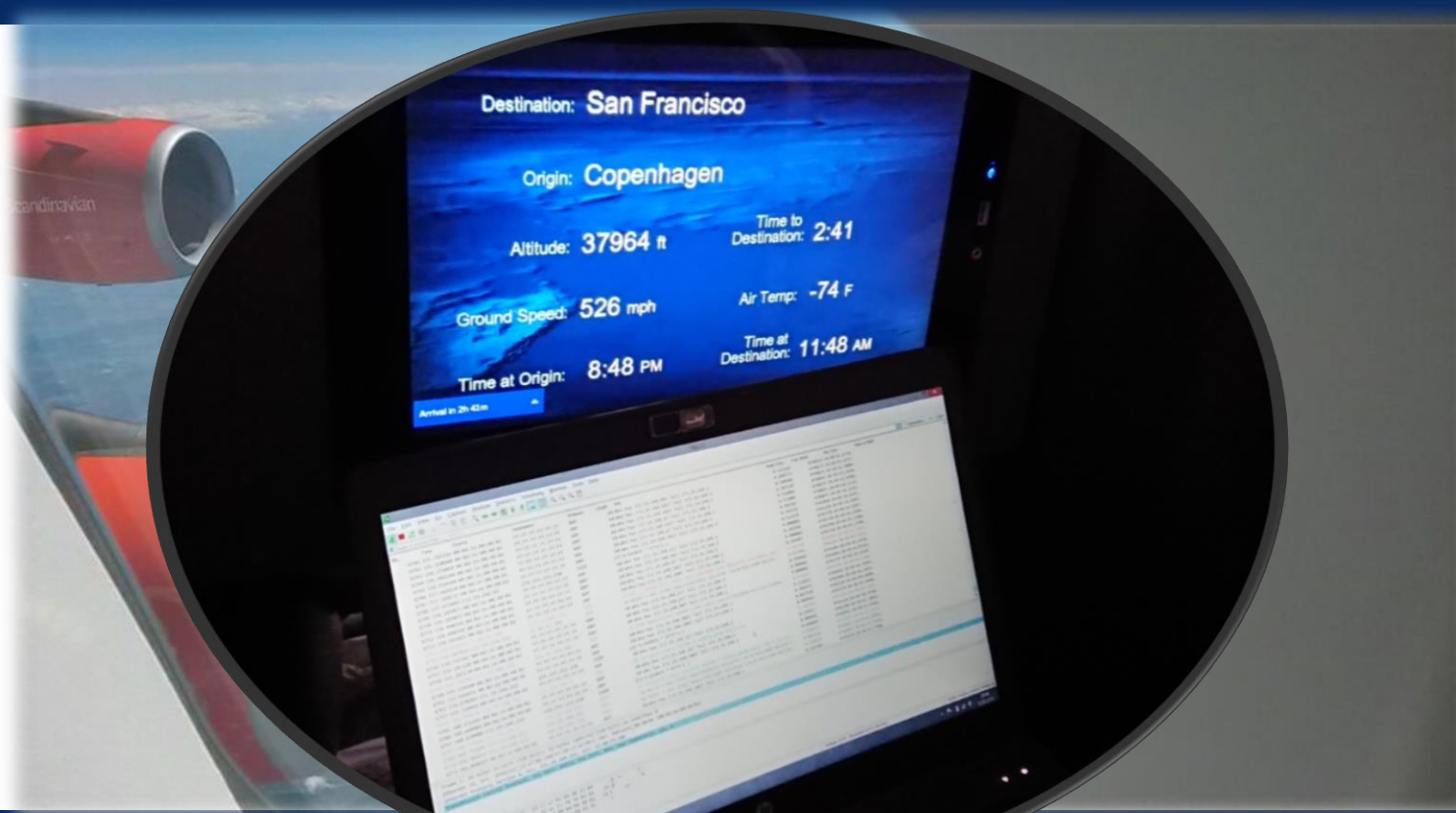
Short Demo



Compare Client and Server Side Trace



Demo #1

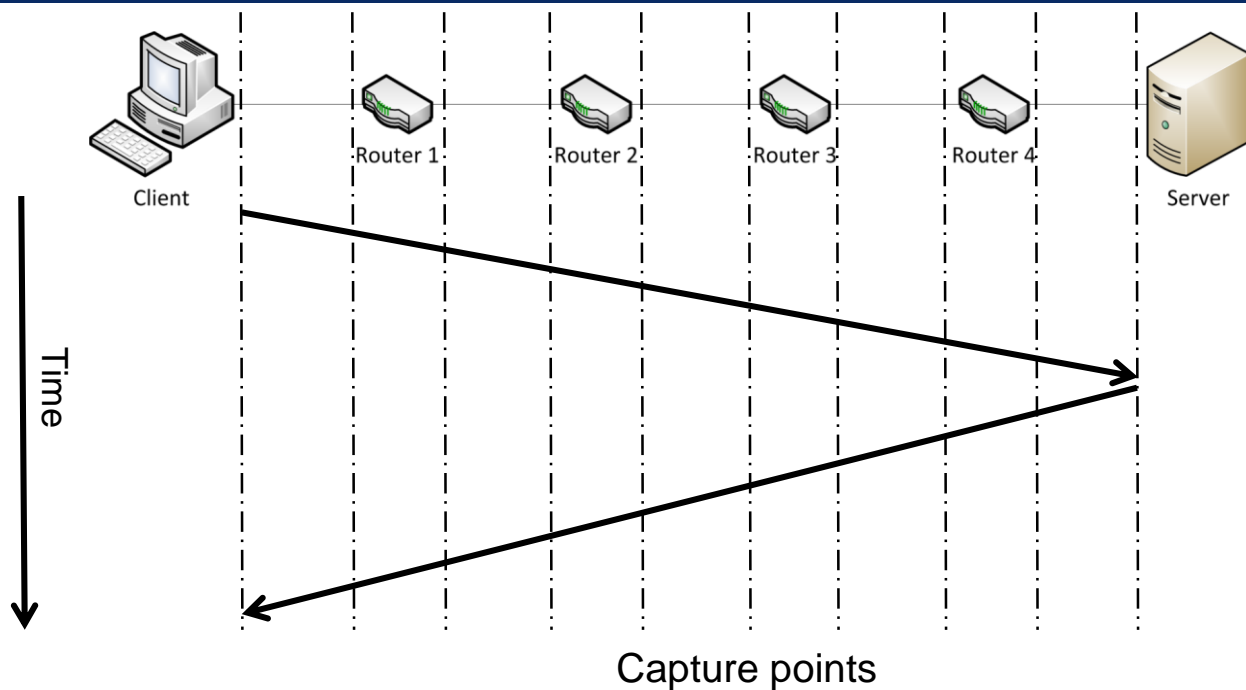




Determining Latency

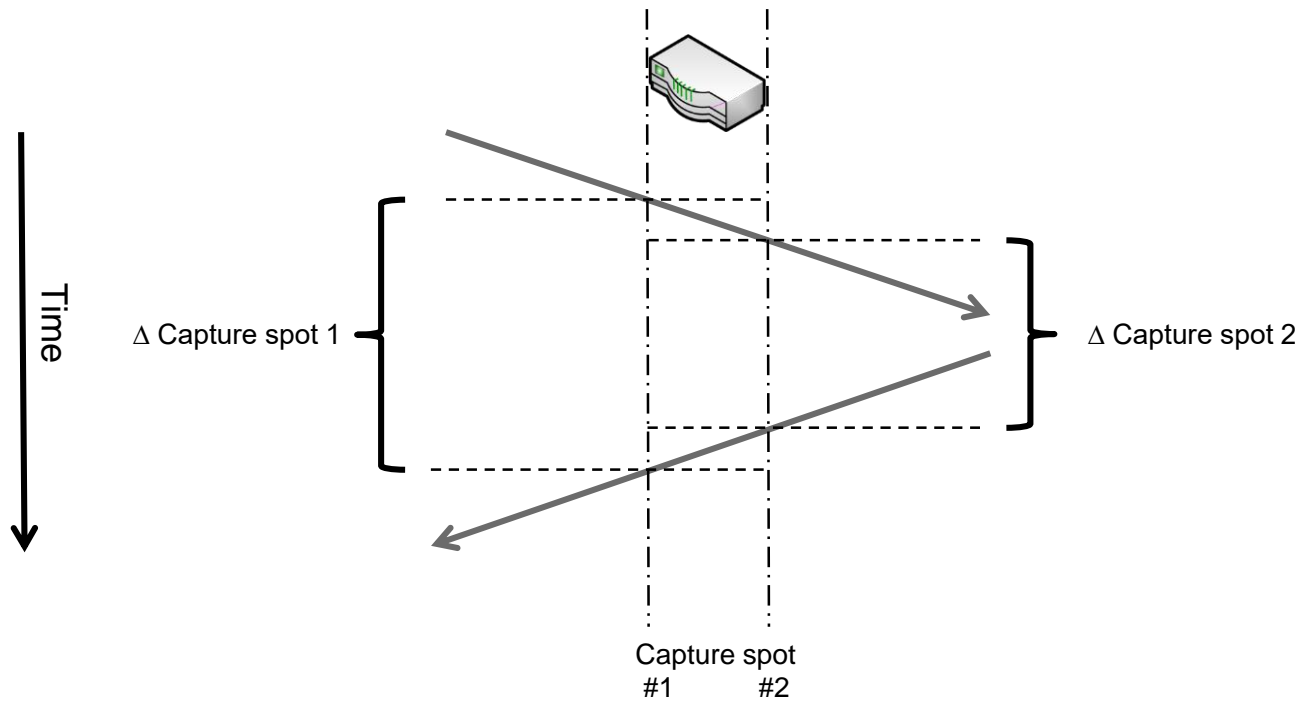


Multipoint Captures: Latency





Determining Latency – Single Device





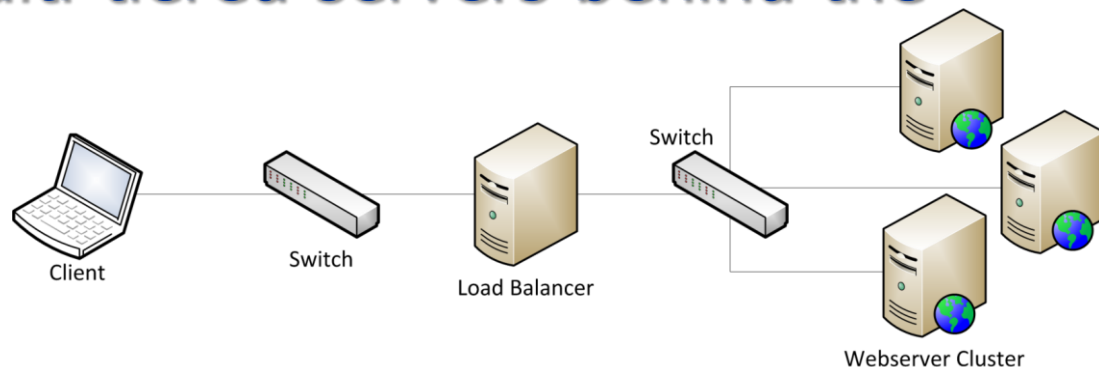
NAT, Proxy, Loadbalancer



Troublemakers: Loadbalancers



- Load balancers distribute connections to multiple identical servers
- Allows scaling the available capacity
- Example with multi-tiered servers behind the load balancer:





NAT Gateways



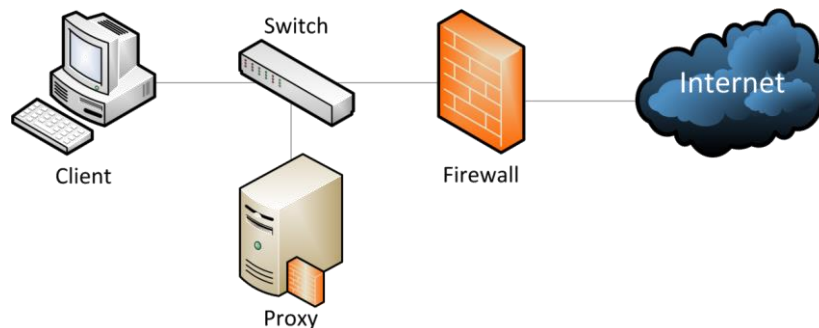
- NAT = Network Address Translation
 - Basically replaces network addresses found in packets back and forth
 - Usually relevant to layer 3, which means routers
- Typical NAT activity
 - Source NAT
 - Destination NAT



Proxy Servers



- Proxy servers separate different network and security zones
- Client requests are sent to the proxy
- The proxy fetches the requested content and delivers it to the client





Proxy Servers



Be aware of multiplexed sessions





Proxy Server: Forwarded-For



- Some proxies insert the address of the client into the request headers:

```
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
GET / HTTP/1.0\r\n
Accept: text/html, application/xhtml+xml, */*\r\n
Accept-Language: de-DE\r\n
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; MSIE 9.0; windows NT 6.1; wow64; Trident/5.0)\r\n
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate\r\n
Host: www.google.de\r\n
[truncated] Cookie: PREF=ID=0de03f6f5ab5b026:U=acbc021047ffe581:FF=0:TM=1259593467:LM=1316903139
via: 1.1 localhost (squid/3.0.STABLE8)\r\n
X-Forwarded-For: 192.168.124.100\r\n
Cache-Control: max-age=259200\r\n
```

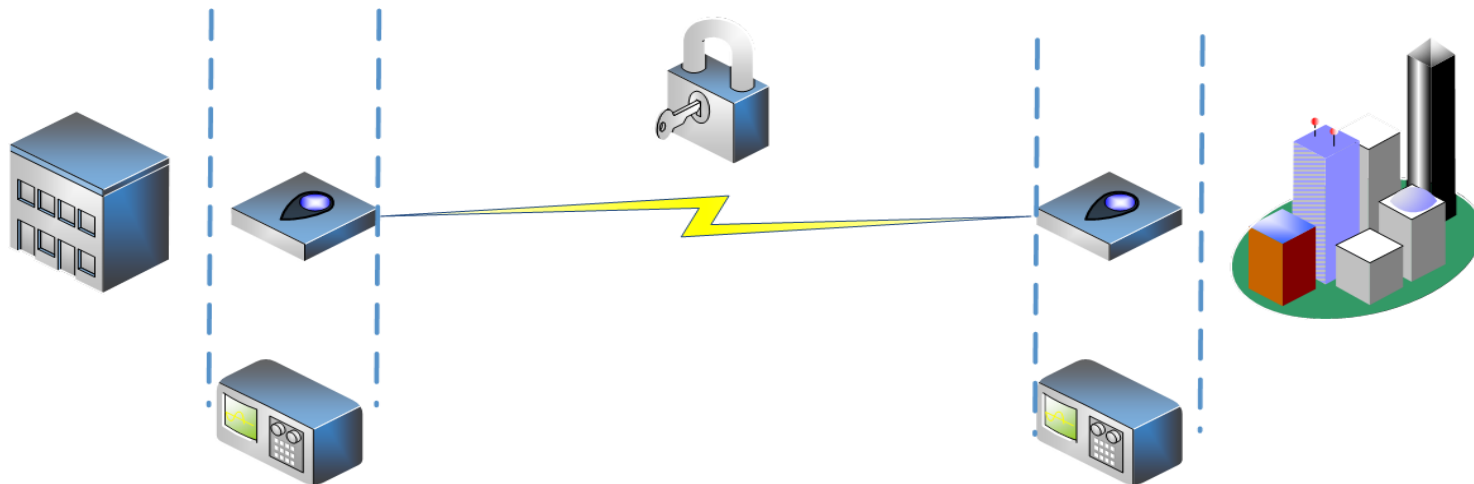
- Best Practice:disable "X-Forwarded-For" for security reasons
 - X-Forwarded-For will show something like „unknown“
 - Turn back on for temporary troubleshooting tasks



Time for some more sharkin'!



Demo #2



SO Plain

SO breakout
encrypted
WAN

HQ breakout
encrypted
WAN

HQ Plaintext

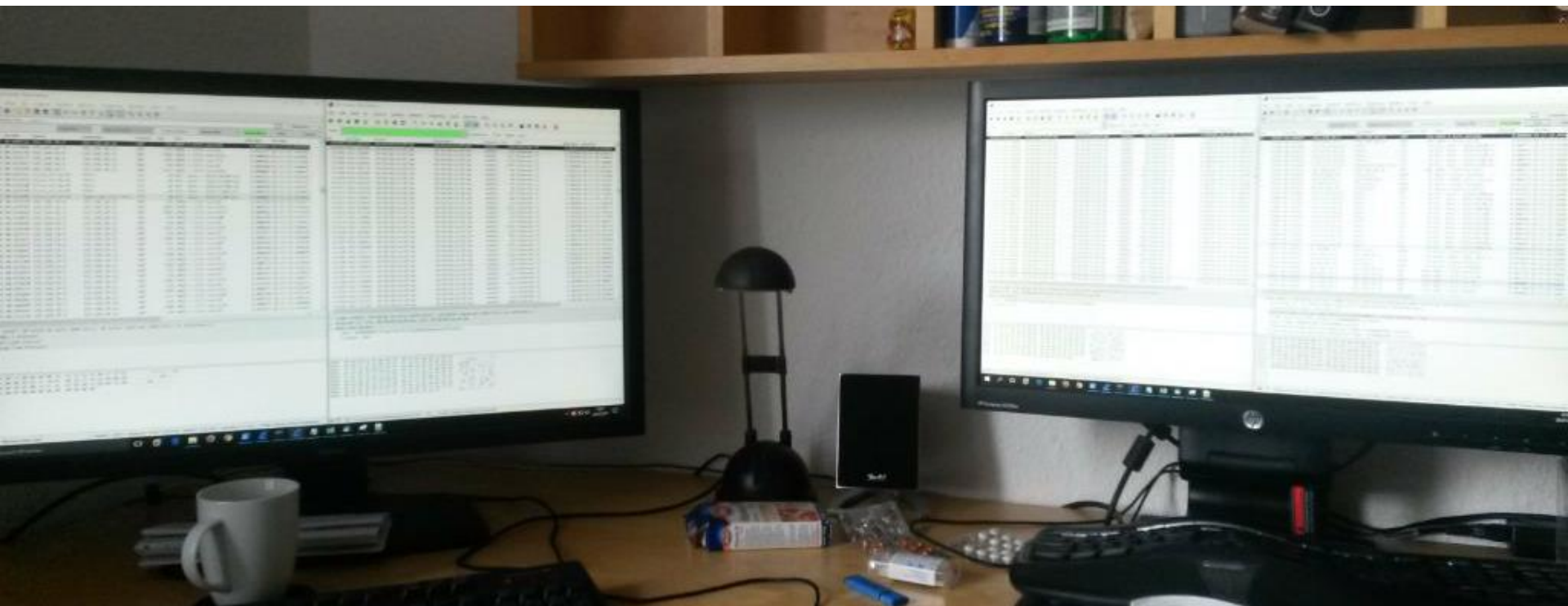


Challenges...





Challenges...





Q&A

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