

Getting more SIGNAL from your

noise

A green waveform, resembling a signal or a noisy data stream, is plotted against a black background. The waveform has a prominent peak in the center, with smaller peaks and troughs on either side, creating a jagged, oscillating pattern. The word "noise" is superimposed over the central peak of the waveform.

Finding meaning in the age of data

<http://serialized.net>

@jbarratt



NOISE

Compaq Smart Array 3200 Controller





“In a data deluge—era sensing system, the number and resolution of the sensors grow to the point that the performance bottleneck moves to the sensor data processing, communication, or storage subsystem.”

Dr. Richard G. Baraniuk
‘Science Magazine’ 02/2011



SIGNAL

INFORMATION

+

ANALYSIS

+

PRESENTATION

At StumbleUpon, we have found this system tremendously helpful to:

- Get real-time state information about our infrastructure and services.

- Understand outages or how complex systems interact together.

- Measure SLAs (availability, latency, etc.)

- Tune our applications and databases for maximum performance.

- Do capacity planning.

Benoit "tsuna" Sigoure
(*OpenTSDB Creator*)

Signal/Noise
+
Open Source



Goals



Collect

Transport

Process

Store

Present



Project Spotlight

!! Collect

x Transport

~ Process

x Store

Present

collected

Live

Hour

Day

Week

Month

3 Months

Year



x Collect

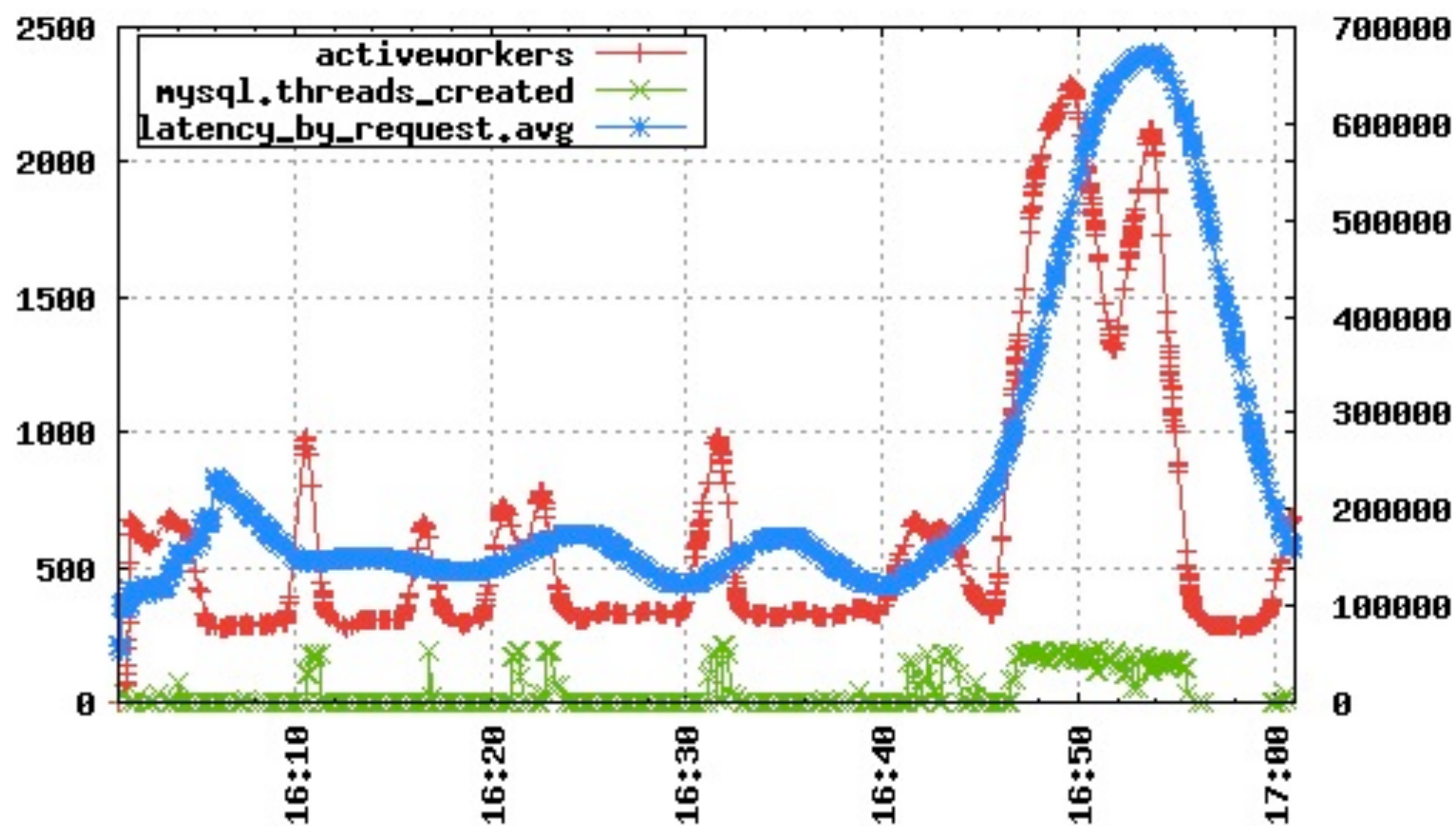
Transport

Process

x Store

~ Present

opentsdb



Collect

Transport

x Process

Store

Present

esper

x Collect

x Transport

x Process

x Store

x Present

reconnoiter

Collect

~ Transport

x Process

x Store

x Present

graphite

Collect

Transport

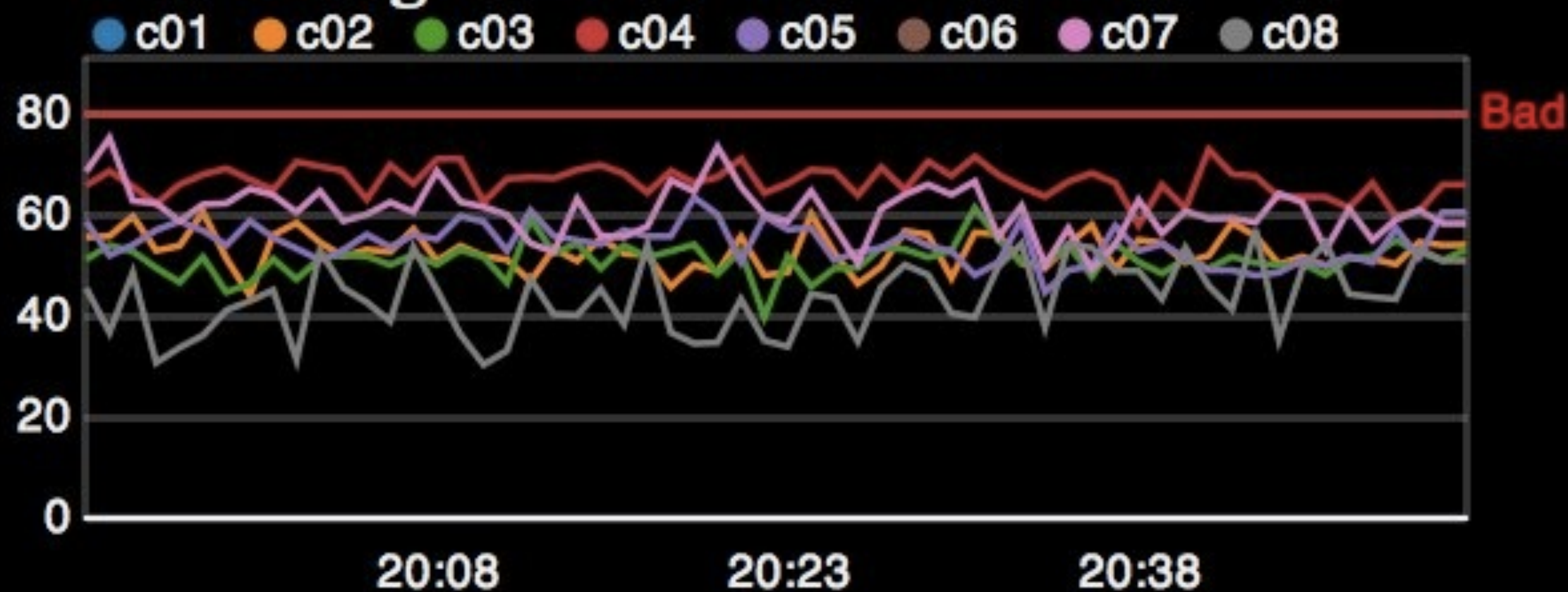
Process

Store

x Present

protopis

Web Node Avg CPU





PATTERNS

#1: Become the User



Graph Data

servers.cs.c06.firstbyte_90th_us

Add

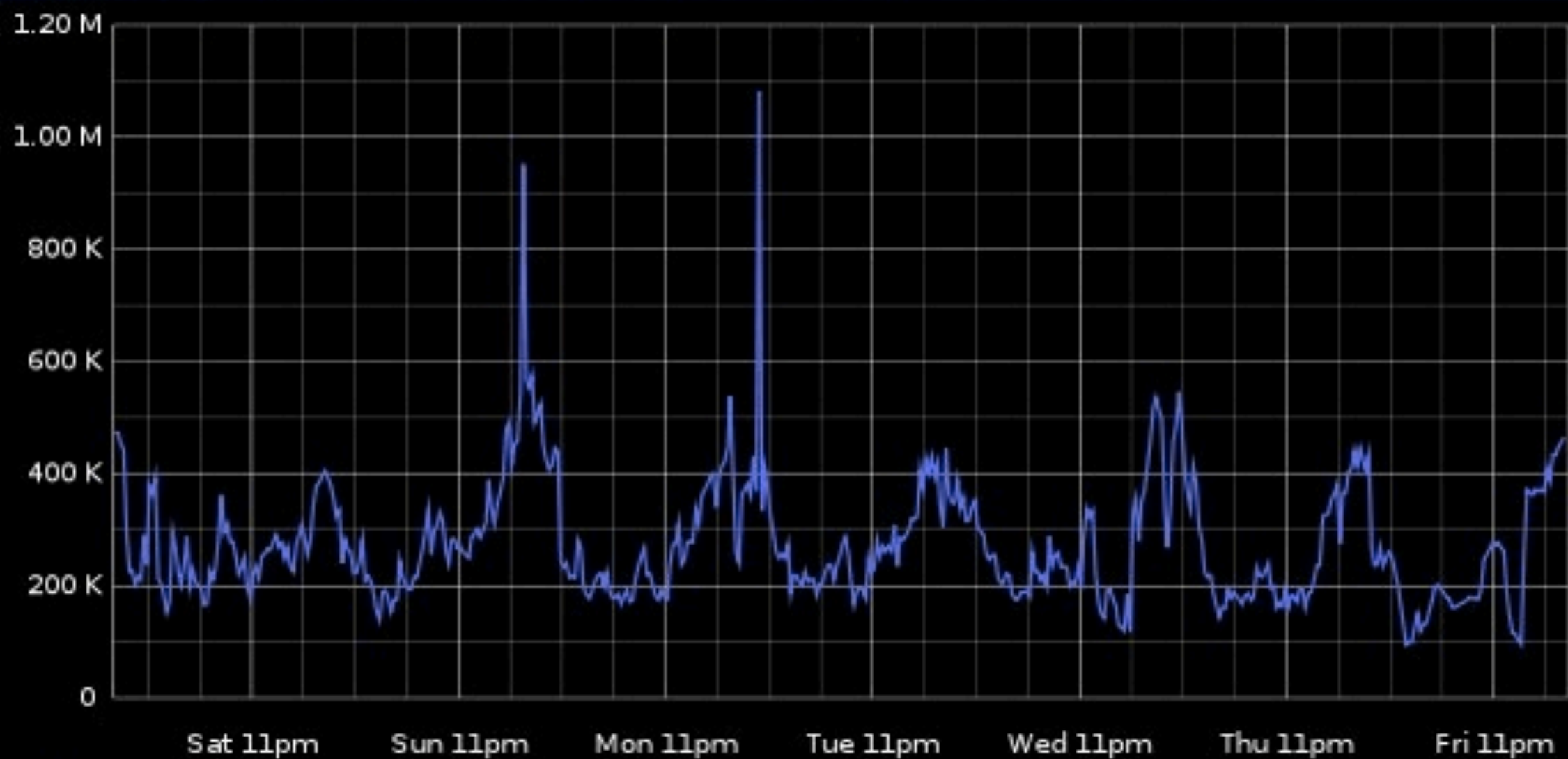
Edit

Remove

Graphite Composer



From January 7, 2011 11:59 P PST Until January 14, 2011 11:59 P PST

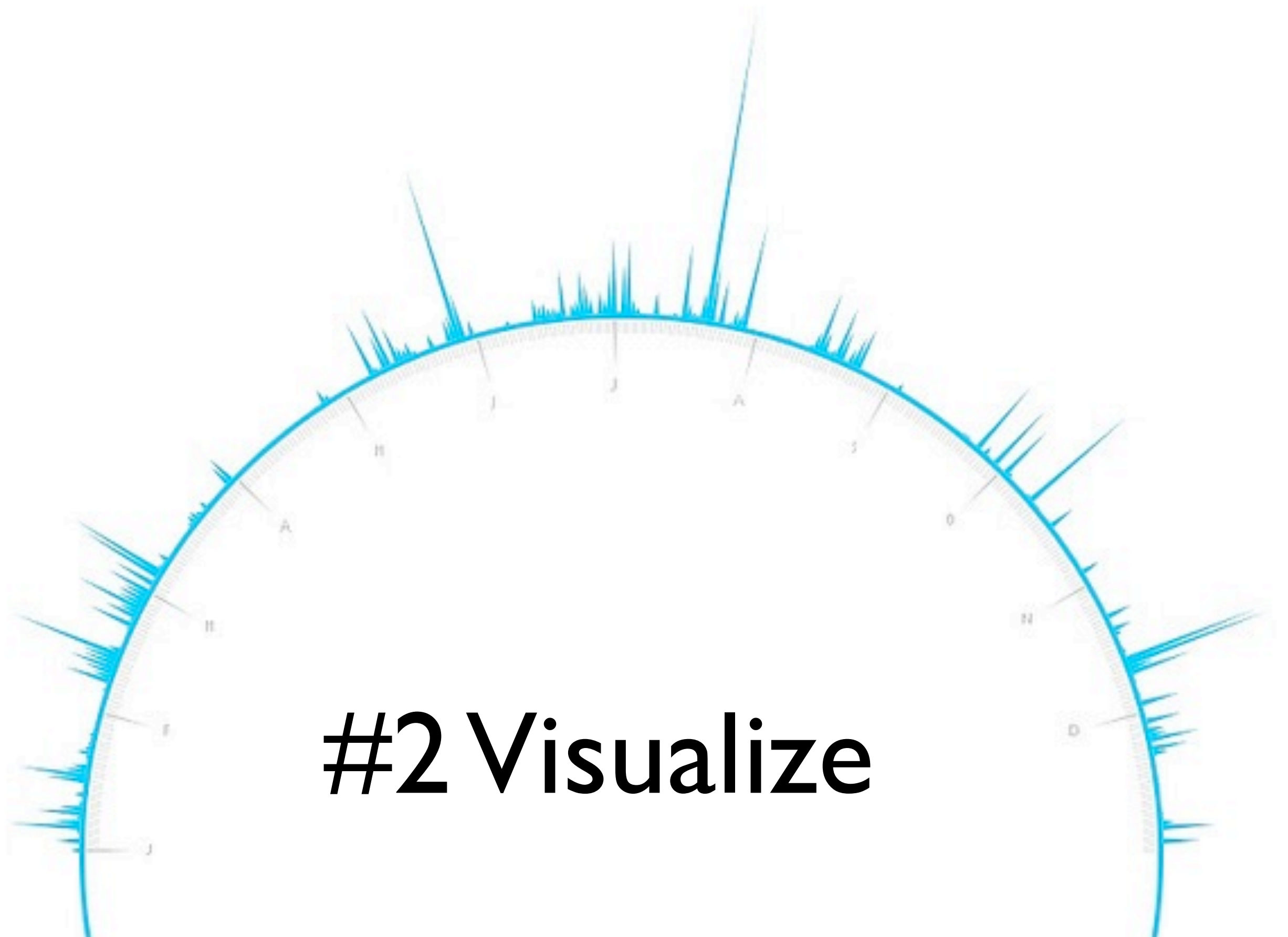


servers.cs.c06.firstbyte_90th_us

Graph Options ▾

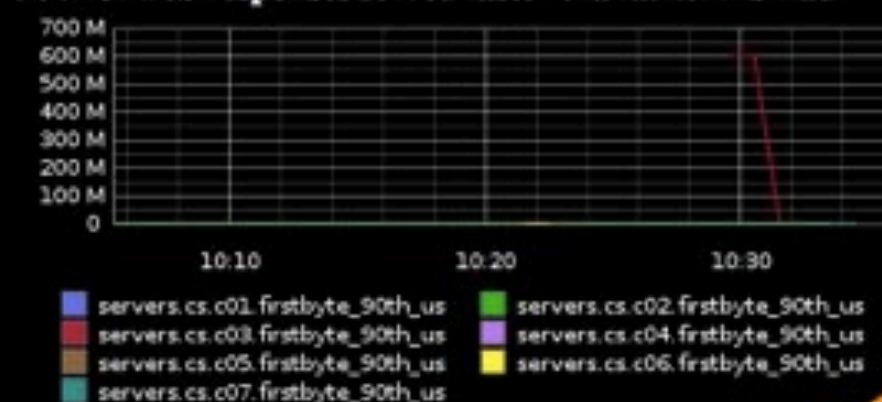
Graph Data

Auto-Refresh

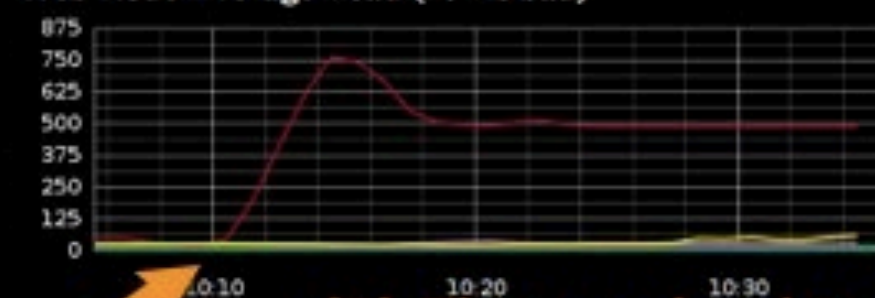


#2 Visualize

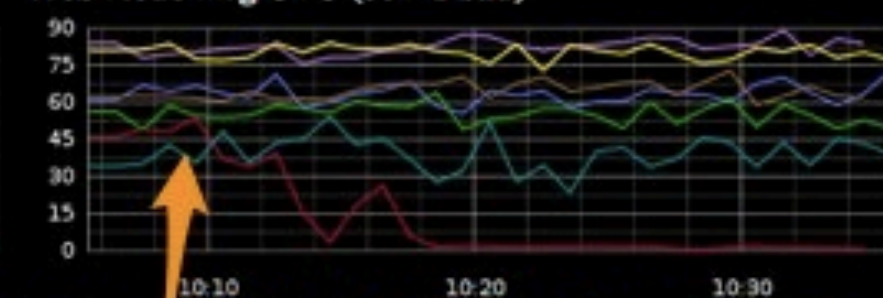
90% of web responses served faster than...1.0M is Bad



Web Node Average Load (20+ is bad)



Web Node Avg CPU (80+ is bad)



(2) THEN Load spikes

Email Node Average Load



(3) Then cache dries up



(1) Storage goes south



(4) And CPU fails to zero (i.e. not doing any work)



Conclusion: Herd.

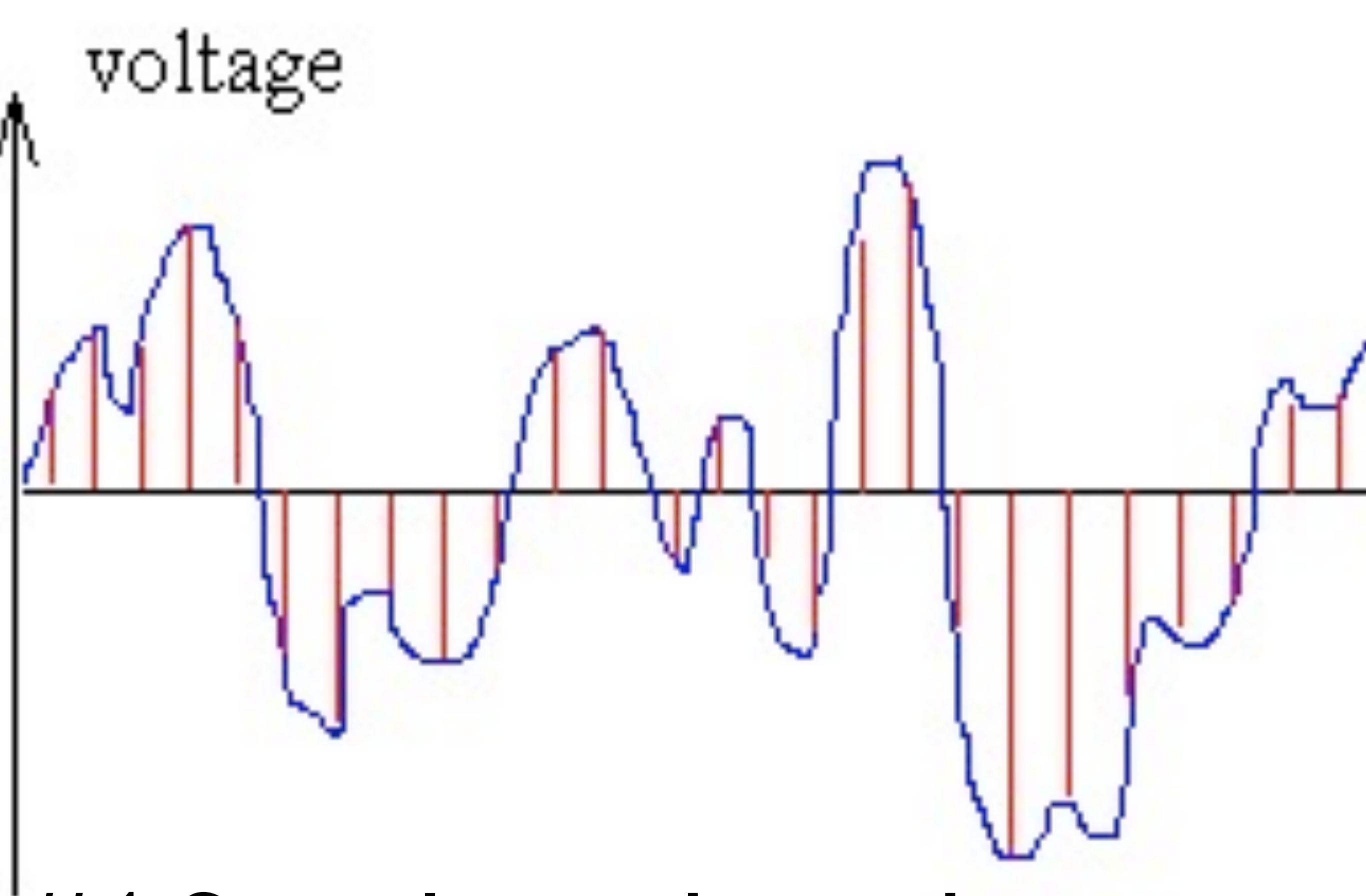


#3 Prune near the Edge

```
destination df_accesslogs { program("syslog_web"  
template(t_default)); };
```

syslog_web: Read <STDIN> forever and...

- Alert Nagios when Error Rate is too high
- Aggregate firstbyte data and stream to graphite
- Track top 100 users by
 - CPU
 - NFS I/O
 - hits/sec
 - Bandwidth In/Out



#4 Sample at the right rate

#5 Make it reliable





#6 Love (and Fear) Aggregates

Graphite Composer



From February 2, 2011 2:00 P PST Until February 2, 2011 3:00 P PST

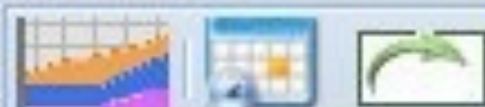


Graph Options ▾

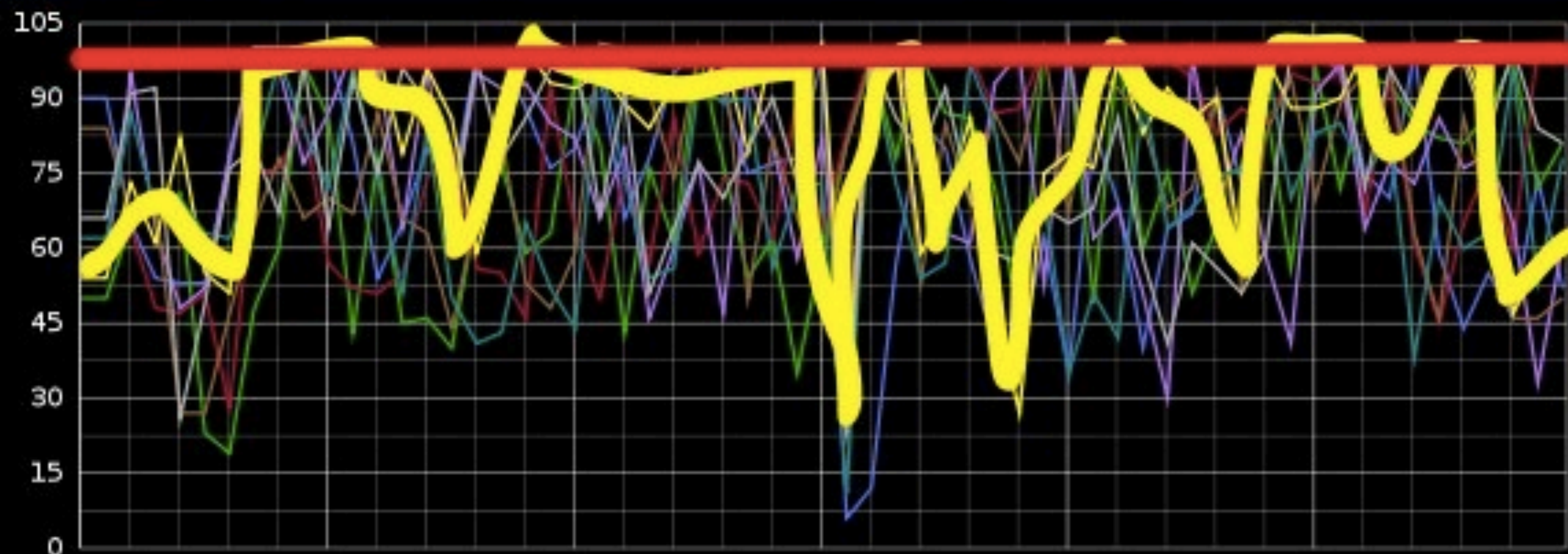
Graph Data

Auto-Refresh

Graphite Composer



From February 2, 2011 2:00 P PST Until February 2, 2011 3:00 P PST



14:00

14:10

14:20

14:30

14:40

14:50

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| servers.cs.c04.web.n29.cpu_usersys | servers.cs.c04.web.n23.cpu_usersys |
| servers.cs.c04.web.n22.cpu_usersys | servers.cs.c04.web.n19.cpu_usersys |
| servers.cs.c04.web.n28.cpu_usersys | servers.cs.c04.web.n27.cpu_usersys |
| servers.cs.c04.web.n20.cpu_usersys | servers.cs.c04.web.n24.cpu_usersys |

Graph Options ▾

Graph Data

Auto-Refresh

for temporary relief from hunger

— a d h o c —

#8 Learn Ad-hoc Skills

grep

awk

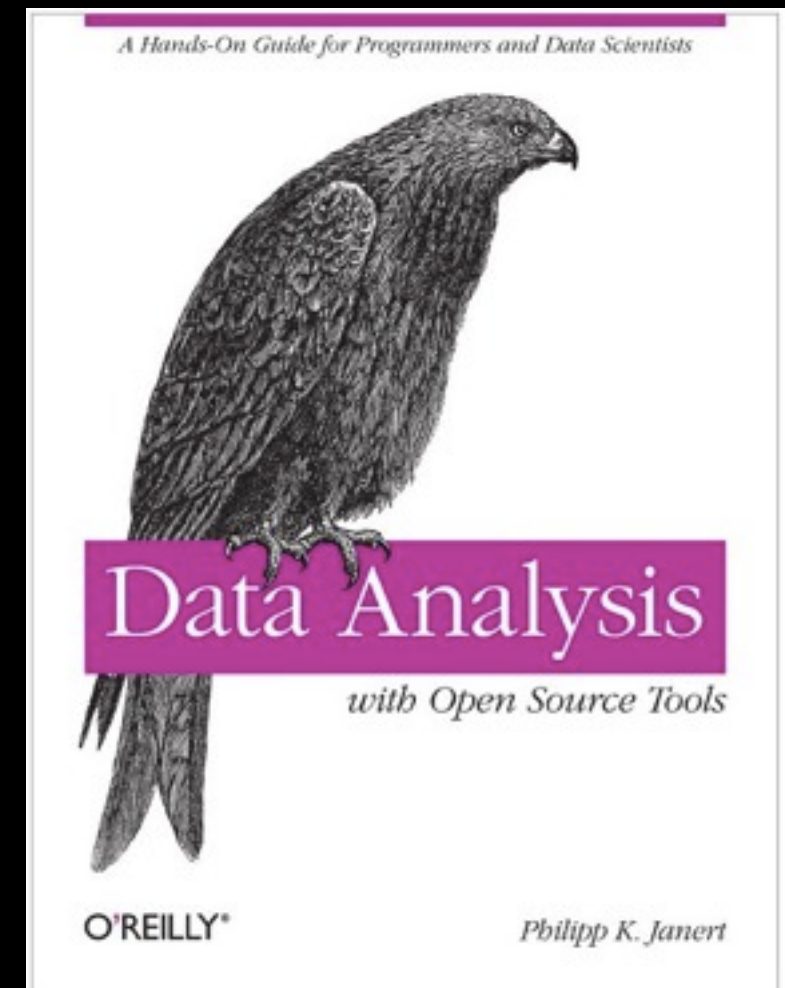
fex!: <http://semicomplete.com/projects/fex/>

bit.ly's 'data hacks':

https://github.com/bitly/data_hacks

gnuplot

R



```

$ cat /tmp/data | histogram.py
# NumSamples = 29; Max = 10.00; Min = 1.00
# Mean = 4.379310; Variance = 5.131986; SD =
2.265389
# each * represents a count of 1
    1.0000 -      1.9000 [      1]: *
    1.9000 -      2.8000 [      5]: *****
    2.8000 -      3.7000 [      8]: ***********
    3.7000 -      4.6000 [      3]: ***
    4.6000 -      5.5000 [      4]: ****
    5.5000 -      6.4000 [      2]: **
    6.4000 -      7.3000 [      3]: ***
    7.3000 -      8.2000 [      1]: *
    8.2000 -      9.1000 [      1]: *
    9.1000 -     10.0000 [      1]: *

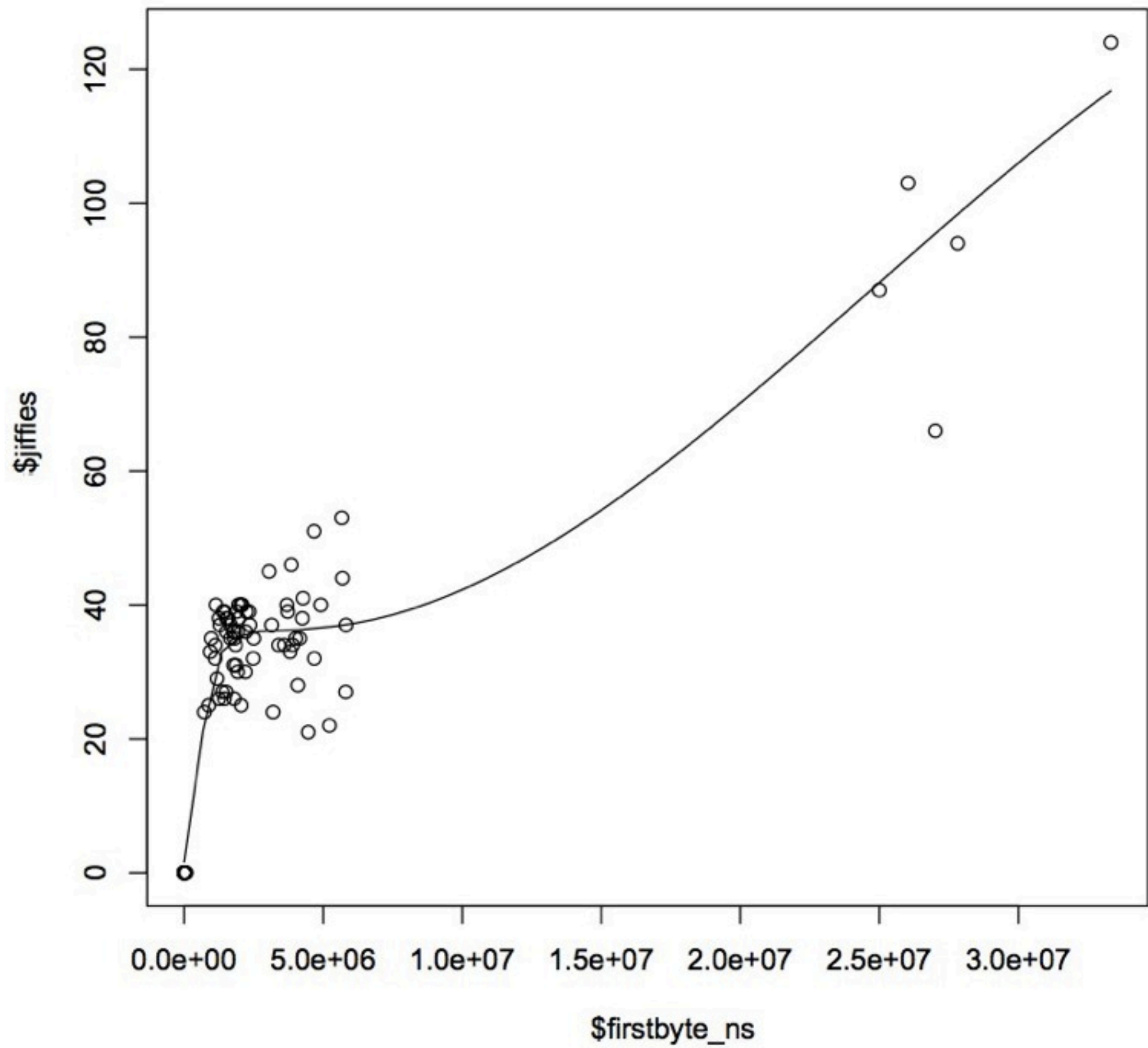
```


@ the shell....

```
$ awk '{print $11,$14}' 10-access_log > /tmp/  
jiffies_v_time.txt
```

In R....

```
> nws <- read.table('jiffies_v_time.txt', na.strings  
= ("-"))  
> colnames(nws) <- c("jiffies", "firstbyte_ns")  
> scatter.smooth(x=nws$firstbyte_ns, y=nws$jiffies)
```



#8 Sweat the Units



Graph Data

sum(servers.cs.c02.web.*.reqpersec)

Add

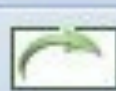
Edit

Remove

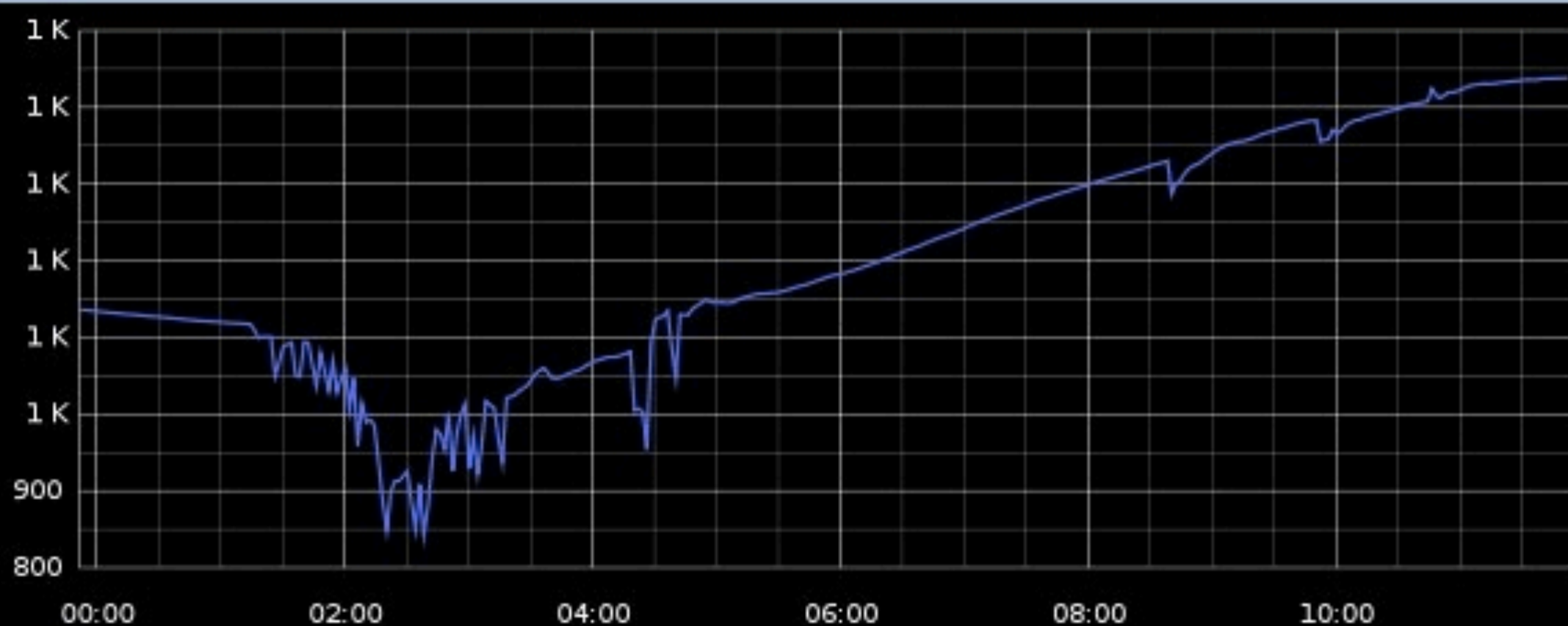
Apply Function ▼

Undo Function

Graphite Composer



Now showing the past 12 hours



■ sumSeries(servers.cs.c02.web.*.reqpersec)

Graph Options ▼

Graph Data

Auto-Refresh

eter

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Graph Data



```
integral(sum(servers.cs.c02.web.*.reqpersec))
```

Add

Edit

Remove

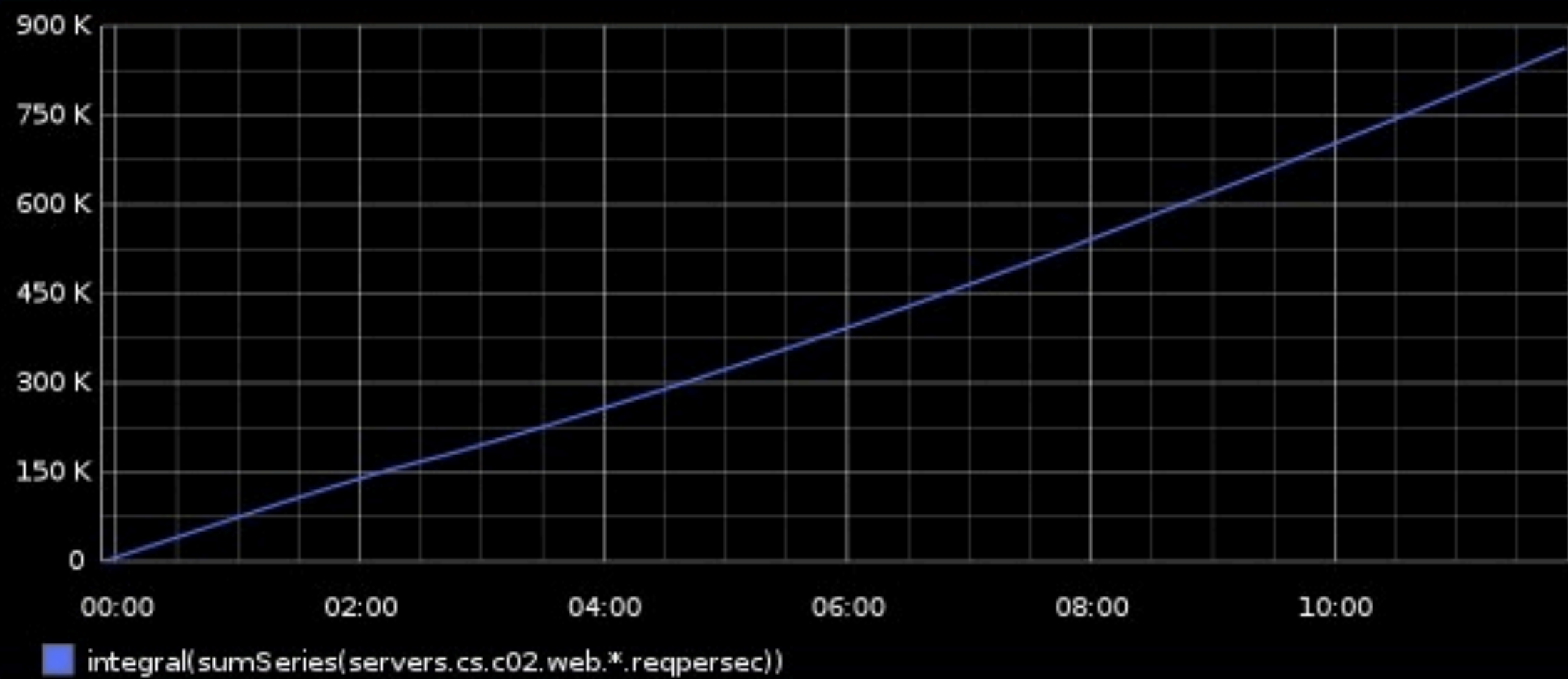
Apply Function ▾

Undo Function

Graphite Composer



Now showing the past 12 hours



Graph Options ▾

Graph Data

Auto-Refresh

```
josh@sl:/var/log/cs/web$ cd 2010-12-21
josh@sl:/var/log/cs/web/2010-12-21$ ls
00-access_log  01-error_log    02-pound_log    04-access_log  05-error_log    06-pound_log
00-error_log    01-pound_log    03-access_log    04-error_log    05-pound_log    07-access_log
00-pound_log    02-access_log    03-error_log    04-pound_log    06-access_log    07-error_log
01-access_log    02-error_log    03-pound_log    05-access_log    06-error_log    07-pound_log
josh@sl:/var/log/cs/web/2010-12-21$ sudo wc -l *-access_log
 3164670 00-access_log
 3373313 01-access_log
 3463218 02-access_log
 3710513 03-access_log
 4024848 04-access_log
+ 4431605 05-access_log
c04 5011287 06-access_log
c05 5399782 07-access_log
c06 5621375 08-access_log
c07 5707061 09-access_log
c08 5660644 10-access_log
 5405248 11-access_log
 54973564 total
josh@sl:/var/log/cs/web/2010-12-21$
```

Buuuh? 54M?

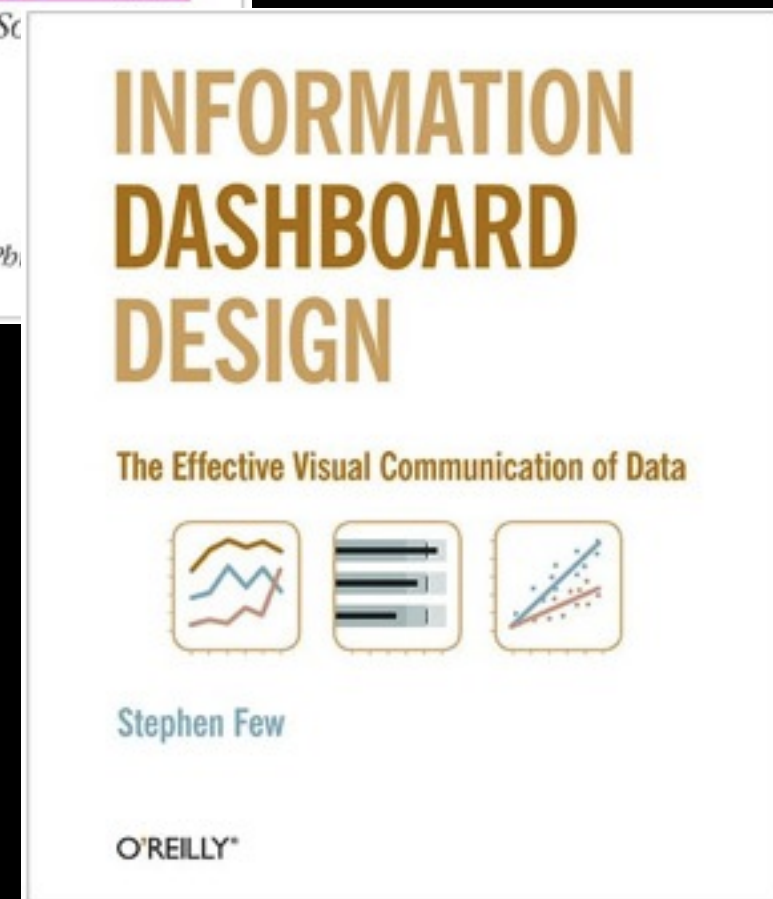
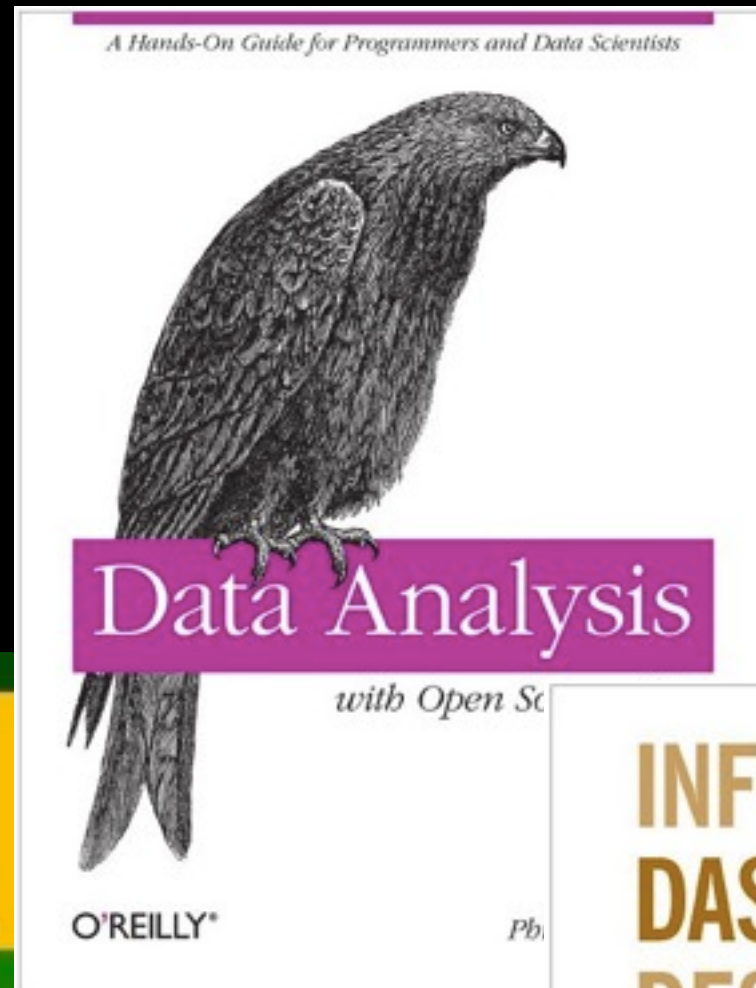
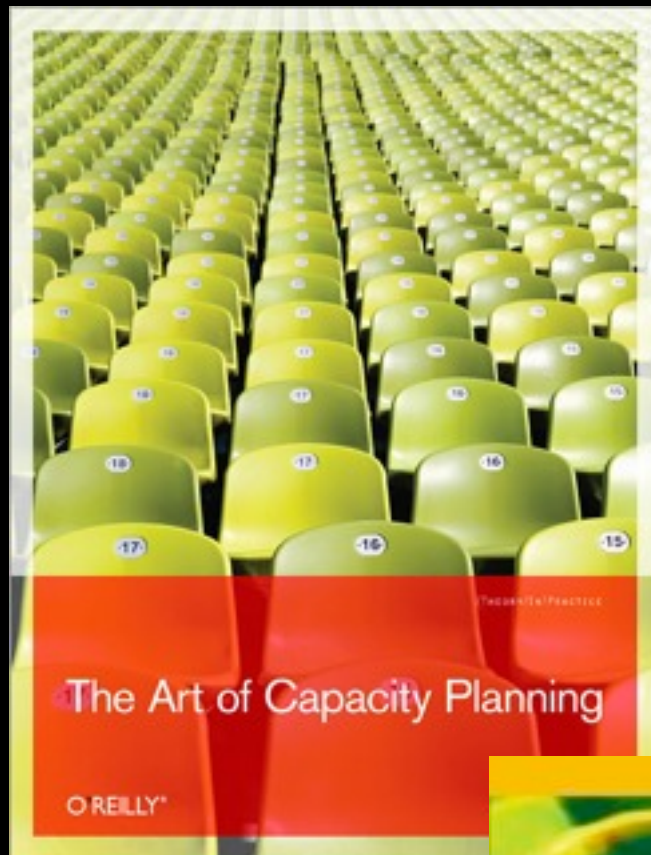
Requests/sec

Stored every minute

890k requests/sec

* 60 = 53.4M requests

Go Deeper



Credits

“Become the User”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/vramak/3567615703/>

“Noise”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/restlessglobetrotter/434218278/>

“Signal”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/altemark/304078711/>

“Visualize”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/yesyesnono/2514409253/>

“Goals”: http://www.flickr.com/photos/mad_african78/2741067789/

“Units”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lnx/14615953/>

“Reliable”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/alanenglish/2824228526/>

“Dice”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/darwinbell/440080655/>

“Sample”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ethanhein/3027724070/>

“Prune”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/fui/870163461/>

“Patterns”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/foxypar4/422184320/>

“Matrix”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/trinity-of-one/20562069/>

“Green DC”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/traftery/4773457853/>

“DoF Proliant” <http://www.flickr.com/photos/schwenke/2421138425/>

“Stopwatch”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/purplemattfish/3020016417/>

“Spotlight”: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/14171139@N08/4358123951/>