

**CISCO SYSTEMS**



# NetFlow Services

**Benoit Claise**

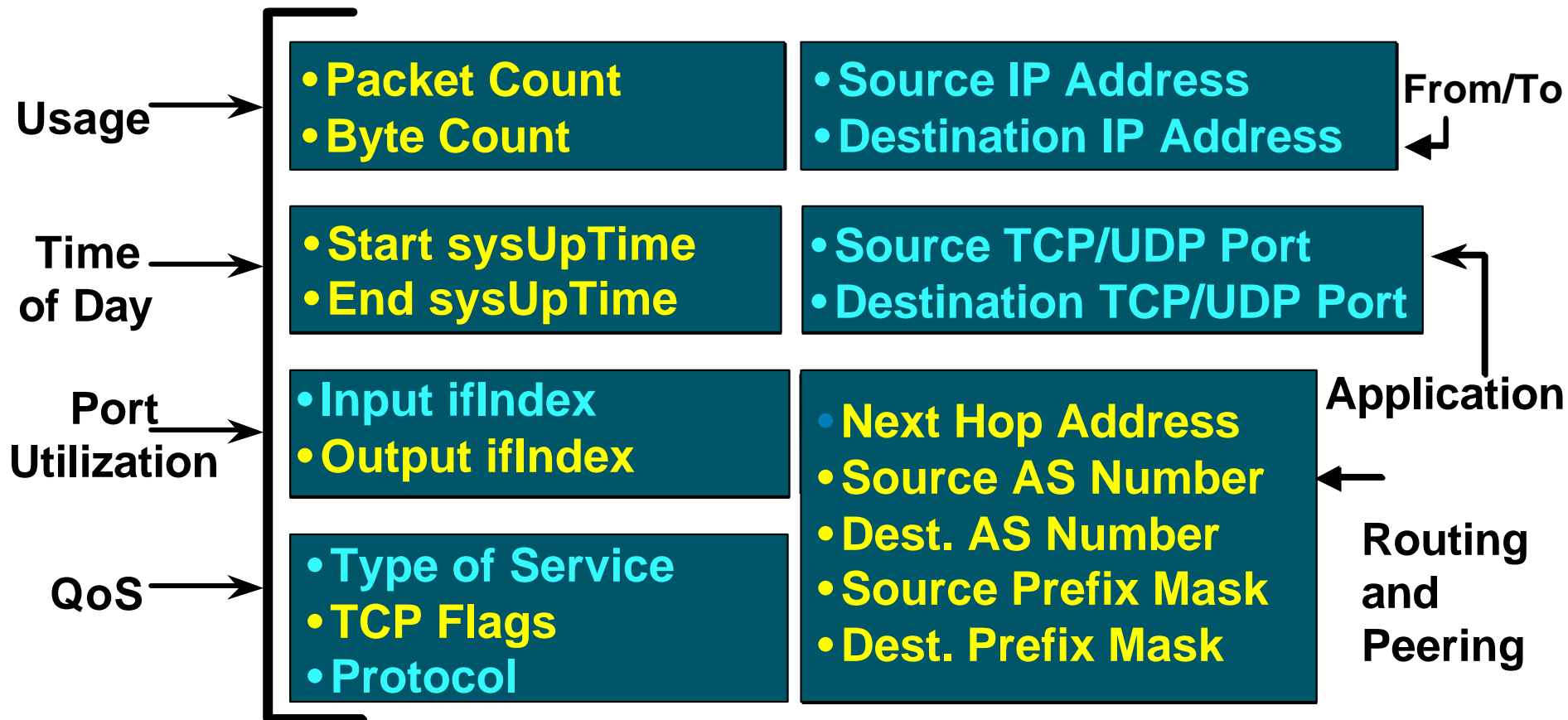
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# NetFlow Services

- **Look at packets arriving on interface**
- **Capture traffic statistics per flow**
- **The who, what, where, when, and how much IP traffic questions are answered**

# Version 5 Flow Format

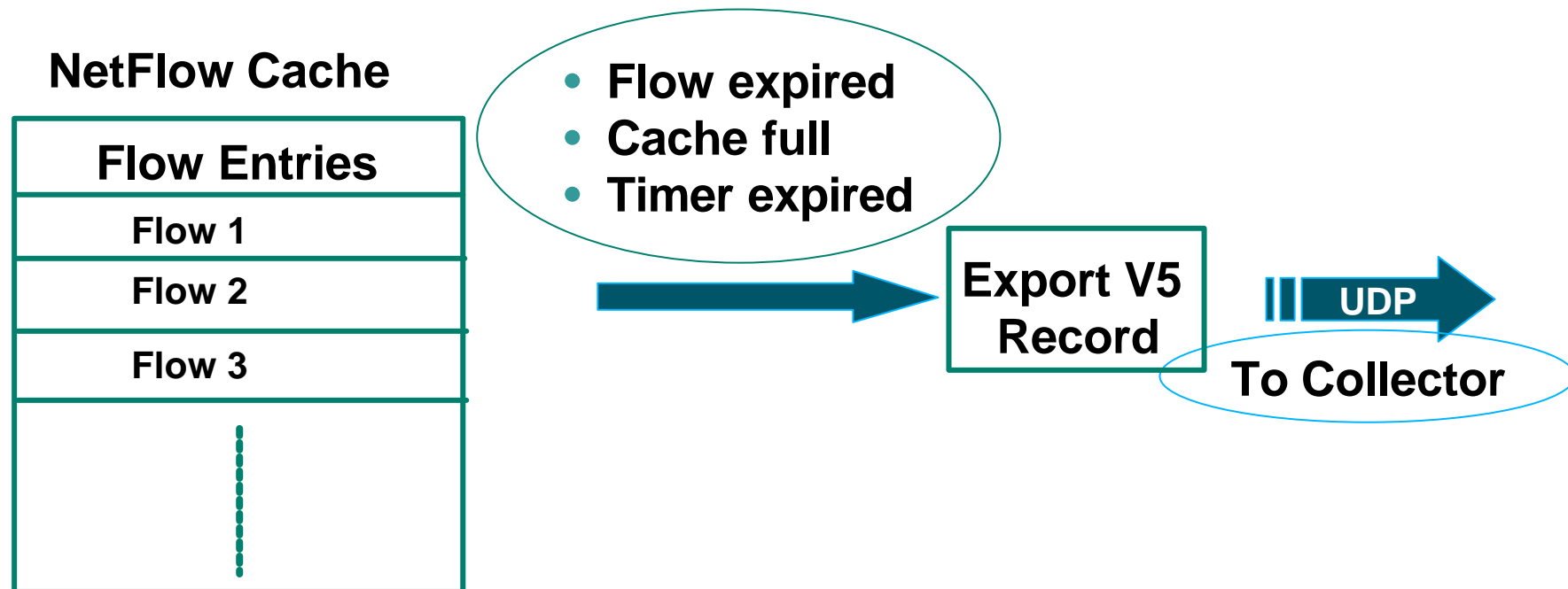


# NetFlow Possible Applications

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	NetFlow
Network Monitoring	X
Network Planning	X
Security Analysis	X
Application Monitoring	X
User Monitoring	X
Traffic Engineering	X
Peering Agreement	X
Usage-based Billing	X
Destination Sensitive Billing	X

# Version 5 Export



# Version 8 Export

## NetFlow Main Cache

Flow Entries
Flow 1
Flow 2
Flow 3
⋮

- Flow expired
- Cache full
- Timer expired

Export v5  
Not Necessary



## Aggreg. Cache

AS-Matrix

Prefix-Matrix

...

- Cache full
- Timers expired

- Flow expired
- Cache full
- Timer expired



To Collector

# Version 8 - Flow Format

	AS	Protocol-Port	Source-Prefix	Destination-Prefix	Prefix
<b>Source Prefix</b>			.		.
<b>Source Prefix Mask</b>			.		.
<b>Destination Prefix</b>				.	.
<b>Destination Prefix Mask</b>				.	.
<b>Source App Port</b>		.			
<b>Destination App Port</b>		.			
<b>Input Interface</b>	.		.		.
<b>Output Interface</b>	.			.	.
<b>IP Protocol</b>		.			
<b>Source AS</b>	.		.		.
<b>Destination AS</b>	.			.	.
<b>First Timestamp</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Last Timestamp</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b># of Flows</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b># of Packets</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b># of Bytes</b>	.	.	.	.	.



# Version 8 - Flow Format

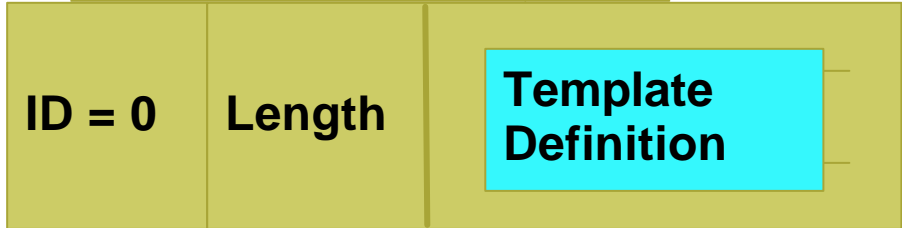
	AS-TOS	Protocol-Port-TOS	Source-Prefix-TOS	Destination-Prefix-TOS	Prefix-TOS	Prefix-Port
Source Prefix			.		.	.
Source Prefix Mask			.		.	.
Destination Prefix				.	.	.
Destination Prefix Mask				.	.	.
Source App Port		.				.
Destination App Port		.				.
Input Interface	.	.	.		.	.
Output Interface	.	.		.	.	.
IP Protocol		.				.
Source AS	.		.		.	
Destination AS	.			.	.	
<b>TOS</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
First Timestamp	.	.	.	.	.	.
Last Timestamp	.	.	.	.	.	.
# of Flows	.	.	.	.	.	.
# of Packets	.	.	.	.	.	.
# of Bytes	.	.	.	.	.	.

# NetFlow Version 9, extensible and flexible

## Packet



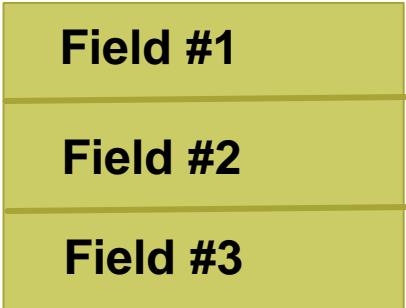
## Template Definition (Template FlowSet)



## Flow Records (Data FlowSet)



## Record



# NetFlow FlowCollector

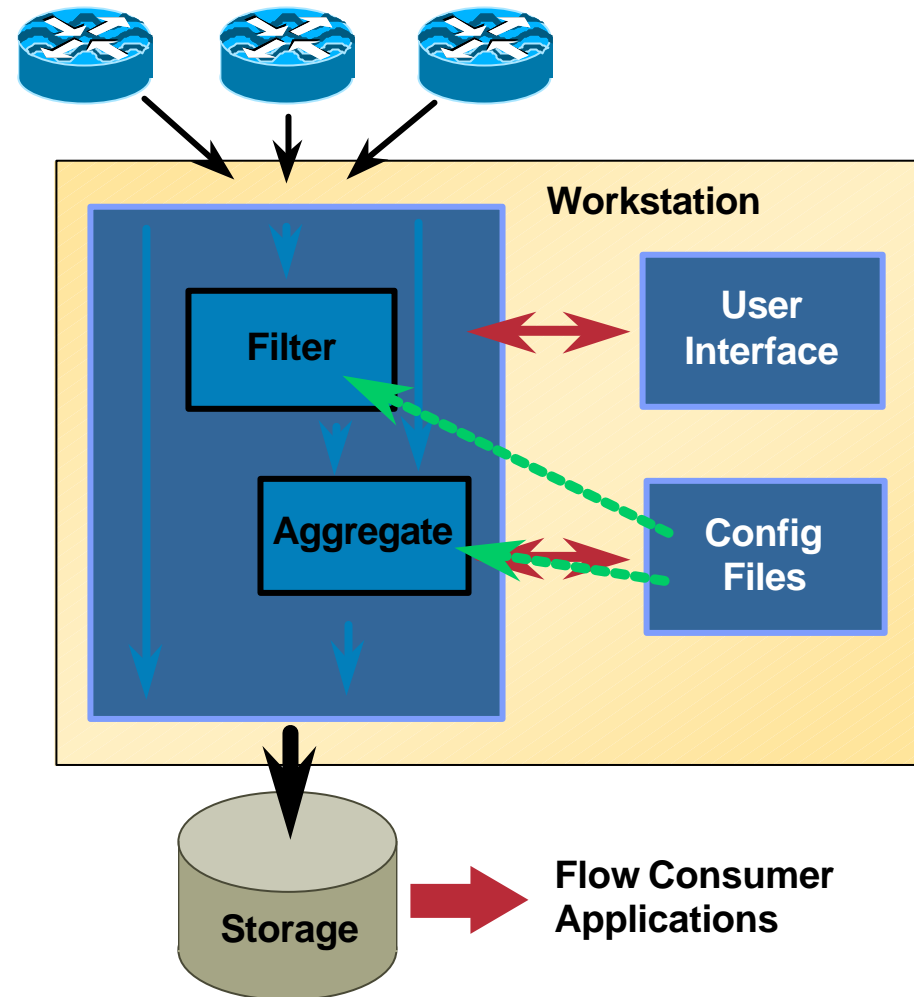
- Flow record reception
- Data volume reduction

## Filtering, Aggregation

- Flexible thread language
- File storage

## Flat or binary and compression in 3.0

- File cleanup
- Solaris, HP-UX, Linux  
appliance
- No flow de-duplication

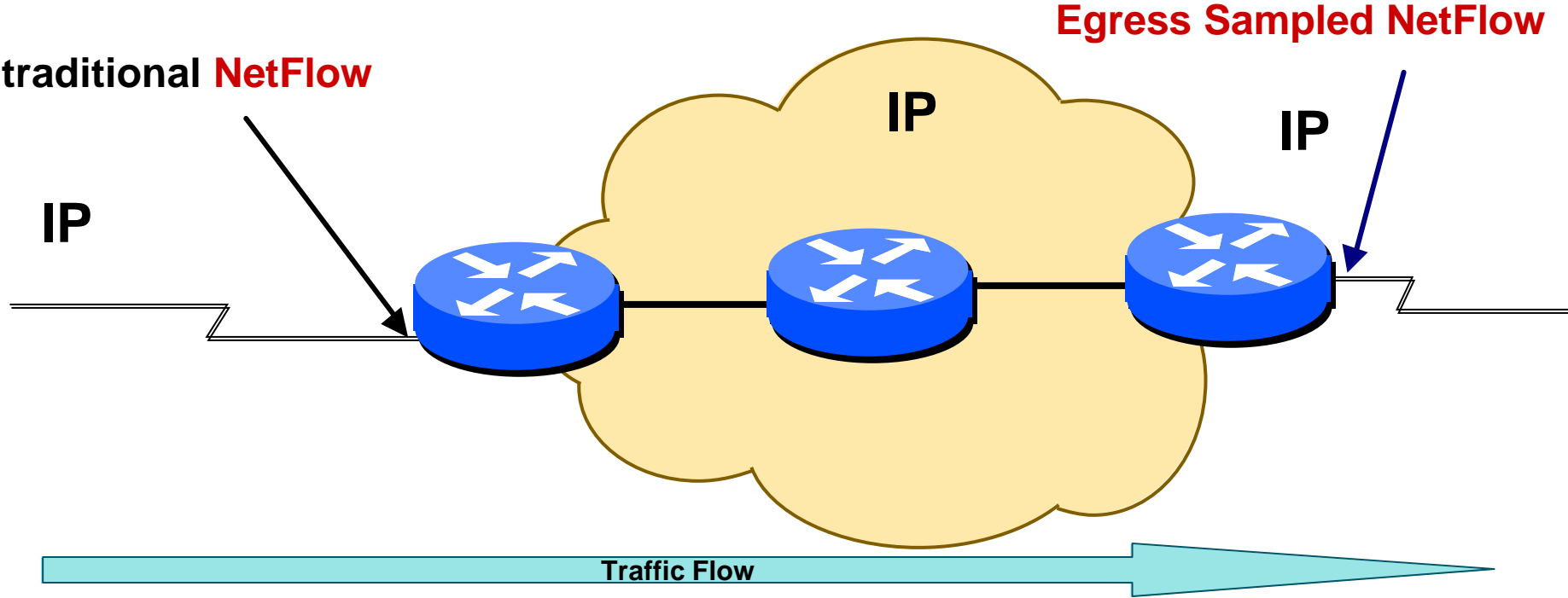


# Key Features

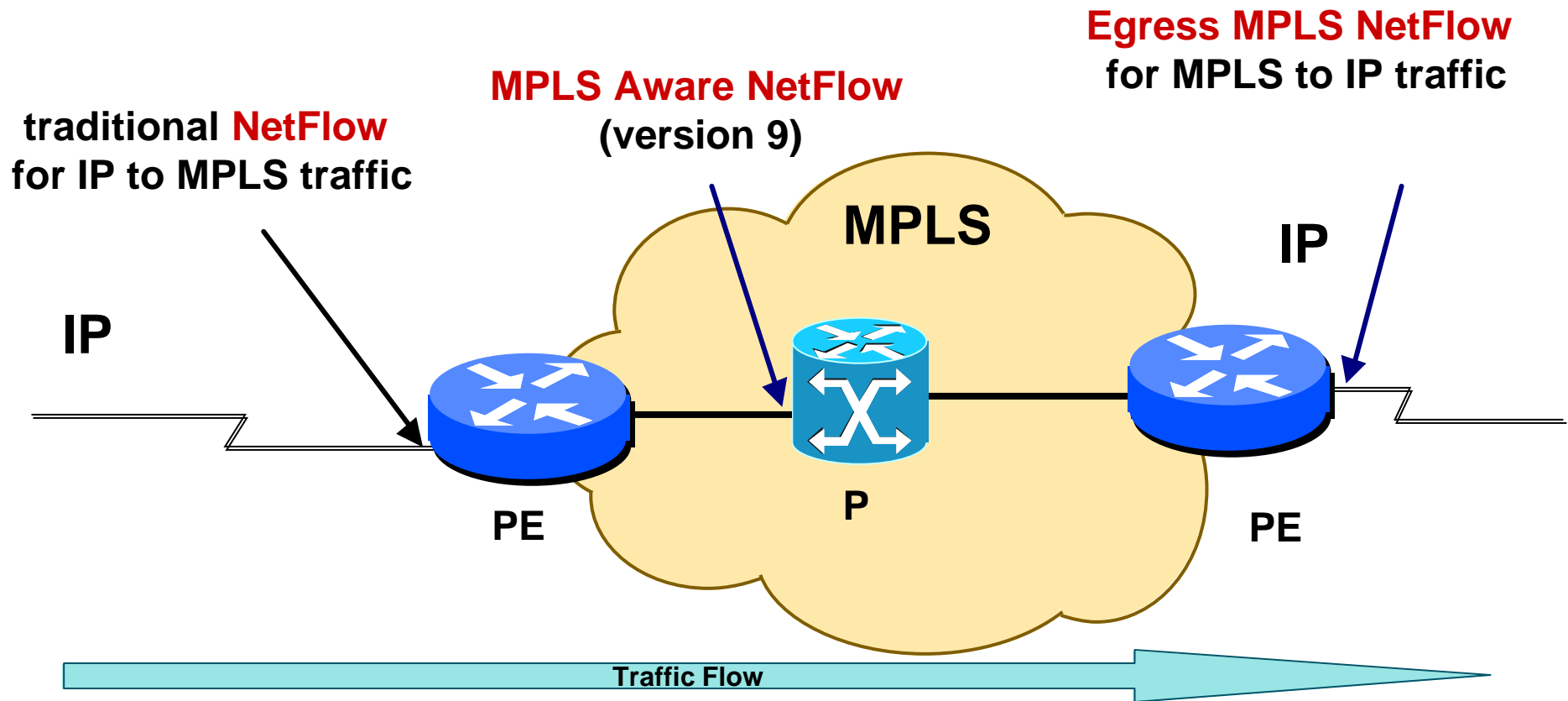
# Sampled NetFlow

- **Collects and exports NetFlow data for a sample of the traffic passing through the router, instead of the entire traffic**
- **Only for the 12000 router so far**
- **Sampled NetFlow exports the same information as full NetFlow**
- **Sampling advantages: CPU reduced and possible reduced exported Data**
- **Sampling disadvantage: no billing possible?**

# Where/How to enable NetFlow?



# Where/How to enable NetFlow?



# NetFlow MPLS Aware

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- **Flow Key (Uniquely Identifies the flow)**

Source IP address

Destination IP address

IP Protocol

Input ifIndex

Source Application Port

Destination Application Port

DSCP

**Up to 3 incoming MPLS labels of interest with experimental bits and end-of-stack bit**

**Positions of the above labels in the packet label stack**

- **Additional Export Fields**

Flows

Packets

Bytes

First SysUptime

Last SysUptime

Output interface

NetFlow version 5 fields of the underlying IP packet

Type of the top label:  
LDP, BGP, VPN, ATOM, TE  
Tunnel MID-PT, unknow

The Forwarding Equivalent Class mapping to the top label



# Roadmap, Conclusion and References

# External Roadmap for NetFlow

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**Scalability &  
Flexibility**

**Optimizing data for  
Flow processing**

**Technology  
Coverage**

**Q2 FY2003**

**Q3 FY2003**

**Q4+ FY2003**

- (1) NetFlow v9
- (2) BGP Nexthop
- (3) NetFlow Multicast
- (4) Enable per Sub-interface
- (5) NetFlow MPLS

- (1) Random Sampled NetFlow
- (2) Flowmask filtering

- (1) NetFlow MIB
- (2) NetFlow IPv6
- (3) AS Origin & Peer
- (4) Community ID
- (5) NAT
- (6) NetFlow ipSec

# Conclusion

- **NetFlow is a nice complement to the test-box!**
- **NetFlow is not a replacement for the test-box!**
- **Getting more flow information in case of packet loss, delay, etc...**

# NetFlow References

- **Netflow Services and Applications**

<http://www.cisco.com/go/netflow>

- **A complete white paper**

<http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/cisintwk/intsolns/netflsol/nfwhite.htm>

- **An official Cisco Course (2 days)**  
**NetFlow Service Advanced**

# Questions?

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