

# Finding Anomalies in Time-Series using Visual Correlation for Interactive Root Cause Analysis

Florian Stoffel, Fabian Fischer, Daniel A. Keim

Data Analysis and Visualization Group | University of Konstanz

# Motivation

- Computer networks are very important for the daily life and today's economy.
- Keeping them *secure* and available is crucial.
- Many different threats exist<sup>1</sup>:
  - Cyber Crime
  - Hacktivism
  - Cyber Warfare
  - Cyber Espionage



Source: PEER1 Hosting/Jeff Johnston

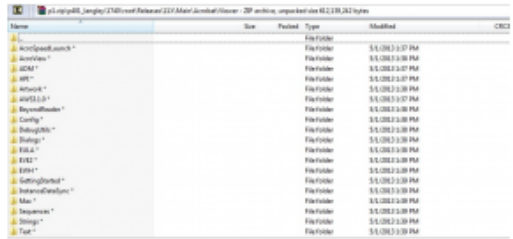
1: according to <http://hackmageddon.com/>

# Motivation II

## 03 Adobe To Announce Source Code, Customer Data Breach

Adobe Systems Inc. is expected to announce today that hackers broke into its network and stole source code for an as-yet undetermined number of software titles, including its ColdFusion Web application platform, and possibly its Acrobat family of products. The company said hackers also accessed nearly three million customer credit card records, and stole login data for an undetermined number of Adobe user accounts.

KrebsOnSecurity first became aware of the source code leak roughly one week ago, when this author — working in conjunction with fellow researcher Alex Holden, CISO of Hold Security LLC — discovered a massive 40 GB source code trove stashed on a server used by the same cyber criminals believed to have hacked into major data aggregators earlier this year, including LexisNexis, Dun & Bradstreet and Kroll. The hacking team's server contained huge repositories of uncompiled and compiled code that appeared to be source code for ColdFusion and Adobe Acrobat.



Name	Size	Parent	Type	Modified	CR2
...			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
AcrobatLaunch*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
Acrobat*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API2*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API3*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API4*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API5*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API6*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API7*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API8*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API9*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API10*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API11*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API12*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API13*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API14*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API15*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API16*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API17*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API18*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API19*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API20*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API21*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API22*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API23*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API24*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API25*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API26*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API27*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API28*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API29*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API30*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API31*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API32*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API33*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API34*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API35*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API36*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API37*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API38*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API39*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API40*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API41*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API42*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API43*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API44*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API45*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API46*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API47*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API48*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API49*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API50*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API51*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API52*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API53*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API54*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API55*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API56*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API57*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API58*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API59*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API60*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API61*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API62*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API63*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API64*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API65*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API66*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API67*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API68*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API69*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API70*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API71*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API72*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API73*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API74*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API75*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API76*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API77*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API78*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API79*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API80*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API81*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API82*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API83*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API84*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API85*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API86*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API87*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API88*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API89*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API90*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API91*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API92*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API93*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API94*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API95*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API96*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API97*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API98*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API99*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	
API100*			FileFolder	11/08/13 12:07 PM	

A screen shot of purloined source code stolen from Adobe, shared with the company by KrebsOnSec

Source: [krebsonsecurity.com](http://krebsonsecurity.com)

## Adobe Data Leak

- 40GB of source code.
- 2.9 million credit card and password records.

## Wanted

- Ability to detect such incidents.
- If an incident is discovered, what services are involved?

# Motivation III



Source: [www.jolyon.co.uk](http://www.jolyon.co.uk)

## Approach:

- Incidents like security breaches and data theft should be detectable in network traffic data (**anomalies**).

## Challenges:

- Large amount of data.
- Define and search for anomalies.
- Scalable visualization.

# Outline

- **Related Work**

*Network Monitoring*

- **Data**

*Gathering, Processing, Modeling*

- **Visualization**

*Design, Properties*

- **System**

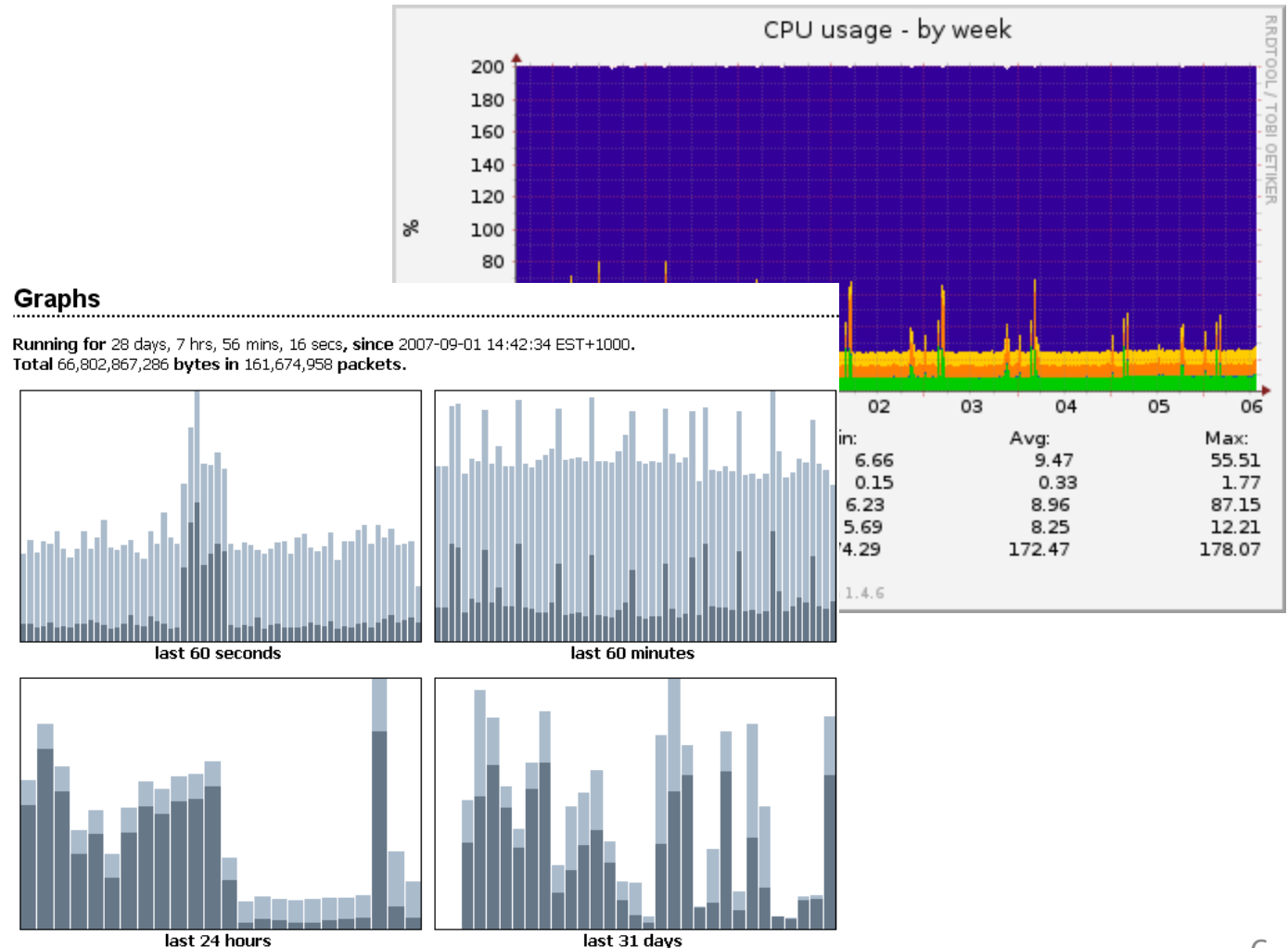
*Architecture, Usage*

- **Conclusion**

*Summary, Future Work*

# Related Work – Network Monitoring

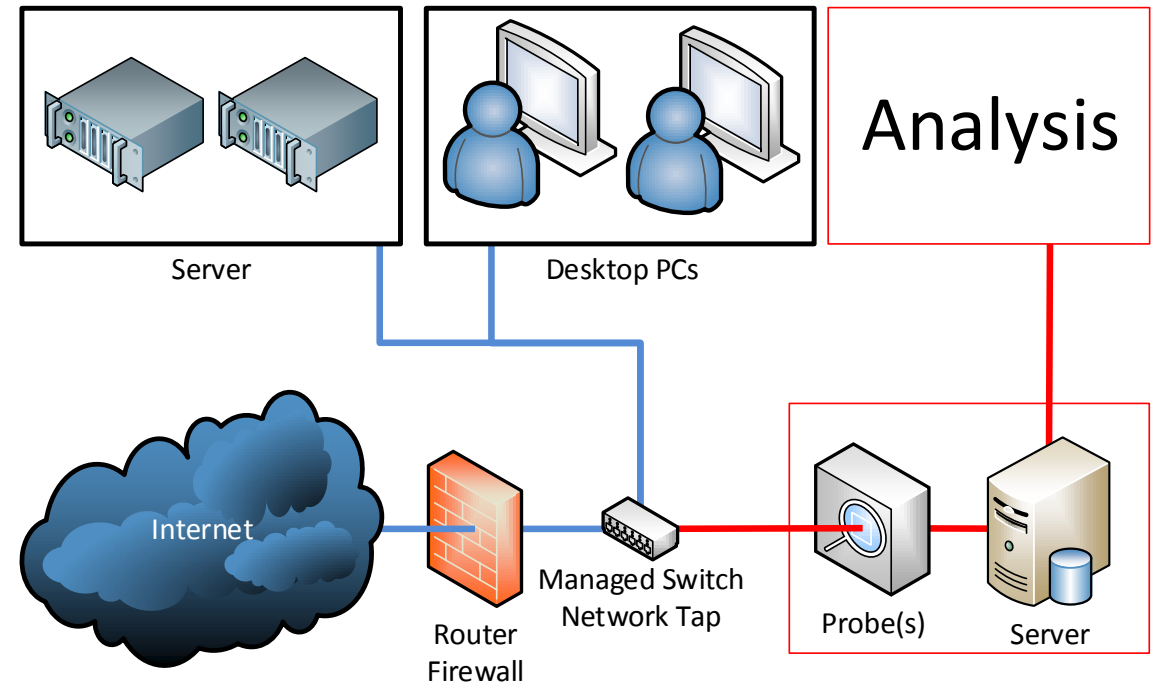
- Infrastructure and service monitoring.
- Network graphing.
- Manually defined thresholds trigger alarms.
- Usually no modelling or prediction.



# Data

# Data

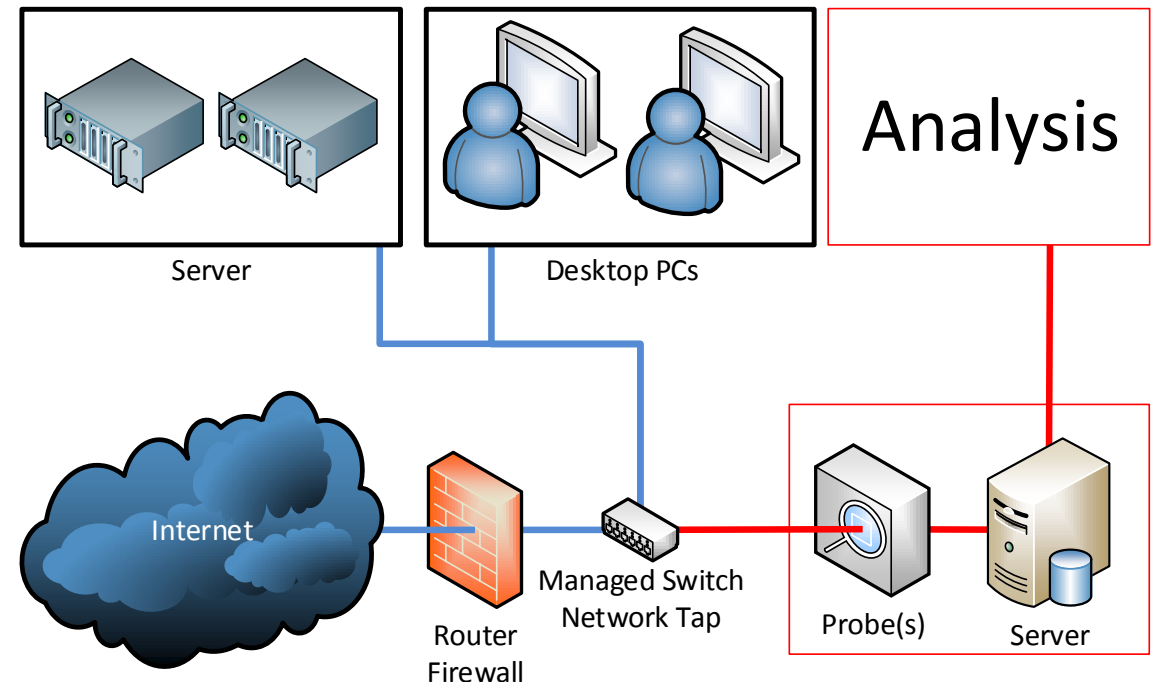
- Data is gathered via *probes* analyzing network flows.
- A probe contains a number of different *descriptors*.
- Descriptors describe a specific property of a protocol, application, ...
- If a descriptor matches, a numeric counter is incremented.





# Data II

- Network with 30 workstations and 20 regular users.
- 11 month of data.
- Counter transmission interval: 5 minutes.
- Self developed, high performance time-series store.



# Data III - Processing

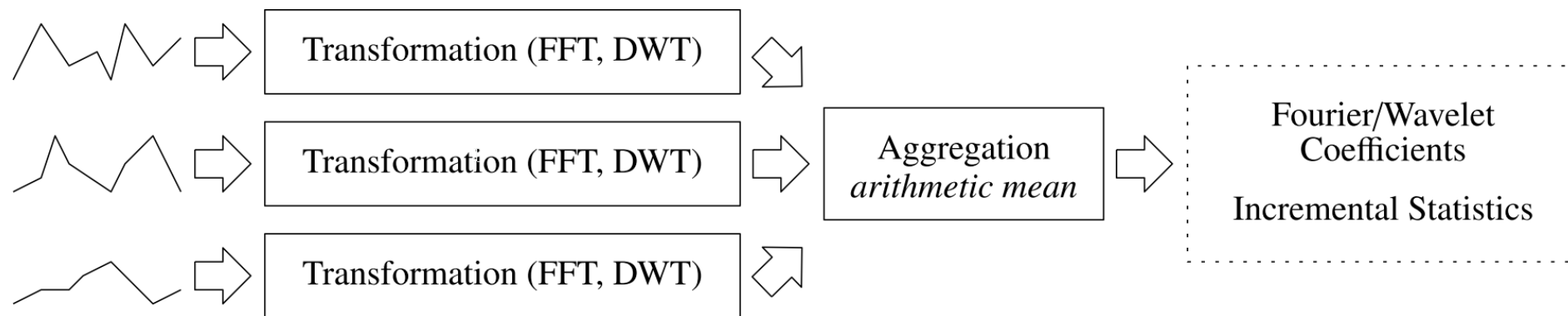
- Data restoration
  - Linear interpolation of missing values.
- Re-sampling with a fixed interval.
  - Continuous time-series.
- Incremental statistics computation.
  - Min, Max, Mean, Variance per day
- Storage with indices over time and time-series.

**Leads to:** consistent data set with no missing values.

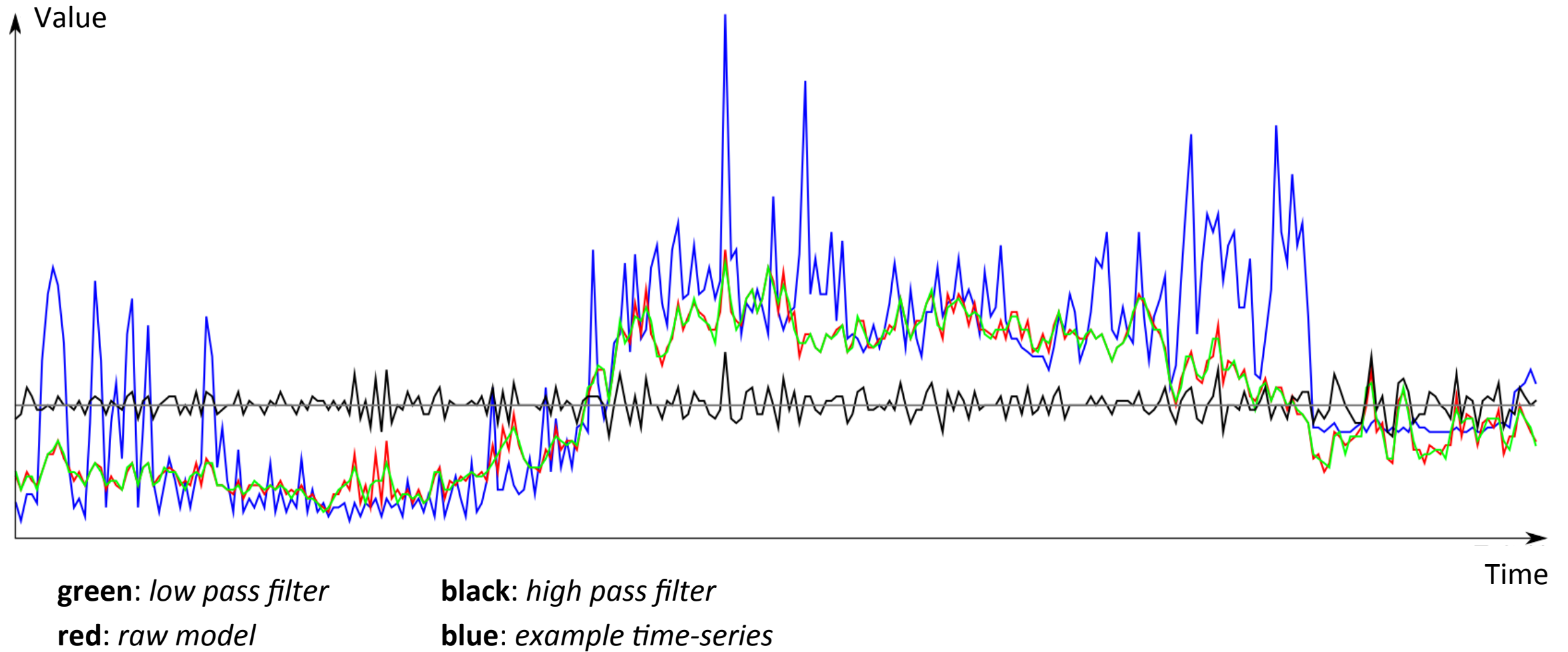
# Data IV – Model

Both, Fourier and Wavelet Transformation can be used to decompose time-series data.

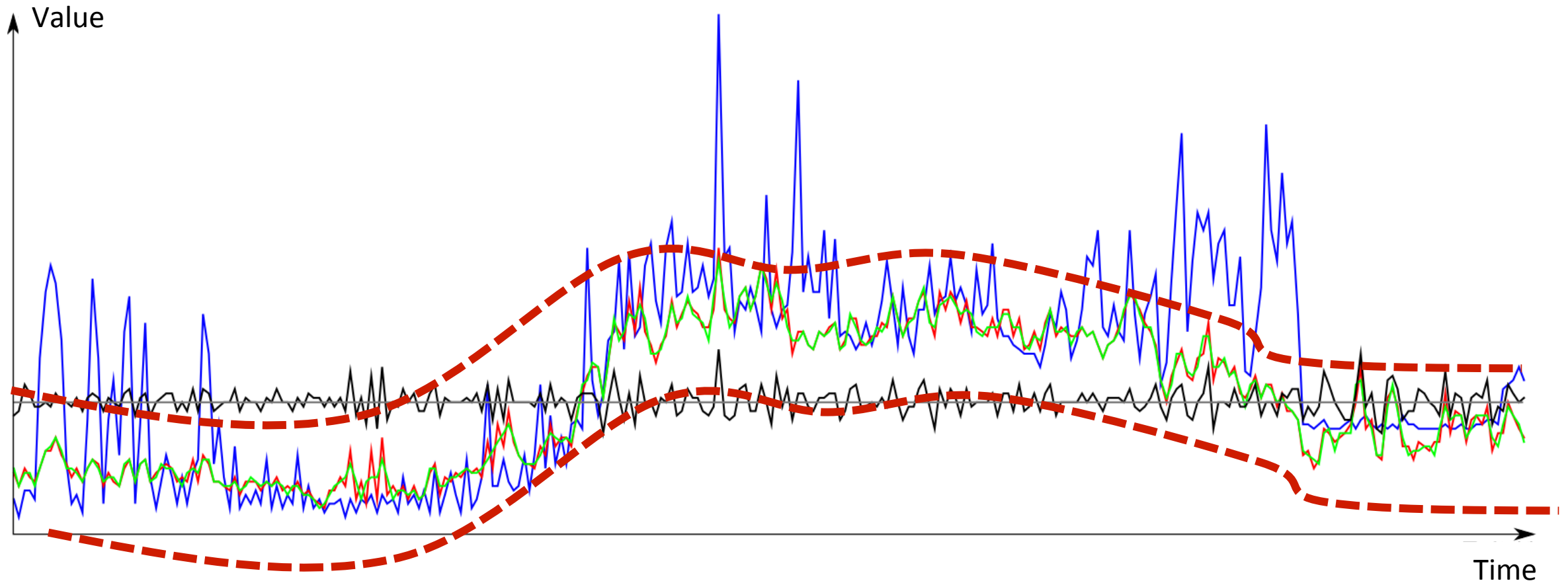
- **Fourier Transformation:** frequency domain, but no locality in time.
- **Wavelet Transformation:** locality in time, efficient.



# Data IV – Model



# Data IV – Model & Anomalies



Define a time-span as *anomalous*, when it lies outside some borders.

# Visualization

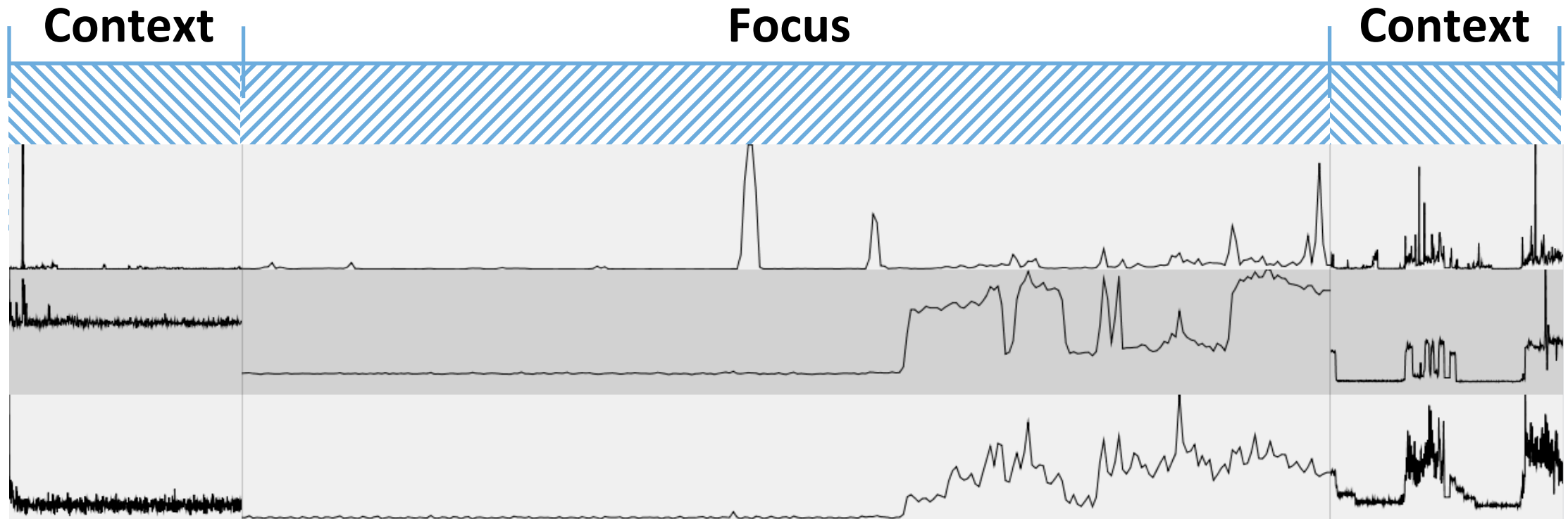
# Visualization – Line Chart

- Line charts are widely used for not only time-series displays.
- Easy to interpret, easy to compare, well-known to analysts.

## **Our Modifications:**

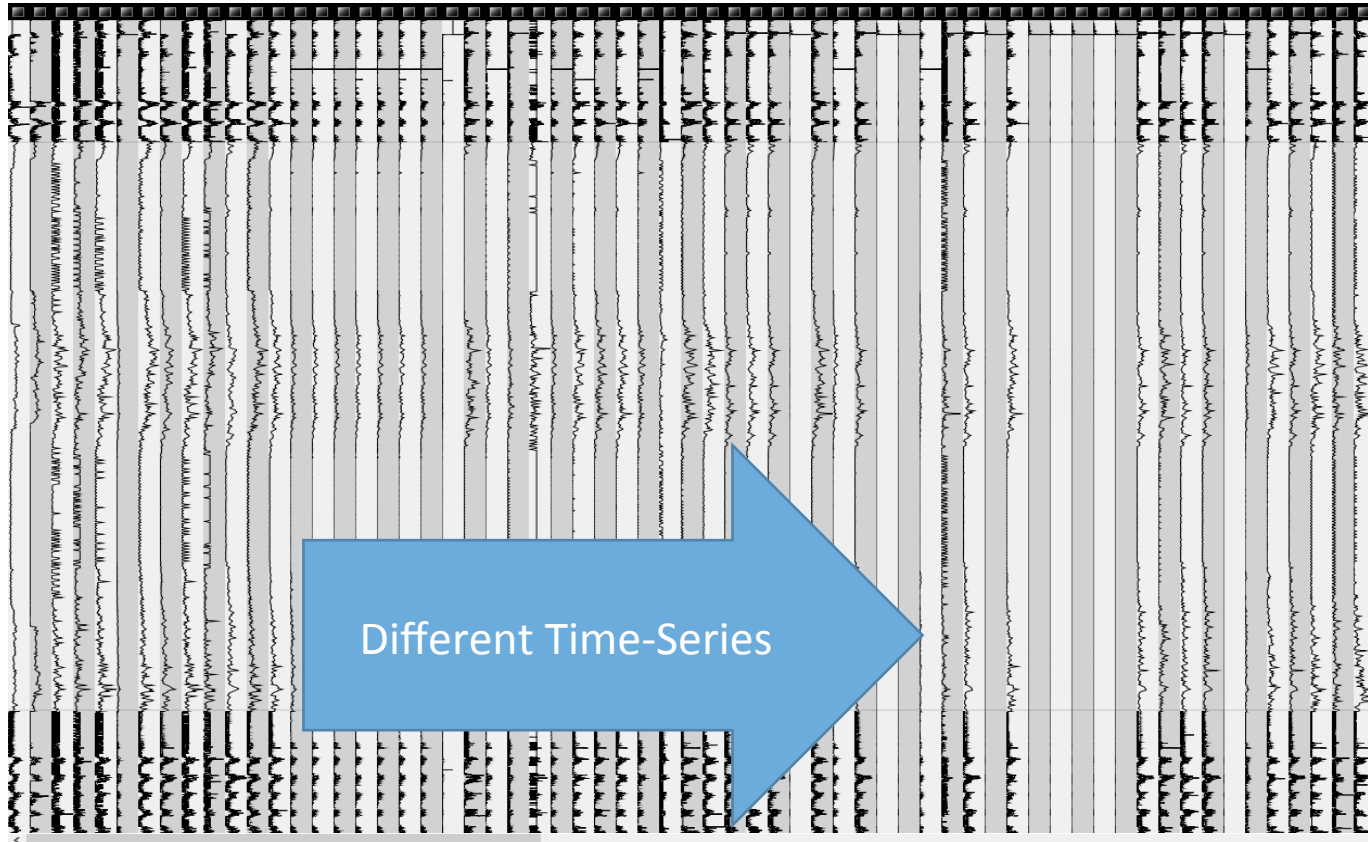
- Focus plus Context.
- Rotated view to foster visual, pre-attentive correlation.
- Space efficient representation on a standard PC screen.
- Scalable to any screen size.

# Visualization II – Focus + Context





# Visualization III – Rotated Line Chart

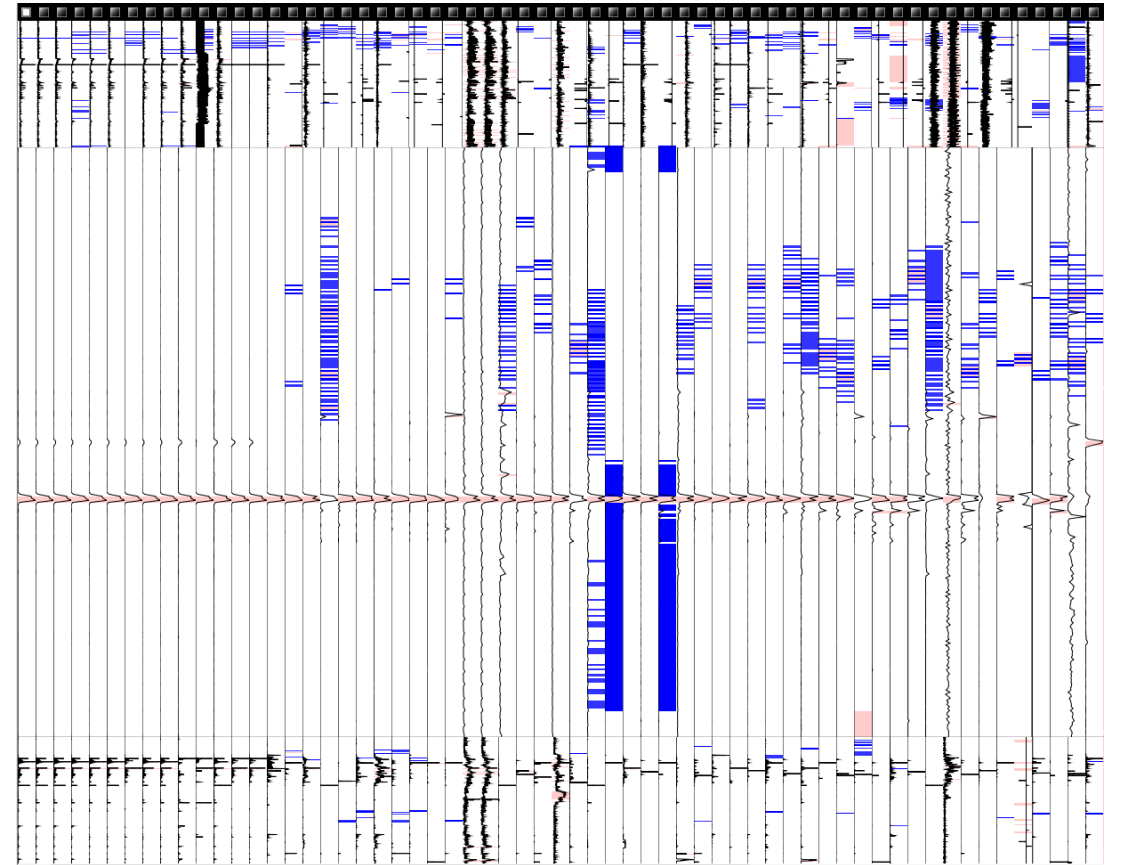


Idea:

- Weaken the intent to go along the time-axis and follow a series.
- Attempt to guide the analyst to comparison based on time-spans.

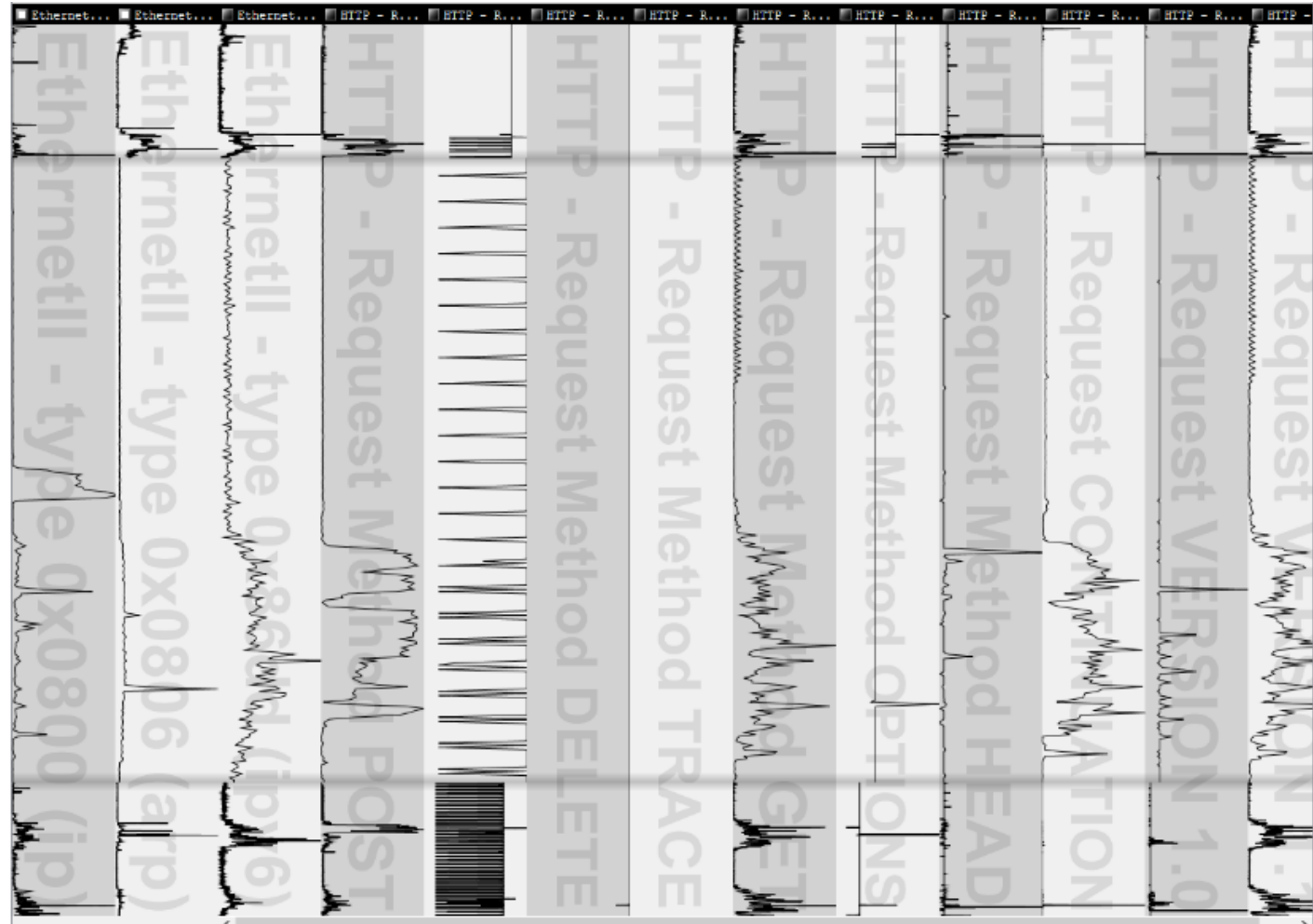
# Visualization IV – Line Chart and Anomalies

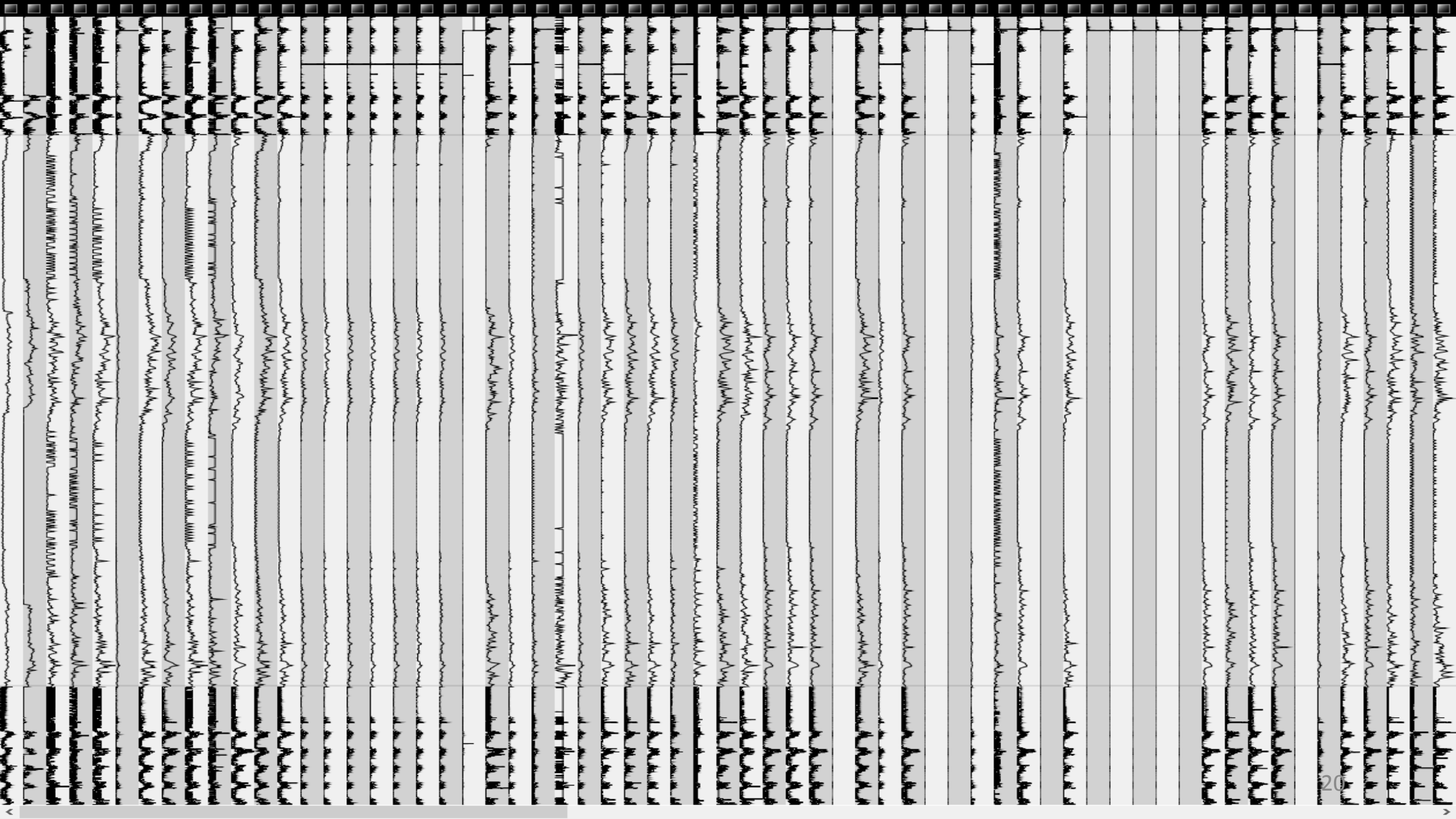
- Background of the line charts used for anomaly display.
- **Red**: value above model and threshold
- **Blue**: value below model and threshold



# Visualization V

- Visual Options  
width, height, colors, focus/  
context area size, pinning, in-  
place comparison, scaling,  
ordering, ...
- Interaction  
browsing via mouse-wheel,  
zooming and querying based on  
mouse selection
- Synchronization  
location and changes in time  
visual options





# System

# System

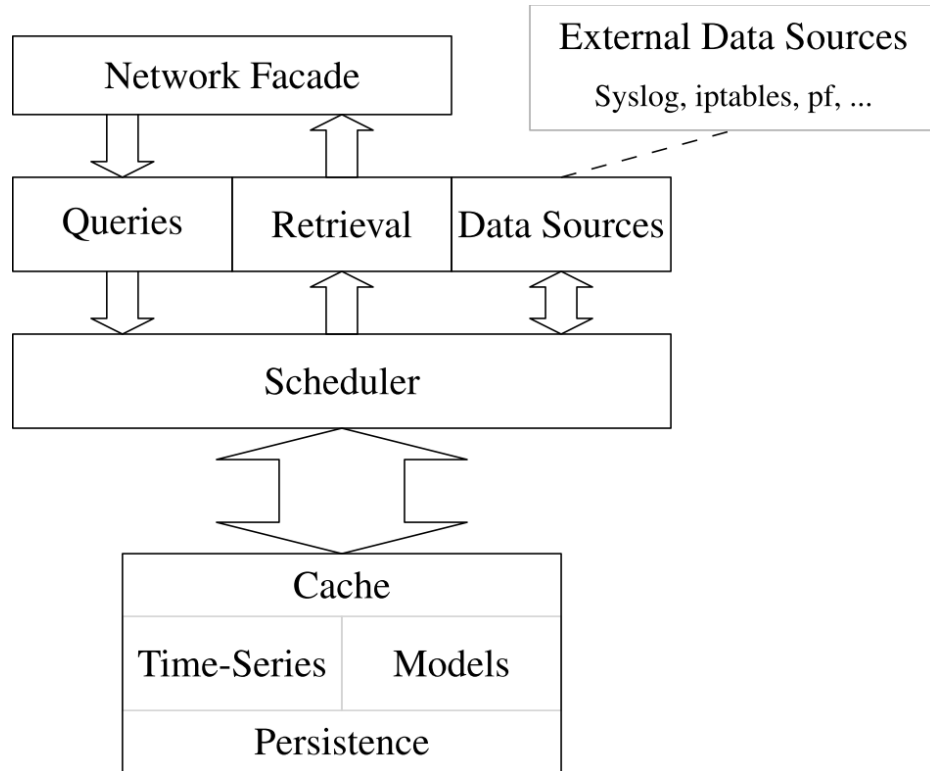
## Two main components:

- Server
  - Time-series storage.
  - Analytics backend.
- Client
  - Time-series and visualization framework.
  - Multi-screen and multi-window support.
  - Access to the analytics backend of the server.

## *Third component:*

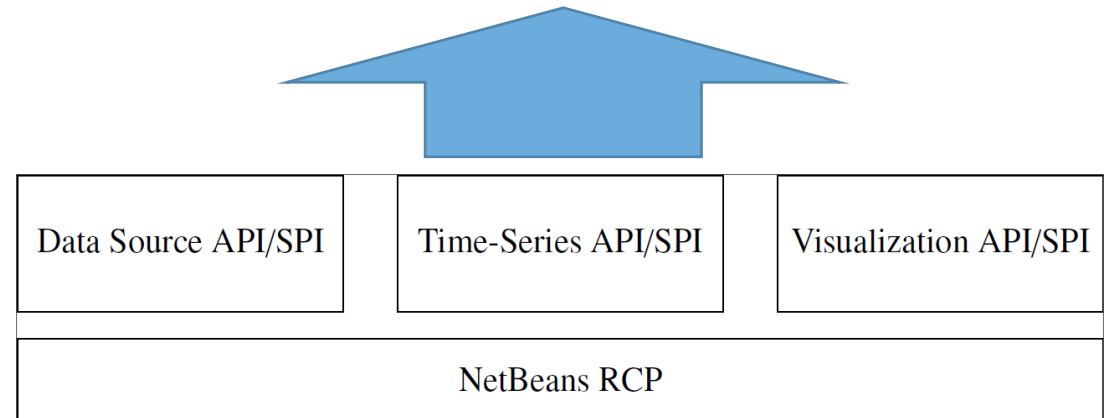
- Network traffic analysis framework (probes).

# System II



**Server Components**

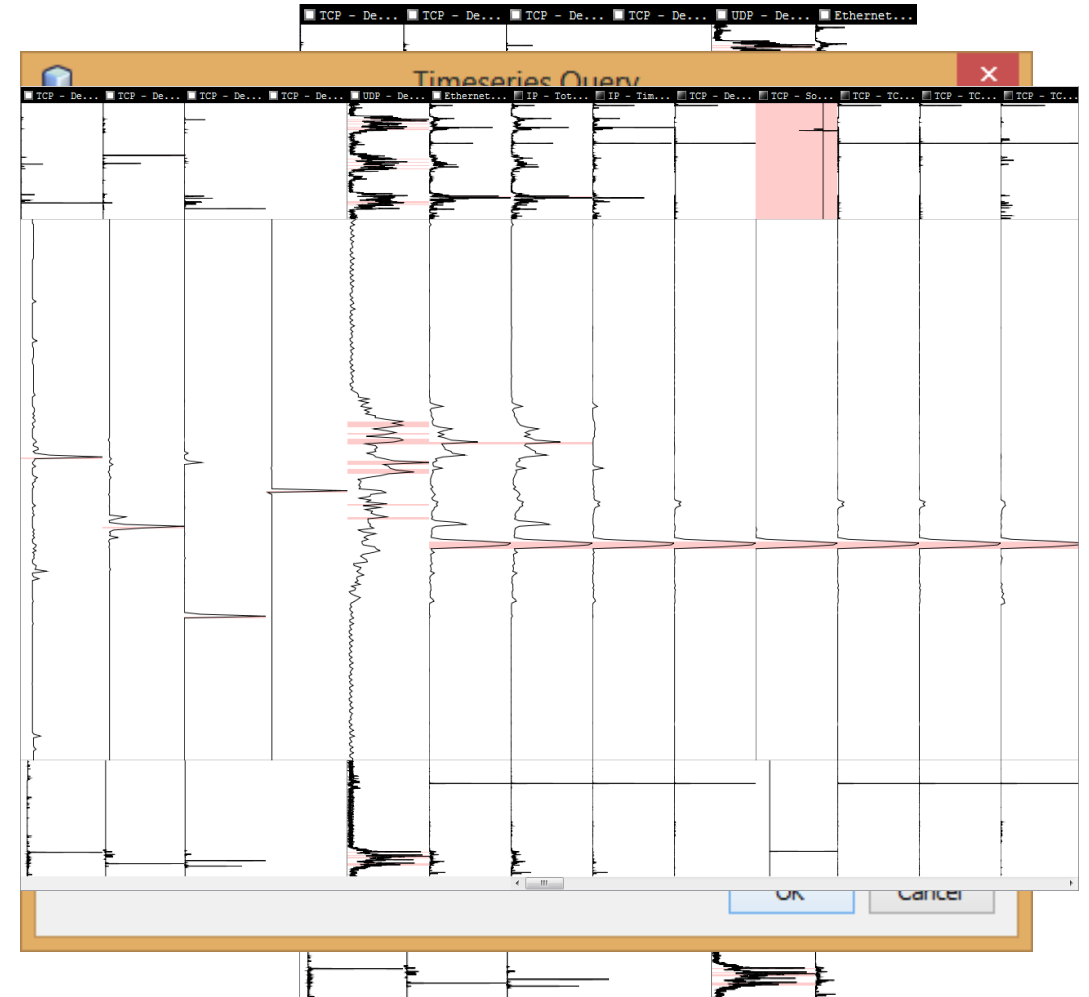
Analysis, Visualizations, Dashboards, ...



**Client Components**

# System III – Root Cause Analysis

1. Browse through time-series.
2. Find interesting time spans.
3. Formulate a similarity query.
4. Inspect the query results.
5. *(go at 1 if necessary)*
6. Start more detailed analysis in other tools, if necessary.





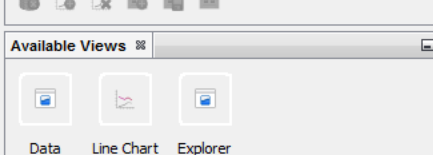


Active Data Sources

Main Gateway

- EthernetII - type 0x0800 (ip)
- EthernetII - type 0x0806 (arp)
- EthernetII - type 0x8035 (reverse arp)
- EthernetII - type 0x86dd (ipv6)
- EthernetII - IEEE802.1 VLAN
- HTTP - Request Method POST
- HTTP - Request Method PUT
- HTTP - Request Method DELETE
- HTTP - Request Method TRACE
- HTTP - Request Method GET
- HTTP - Request Method CONNECT
- HTTP - Request Method OPTIONS
- HTTP - Request Method HEAD
- HTTP - Request CONTINUATION
- HTTP - Request VERSION 1.0
- HTTP - Request VERSION 1.1

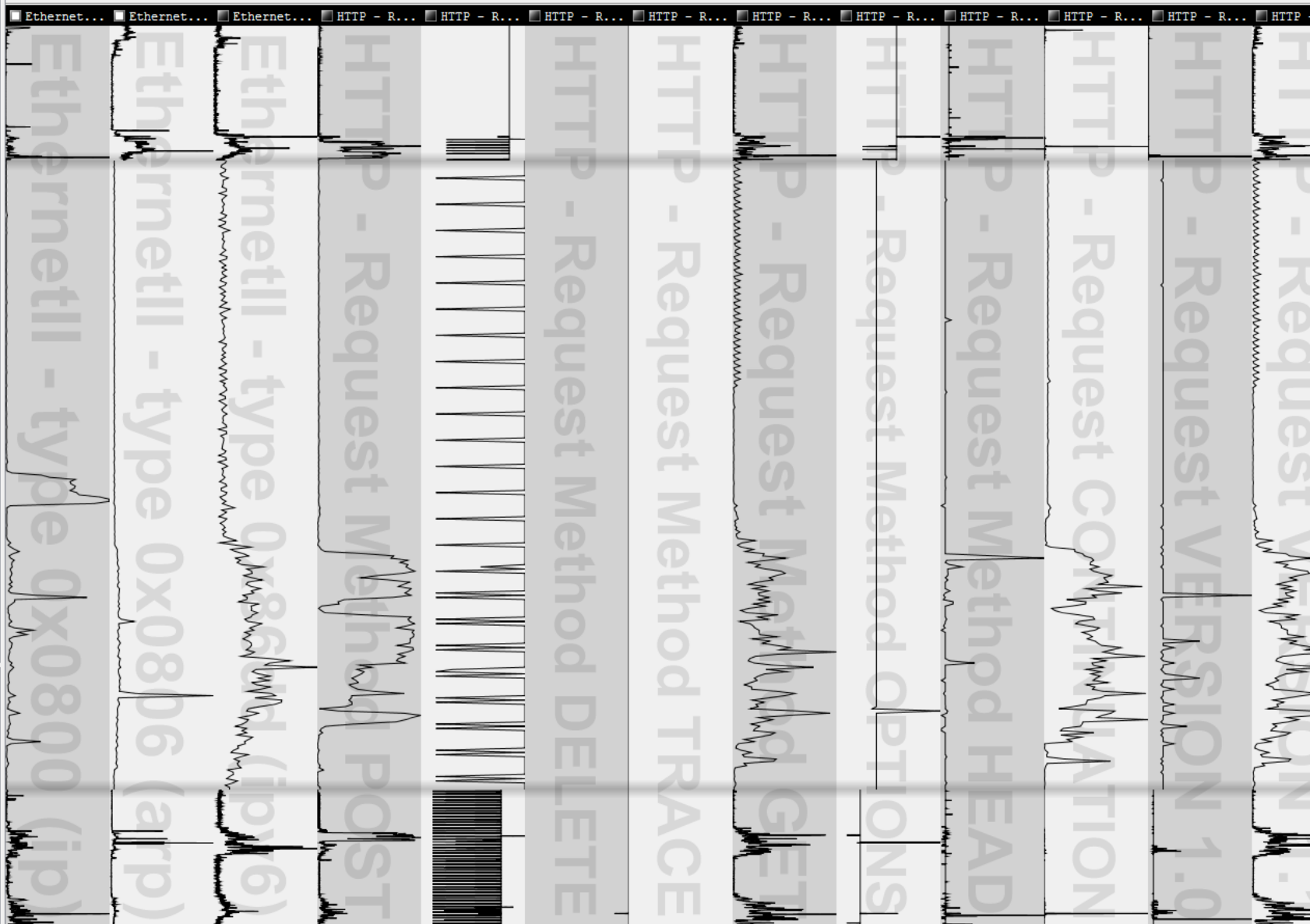
Available Views



n/a

Explorer@Main Gateway | Line Chart@Main Gateway | Data@Main Gateway | Dashboard of Main Gateway

Mo 02.04.12 18:34 - Di 03.04.12 18:34



Explorer View - Properties

Properties

- BI-Polar Color Map
- Color Map
- Series Name Overlay
- Series Value Overlay
- Time Pointer
- Focus Range 1 day
- Hide Empty Views
- Non-Focus Component Dimen: 15%
- Non-Focus Area Range 2 days
- Normalization LINEAR
- Name Overlay Autosize
- Name Overlay Font Color [0,0,0]
- Name Overlay Font SansSerif 12 Bold
- Name Overlay Opacity 0.1
- Value Overlay Color [0,0,0]
- Value Overlay Font Monospaced 12 Plain
- Value Overlay Opacity 1.0
- Visualization Scaling view element (default)
- Timepointer Color [255,255,0]
- View Element Dimension 100 px
- View Element Divider Color [0,0,0]
- View Element Divider Opacity 0.2
- View Element Divider gradient
- View Element Odd Background [240,240,240]
- View Element Even Background [210,210,210]
- View Element Orientation vertical
- View Element Painter line chart

Series Name Overlay

toggles the series name overlay

Timeseries Info

HTTP - Request Method PUT

Mo, 02.04.2012, 20:07

6

Status: has data

Data Start: Mi 29.02.2012 17:43

Data End: Fr 21.12.2012 15:49

Datapoints: 4,999

Min: 1

Max: 196

Range: 195

Median: 1

25

# Conclusion

Framework for time-series processing, containing:

- Time-series modelling.
- Scalable time-series analysis.
- Scalable time-series visualization.

## **Future Work:**

- Evaluate the line charts (rotation).
- Show the usefulness in a real world use-case with interesting data.
  - WIP: DNA Sequence Alignment Browser/Exploration.
- More Automatic methods.

Thank you very  
much for your attention!

## Questions?

For more information  
about our work  
please contact

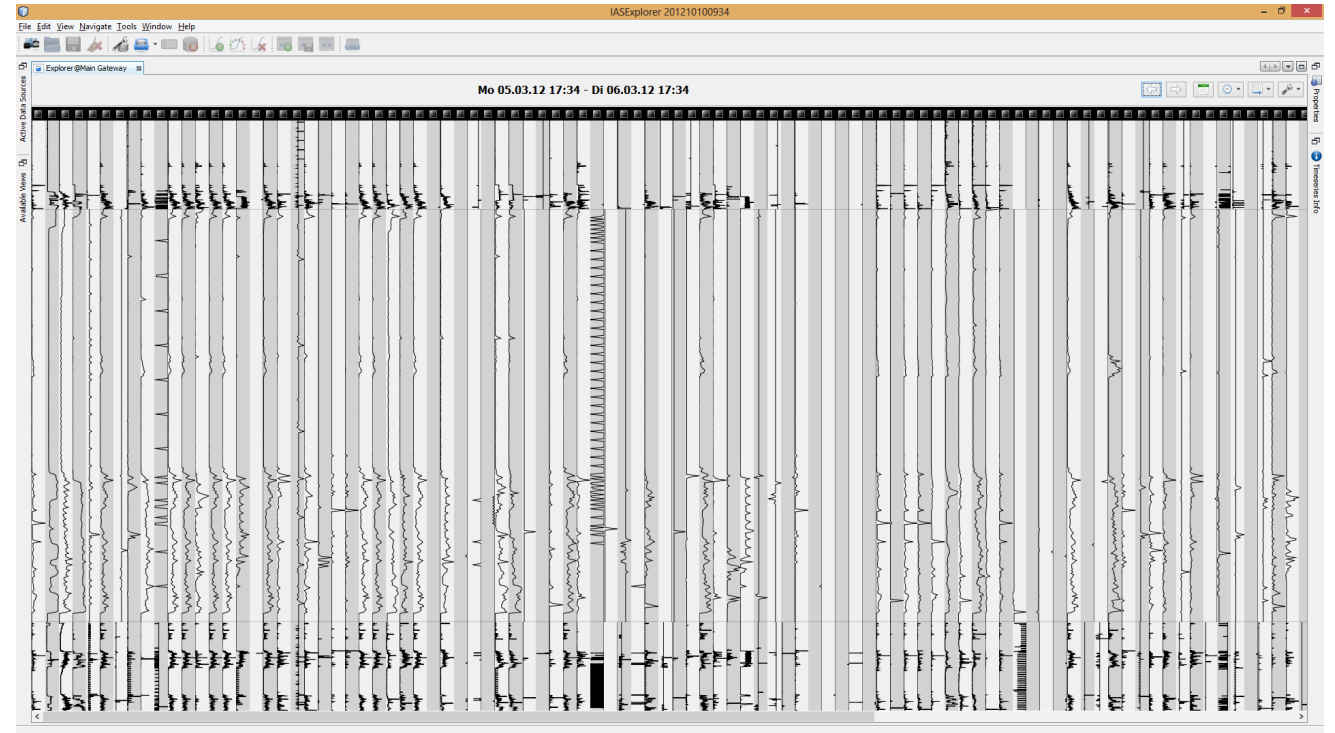
**Florian Stoffel**

Tel. +49 7531 88-3070

[florian.stoffel@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:florian.stoffel@uni-konstanz.de)

 [@florianstoffel](https://twitter.com/florianstoffel)

<http://vis.uni-konstanz.de/>



# Dataset Details

- *transmission id*
  - id of the data transmission
- *descriptor id*
  - id of the descriptor
- *Counter*
  - counter reading of the descriptor
- *transmission time*
  - time of insertion
- *Duration*
  - data gathering interval
- *Status*
  - transmission status

transmission_id	descriptor	counter	time	duration	status
16925	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:03:51	300	ok
16926	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:04:20	300	ok
16927	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:08:51	300	ok
16928	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:09:20	300	ok
16929	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:13:51	300	ok
16930	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:14:20	300	ok
16931	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:18:51	300	ok
16932	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:19:20	300	ok
16933	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:23:51	300	ok
16934	67584	310	2012-02-29 18:24:20	300	ok