

# Zabbix in Campus

Lukas Macura  
CESNET

Silesian University in Opava  
[Lukas.macura@cesnet.cz](mailto:Lukas.macura@cesnet.cz)

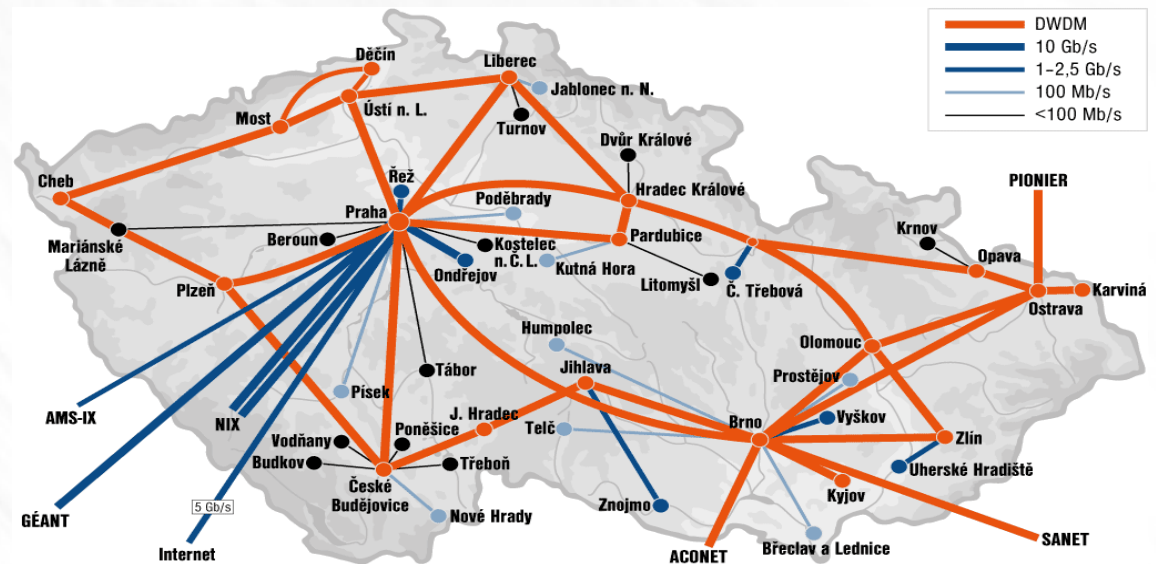
# Contents

- CESNET
- Silesian University (SLU)
- History of zabbix on SLU
- Current state of Zabbix at SLU
- Current state of Zabbix at CESNET
- What we are missing?
- Conclusions

# CESNET

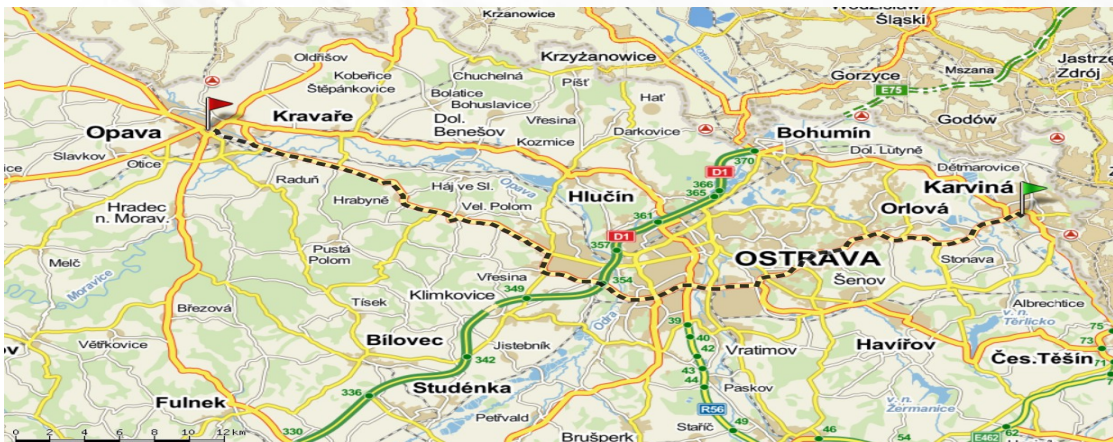


- Czech academical network for research
- Includes all public Czech Universities



# Silesian University in Opava

- Divided into Karvina and Opava
  - Faculty of Philosophy and Science in Opava
  - *School of Business Administration in Karvina*
  - Faculty of Public Policies in Opava
  - Institute of Mathematics in Opava



# Monitoring theory

- We need monitoring to know about crashes
- We need crashes to test monitoring
- We need crashes of monitoring to be happy that everything works
- But worstest scenario if users acts as monitoring (they are ugly from it)
- We have to:
  - Either monitor and predict crashes
  - Or do not have any user

# History of monitoring on SLU

- We experienced before zabbix
- We used many kind of monitoring software
- Each had some problems
- It was only basic monitoring of main services
- Used mainly to overview during troubleshooting
- **„Dark time“ - crashes were unknown**

# History of zabbix on SLU

## First stage (2004)

- Searched for monitoring solution
- Found Zabbix as great project (alpha stage)
- Configured very basic monitoring
- Not suitable for complex setup
- Basic availability of servers
- Problems with „false positives“
- **„Happy time“ - crashes were known and we were happy from it**

# History of Zabbix at SLU

## First stage

- „One man show“ :)
- Hardly configured
- We needed to upgrade often because of new features
- No clean upgrade procedure from alpha versions
- Moving to second stage
- **„Fuzzy time“ - crashes were sometimes known and we were happy when Zabbix reported it**



# History of Zabbix at SLU

## First stage

- „One man show“ :)
- Hardly configured
- We needed to upgrade often because of new features
- No clean upgrade procedure from alpha versions
- Moving to second stage
- **„Fuzzy time“ - crashes were sometimes known and we were happy when Zabbix reported it**

# History of Zabbix at SLU

## Second stage

- Problem with upgrade „solved“ by big boom
- We started to configure from scratch
- There were not so many hosts/items
- We „migrated“ to 1.4
- **„Hectic time“ - More crash specific than monitoring specific because of „one man show“ in monitoring**

# History of Zabbix at SLU

## Third stage

- We needed to interconnect two servers
- One in Opava, second in Karvina
- Problems with multi-node setup
- In fact, we found that it is not needed
- Splitting multinode into two nodes
- From this point, Zabbix is used even for inventory
- **„Light time“ - crashes are localised, monitored, reported and everybody is happy..**

# History of Zabbix at SLU

## Fourth stage

- Inventory data inside..
- Why not use them for other purposes?
- Import/export script for Cisco devices
- All network devices inside
- Created graphs and maps
  - Servers
  - Networks
  - Wireless networks
  - Network devices

# History of Zabbix at SLU

## Fourth stage

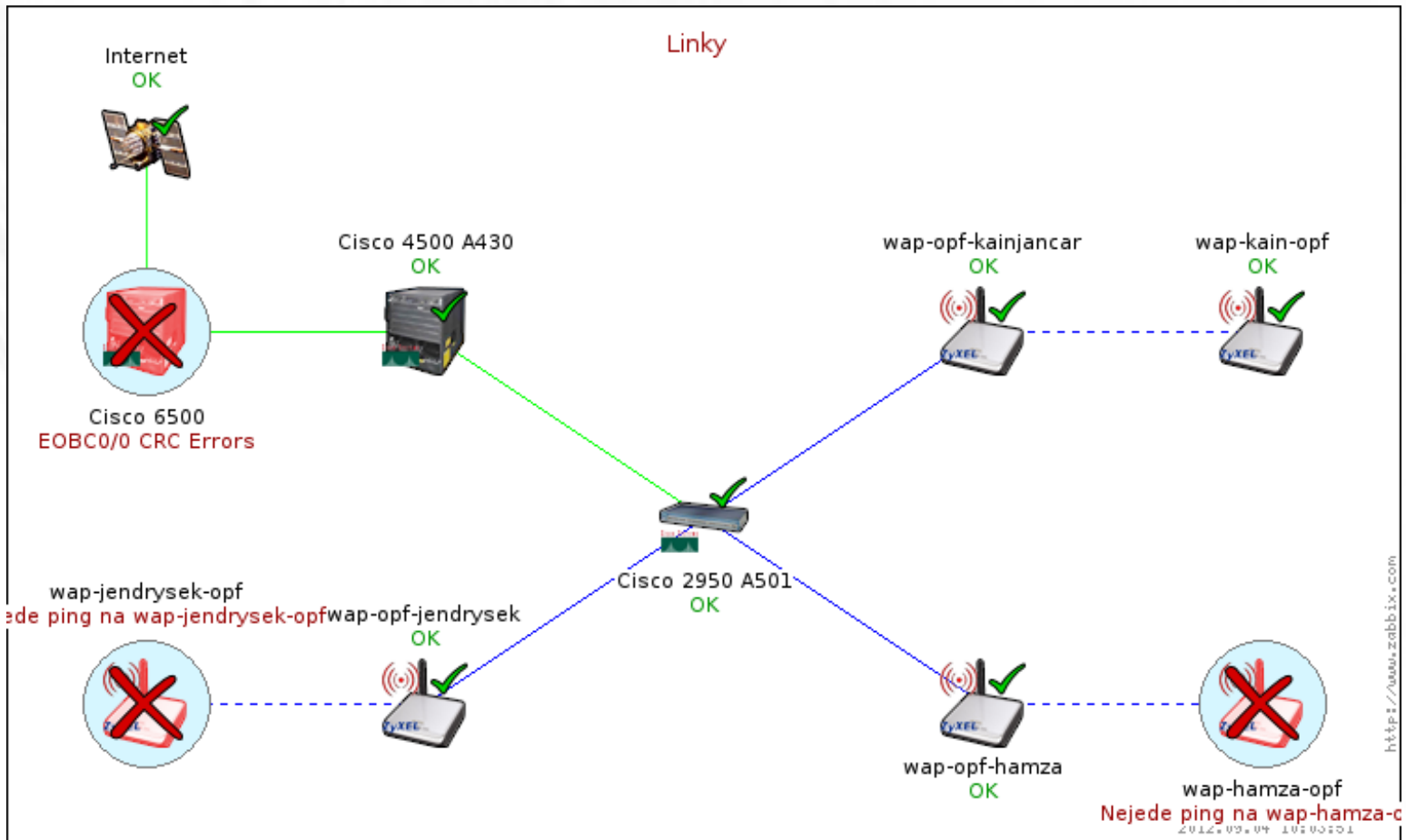
- Informations about server:
  - Inventory
  - Data from agent
  - Data from agentless monitoring
  - Pending updates (debian)
  - Status of backup (daily, weekly)
  - Throughput of connection (from switch)

# Zabbix on SLU today

- Version 2.0.2
- Migration took some time ;)
- Everything works great
- We changed template system to new, autodiscovery for SNMP devices
- All inventory informations inside
- Especially virtual infrastructure is documented

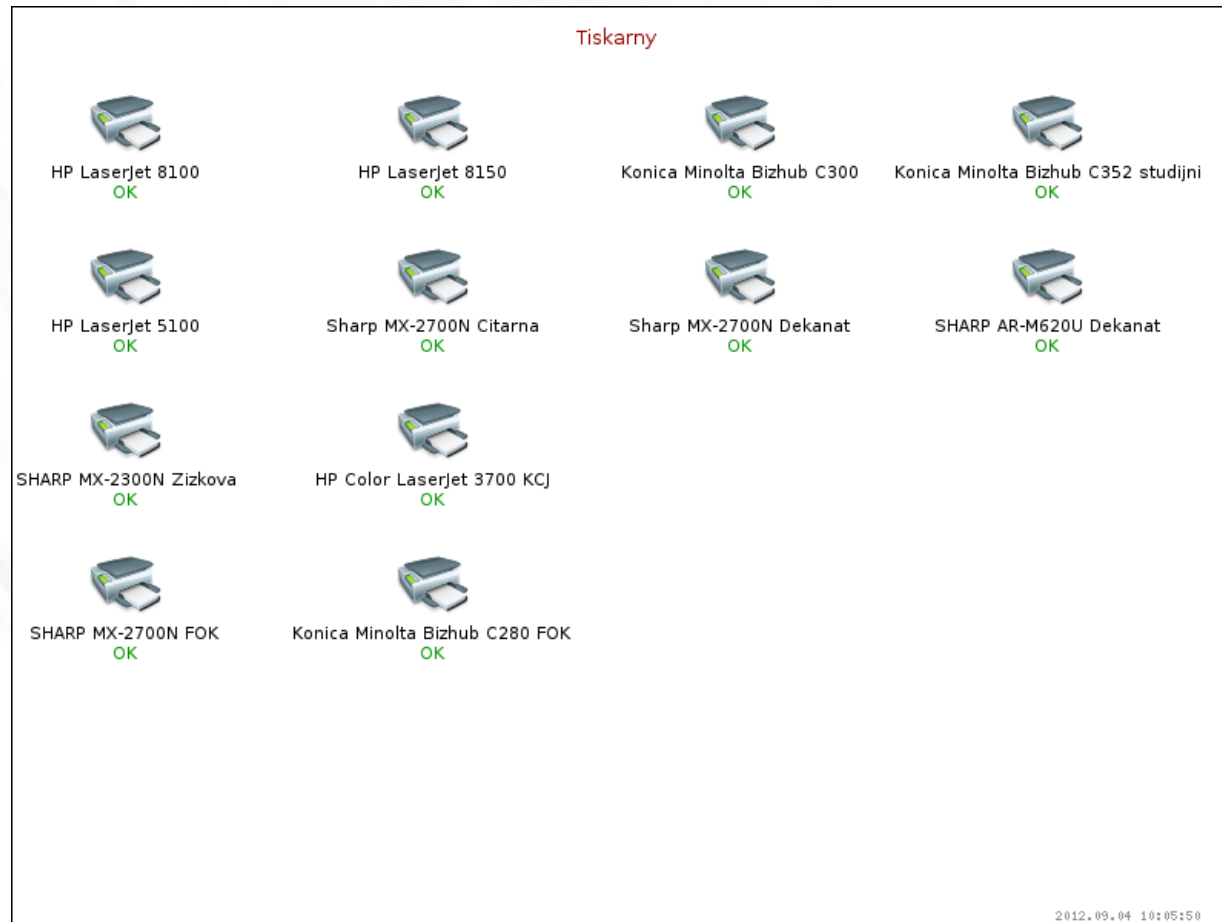


# Network links map





# Printers map





# ObnovaNG at SLU

- System for refreshing PC labs
- Users has admin privileges on lab PCs
- They can erase/modify everything
- If they want to know IT, they has to know how to destroy PC ;)
- ObnovaNG uses Zabbix and Rsync to „refresh“ PC into predefined state
- Used before tests by lectors too

# Today's usage for labs

- Informations about Lab PC:
  - Inventory (Mac address, ..)
  - Data from agentless monitoring
  - Status of refresh (obnovang)
  - Ping (PC is on/off)
  - Last logged user

# Lab map



# Today's usage for servers

- Informations about server:
  - All informations from agent
  - Disk, CPU, throughput, running services
  - Status of central backup
  - Status of debian updates
  - Local scripts to check some specialities

# Current state of Zabbix at SLU

- Two Zabbix Servers, not connected
- LDAP central authentication
- Some monitoring even in NAV
- Huge amount of data
- Still on mysql

# Other tools

## NAV

- Nav ( <http://nav.uninett.no/> )
- Great tool to troubleshoot L2 and L3 problems
- To glue MAC, IP and switch port
- To search MAC or IP and find directly switch port
- To track stateless IPv6 addresses
- Together with Zabbix, it is ultimate tool
- Maybe better interconnection with Zabbix in future?





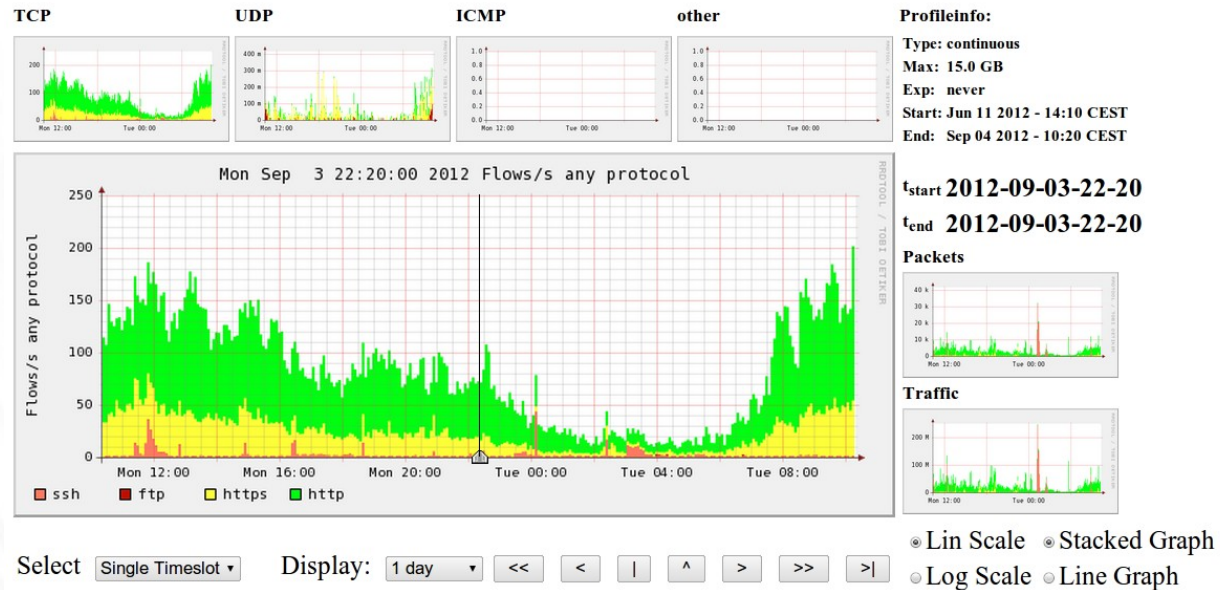
# Other tools

## Flowmon probe

- Flowmon probe from Invea Tech
- Used for
  - Troubleshooting internal network problems
  - Track security incidents
- Can be preconfigured with its own Zabbix server
- Maybe it is good to interconnect with Zabbix?

# Other tools

## Flowmon



### Statistics timeslot Sep 03 2012 - 22:20

Channel:	Flows:					Packets:					Traffic:				
	all:	tcp:	udp:	icmp:	other:	all:	tcp:	udp:	icmp:	other:	all:	tcp:	udp:	icmp:	other:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> http	52.6 /s	52.6 /s	0 /s	0 /s	0 /s	2.6 k/s	2.6 k/s	0 /s	0 /s	0 /s	22.1 Mb/s	22.1 Mb/s	0 b/s	0 b/s	0 b/s
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> https	17.9 /s	17.8 /s	0.0 /s	0 /s	0 /s	751.1 /s	751.0 /s	0.0 /s	0 /s	0 /s	6.3 Mb/s	6.3 Mb/s	10.7 b/s	0 b/s	0 b/s
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ftp	0.1 /s	0.1 /s	0 /s	0 /s	0 /s	0.2 /s	0.2 /s	0 /s	0 /s	0 /s	92.5 b/s	92.5 b/s	0 b/s	0 b/s	0 b/s
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ssh	1.6 /s	1.6 /s	0 /s	0 /s	0 /s	12.2 /s	12.2 /s	0 /s	0 /s	0 /s	16.7 kb/s	16.7 kb/s	0 b/s	0 b/s	0 b/s

All  
None

Display:  Sum  Rate

# Other tools

## PAWOUK

- Software for students on dormitory
- Register, activate, deactivate and manage Internet connection for students
- Connected with freeradius server
- Used with Cisco as 802.1x
- Used with webauth where 802.1x is not possible

# Other tools

Central rsyslog server

- Central point of logging
- Some important information in Zabbix too
- Glue for searching incidents and problems (IP/Mac, Radius, EduID, Eduroam,...)
- Splunk used for data mining

# Current implementation

## Results

- More software solutions together
- Core is Zabbix (monitoring, inventory, simple management)
- NAV mainly for detecting and searching L2 and L3 nodes on network
- Flowmon for security incidents and data monitoring
- PAWOUK for managing, searching and (dis)connecting students
- Central Rsyslog server
- We need 100% guarantee that we can find any network flow from/to our network and glue right person to it for security incident handling.

# Current state of Zabbix at CESNET

- Bad, but I am doing best to change it :)
- Nagios is widely used and goodly configured
- Nobody want's to change because of
  - „Never touch running system“ formula

# What we are missing?

- Working CLI for backups/exports/imports for automatized backups and imports
- Quicker recovery (delayed?)
- Migration tool from mysql into pgsql
- Interconnection with NAV?
- Better management of SNMP devices (partially solved in 2.0 SNMP autodiscovery)
- Possibility to analyze and glue history data by some module (statistics, AI, playground for students)



# What we are missing?

- Modularity? Yes, it is possible to use API for any external software. But for analysing huge amount of data?
- IPv6 services support in GUI (not possible to create IPv6 service template based?)
- Timeline – possibility to see what happened in past time and ability to „switch“ frontend to some time back (maybe to future? :) )
- SVG graphs for better granularity and export
- SVG maps
- Scripting (lua?) for more complex scenarios or module support (eg. For functionality like NAV)

# What we are missing?

- Wizard for adding and discovering new devices (simple, agent, SNMP)
- Automatic creation of map from host group or via wizard
- „Click until death“ problem

# Other zabbix projects

- [Meteo4u.cz](http://meteo4u.cz)
  - Combination of Drupal and Zabbix
  - Using Zabbix API
  - Using Zabbix graphs
  - Using entire power of Zabbix

# Other zabbix projects

- BESIP (SIP server based on OpenWRT)
  - Should use Zabbix as default
  - Either only agent or server too
  - Embedded design (sqlite)
  - Needed to upgrade Zabbix in OpenWrt
  - Besip info available at <http://homeproj.cesnet.cz/projects/besip/wiki>
  - Repository for OpenWRT available, zabbix2 inside!

# Conclusions

- Great software, stay on!
- 
- Lukas Macura
- CESNET
- Silesian University in Opava
- [Lukas.macura@cesnet.cz](mailto:Lukas.macura@cesnet.cz)