

Plenary Lecture

Packet traces; good for a small delta
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Abstract:

Whatever simple or complex model of user demand you have for a telephone network, the resulting capacity requirements are straightforward and the traffic process is real simple. In data networks, unfortunately, even given the simplest of user demands, considering that most data sources and sinks are computer systems, the traffic process is dependant on the behaviour of: the client and server application, the operating systems at each end, the firewalls and the network; add to this the load on the end systems which is itself effected by the network behaviour (e.g. losses), and a complex picture emerges. Where we need precision mathematical instruments, we have mediaeval trephines; "give us the tools and we will do the job".