# Experience in wide deployment of mixed Wired/Wireless/Fiber network in Kathmandu valley

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### **Outline**

- Introduction
- Rationale for deploying Broadband over various medium
- Phases of Deployment and Problems
- Network topology diagrams and pics

### Challenges

- Political instability, which makes difficult to make long term Investment and plans
- Connected to the Internet backbone via expensive but slow Satellite links.
- Majority of people still don't know what is internet and/or use of it, lack of quality education and awareness.
- GDP of the people is extremely low, therefore Lack of market.
- Stiff and Cut throat competition, and monopolistic nature of Telcos.
- Difficult Terrian for the rural and pops connectivity.

### Our Vision

We are focused primarily on the Need of the people

Connect everyone in the Nepal to the Internet...!

### Kathmandu Valley

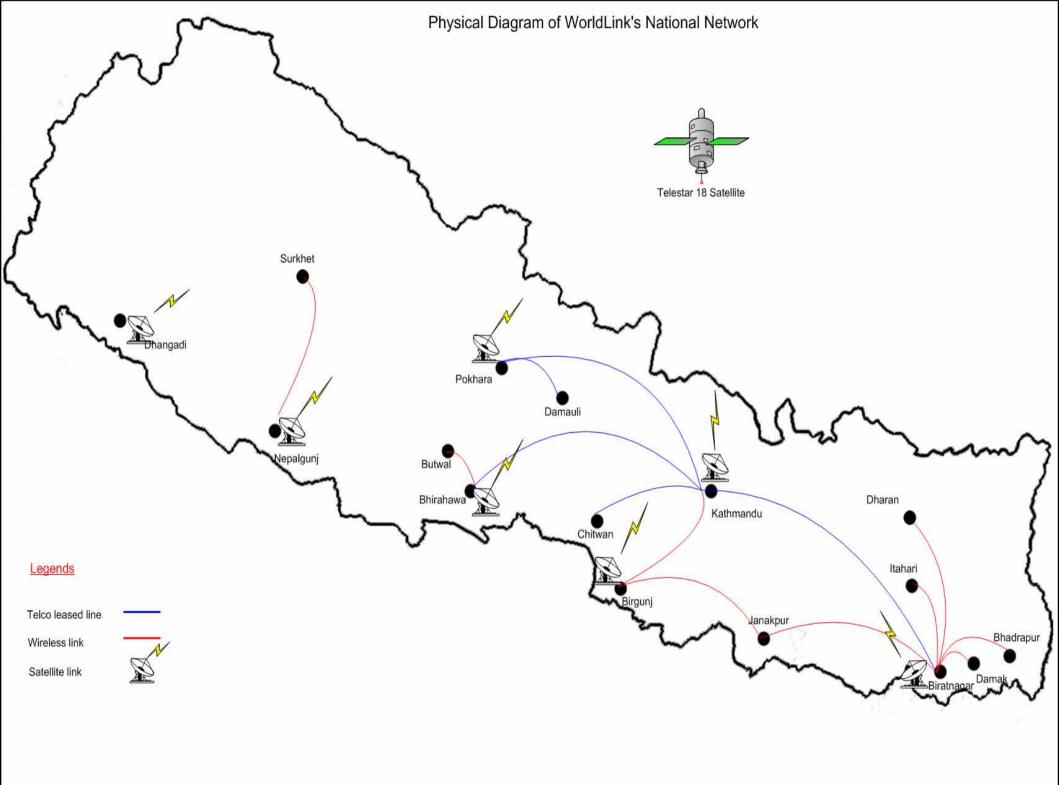
- Capital of Nepal.
- It covers an area of 280sq miles at an elevation of 1,300m
- Population approx. 2.8 million
- Internet users probably around just 3 million in the whole country
- Total active accounts approx. 60,000 shared among all ISPs
- 33 operational ISP/NSP
- Till date all ISPs are dependent on VSAT to get connected with Internet backbone
- State owned Local telco has aquired fiber connectivity with BSNL,India, but local ISPs has not bought transit yet

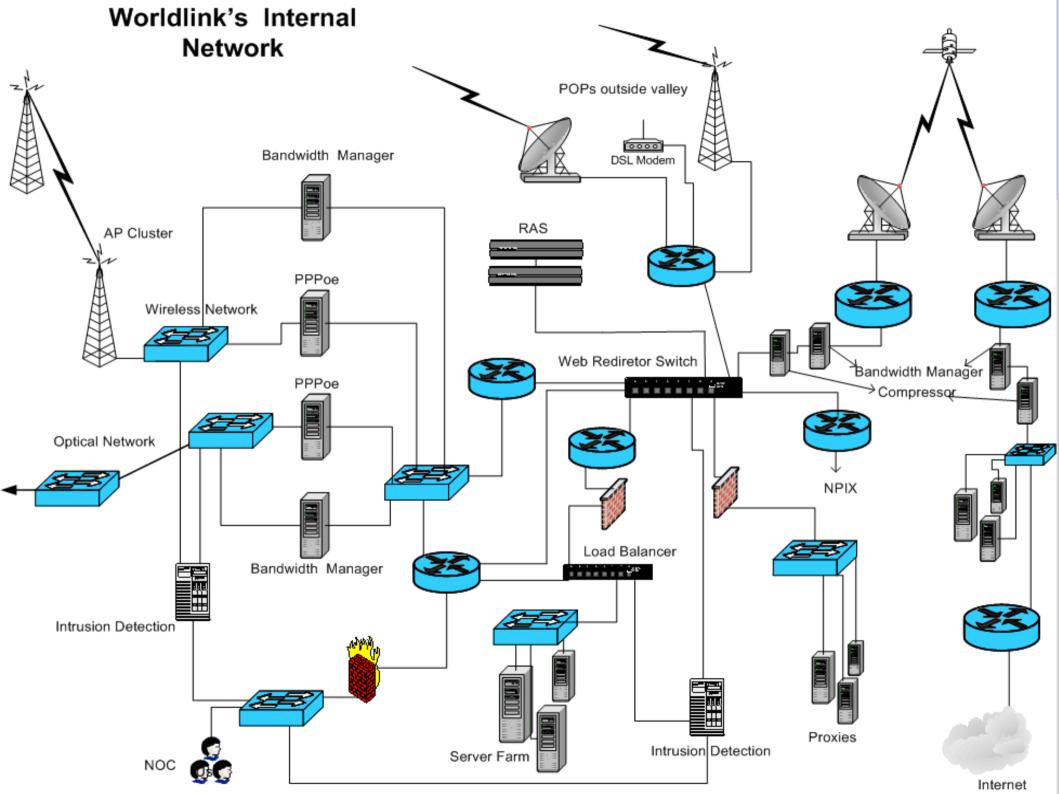


### **Brief Introduction of WorldLink**

- Established in 1995, with just a single PC and modem
- Currenltly have 102 servers, 49 routers, 47 managed switches, 18 NAS in core network
- Subscribes over 65mbps of IP bandwidth over Satellite
- Over 25,500 active accounts and 300 employees
- Internet market share of 41%
- Network coverage all over valley and at 13 major cities of the country
- Currently holds /18 lpv4 address space, AS 17501
- Co-locate Akamai Servers
- Mostly use Unix and other Open Source System for its Network Operation







### Rationale for wireless broadband

- Until 2002, dependant fully on telco leased-line and point-to-point wireless to provide few corporate connectivity
- Point-to-point wireless is expensive and not so scalable
- Telco leased-lines were unreliable and telco was reluctant to share its infrastructure with private ISPs
- Point-to-multipoint wireless would be reliable, quick to deploy and cost-effective compared to wireline solutions

## Deployment of Wireless Phase 1

- Introduced 5.2Ghz Motorola Canopy Point to Multipoint Platform in December 2002
- Started with static IP allocation for the clients
- Wireless Broadband gained unexpected popularity
- By the end of 2003 over 400 new medium-sized corporate customers subscribed for both Internet and VPN data service
- Satellite IP bandwidth utilization increased from 8Mbps to 18Mbps within 1 yr.
- Price plummeted from \$500 to \$180 for 64kpbs/month

### Major problems encountered Phase 1

- Unnecessary packets from protocols like netbios, bootp, igmp ms-ds(445) etc..
- Random arp spoofing and icmp attacks
- Occasional packet flooding due to faulty NIC, router's port and virus
- Misuse of IP addresses belonging to other customers and IP Conflicts
- Default Gateway IP abuse
- Exposure of PC's workgroup via Network Neighborhood of Netbios/NetBEUI protocol enable Windows PCs
- Few Wireless Firmware and GPS sync related.

Scaling L2 is tough...might be.. Impossible..??:(

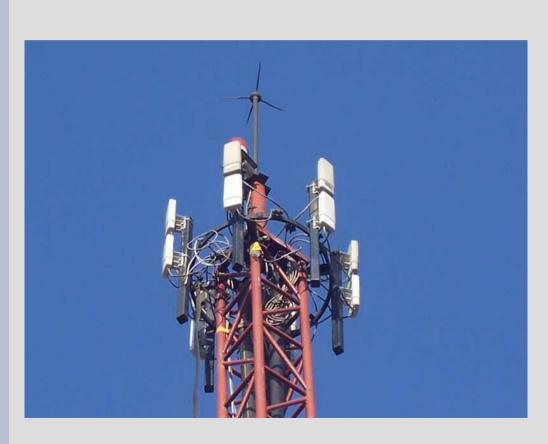
### **Countermeasures Phase 1**

- Motorola new firmware release with packet filtering and NAT in subscriber equipment in late 2003 solved the majority of problems
- Created separate 24\*7 proactive wireless monitoring and support team
- Installed packet sniffer and ran arpwatch scripts and enabled alerts and notifications. Enabled MAC+IP Filtering and packet rate limiting in the firewall of bandwidth manager
- Deployed broadband routers to avoid connecting the ethernet cable directly on the PC or enabled NAT in SM
- Ran scripts to automatically reset the AP based on the threshold of error counts of GPS status of AP
- Created monitoring and alerting scripts based upon SM, AP and switches MAC table and packet counts
- Educated customers and we still are ...:)

### **Encouragement..!**

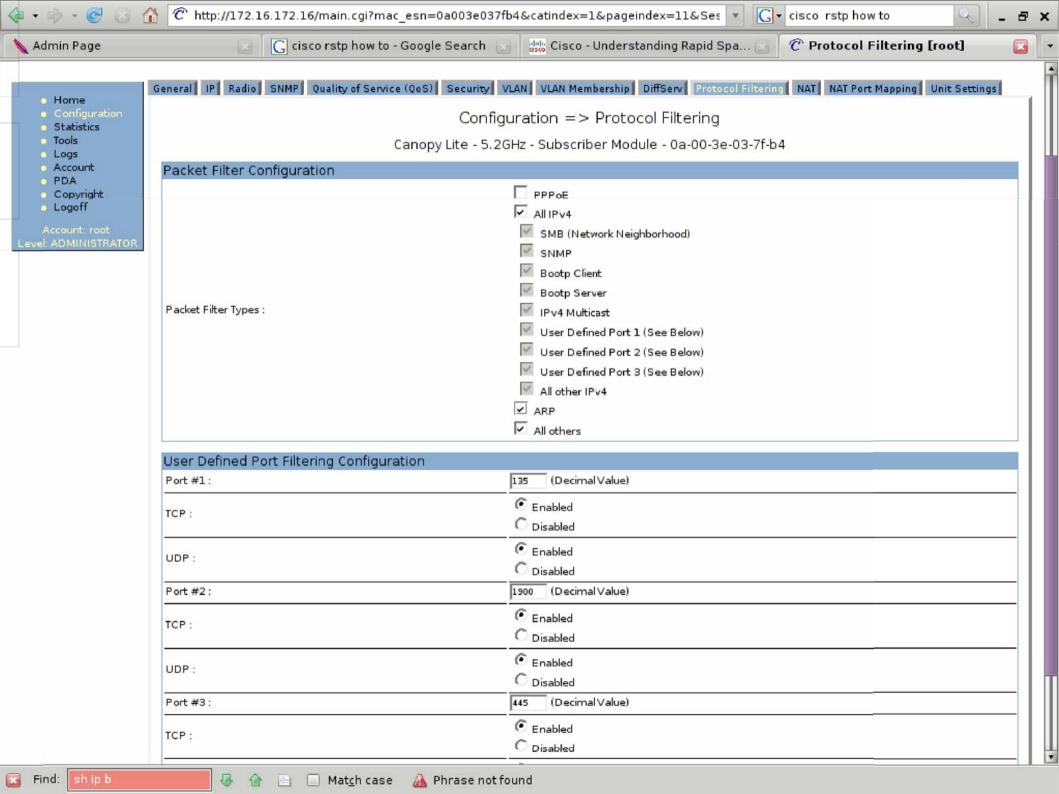
## Deployment of Wireless cont... Phase 2

- Late 2003, introduced PPPoE-based broadband services on the wireless network to target small and medium businesses and SOHO and home users who could not afford corporate rates
- PPPoE gave us the same classic features of AAA as in traditional dialup
- Introduced hours and volume-based broadband connectivity in an effort to bring down the cost of ownership
- Service was very successful. Over 700 subscribers by the end of 2004
- Price went down to around \$90 for 64kpbs/month
- IP bandwidth utilization went up to over 27Mbps
- Currently we have 67 Motorola Canopy Access Points serving over 2000 Subscriber Modules.









### Major Problems Phase 2

- Servere packet loss on AP having no. of higher no of associated SMs (over 40) and due to traffic bottleneck.
  - Added additional APs.
  - Upgraded the Classic APs to Advantage Platform
  - Added additional AP and segmented the AP clusters for PPPoE and Static IP customers.
  - Ran out of IP address space and we acquired additional /19 from APNIC

Confident..!..L2 can be scaled....!:)

### Rationale for Last Mile Ethernet

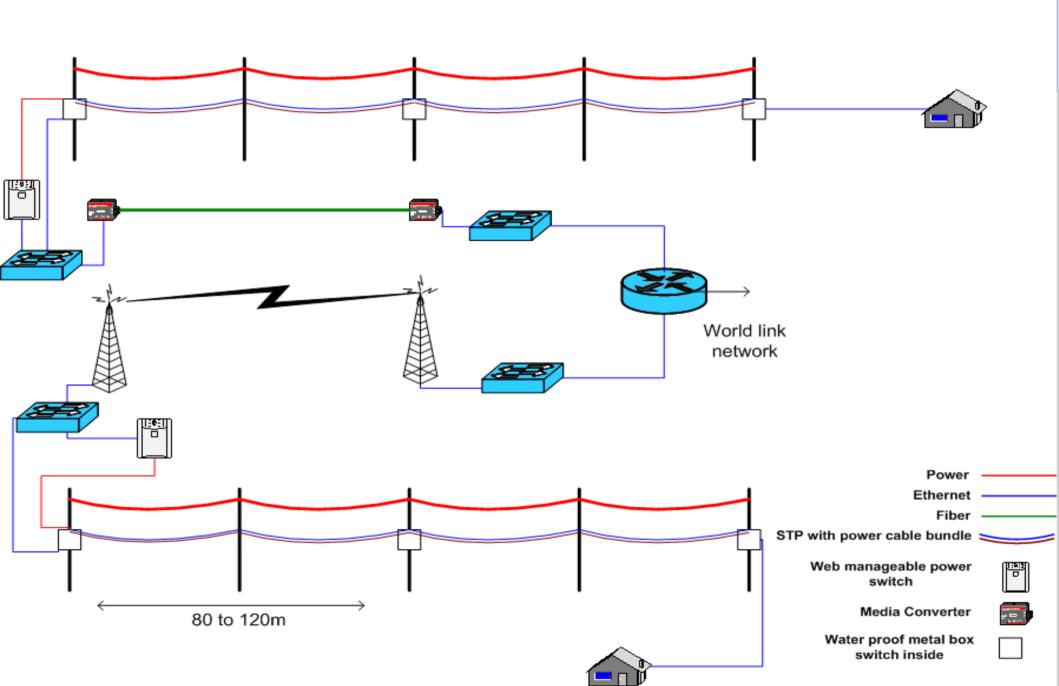
- Most dial-up customers were paying more to the telco to connect to the ISP that the cost of Internet to the ISP.
- Most of these customers pay from \$10 to \$20 per month for Internet and an additional \$12 to \$25 per month to the Telco.
- These customers would not be able to afford wireless Internet due to the high cost of subscriberend equipment.
- We needed our own last mile solution that was lowcost, moderate scalable and could be rolled out in phases.

Solution.. Ethernet...! Simple and Stupid...!;)

## Deployment of Last Mile Ethernet with Wireless backhaul Phase 3

- On electricity poles, installed waterproof metal boxes with a low-cost (less than \$20), VLAN-aware switch inside
- The poles are roughly 80-150m apart. Cascaded the switches linearly using custom Shielded Twisted Pair (STP) CAT5e cable
- In a neighbourhood, all Ethernet segments connect at one point to one switch. This switch is connected to our network using wireless SM. This way we have small ethernet networks whereever we had our wireless coverage

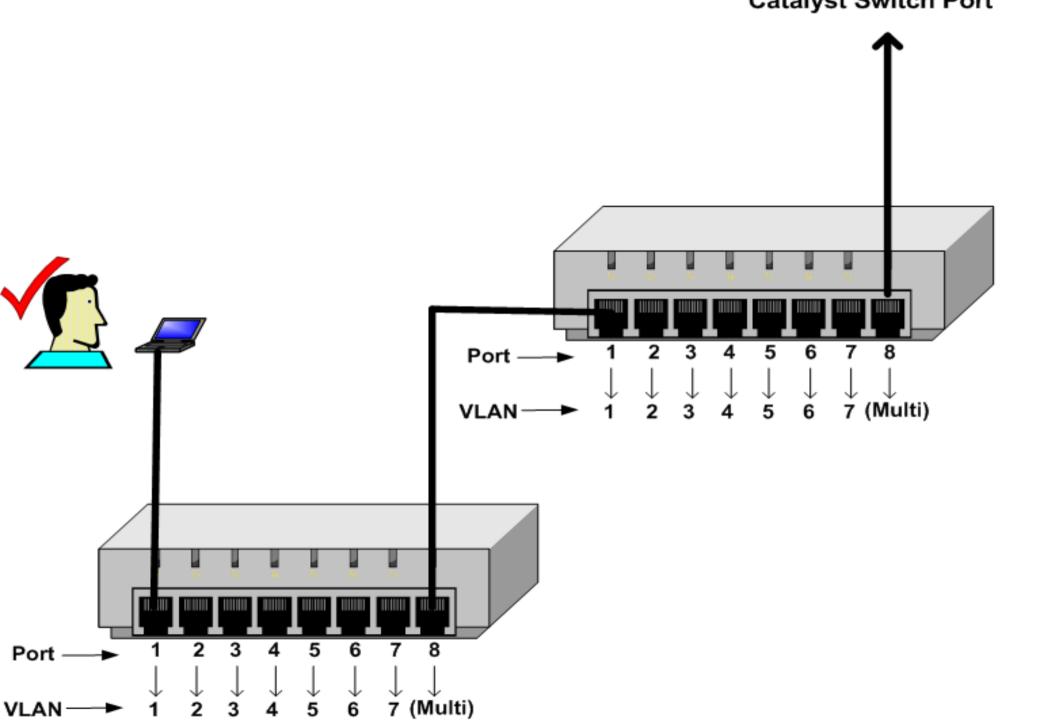
### Last Mile Connectivity Layout by Electrical Poles



## Deployment of Last Mile Ethernet with Wireless backhaul cont.... Phase 3

- We have Ethernet segments with up to 20 cascaded switches covering around 2km operating at 10Mb/HD mode.
- Every customers were kept in separate VLAN
- Only PPPoE connection is being allowed
- By end of 2006, over 4200 customers served by Ethernet. Over 2000 dialup customers migrated.
- Price brought down to \$15 (depending on service plan)
- IP Bandwidth utilization went up to 40Mbps
- Approx. 600km of Ethernet cable and 6500, 8port switches deployed

To Wireless Subscriber Module or Catalyst Switch Port



### **Major Problems and** Couter measures Phase 3

- Distribution switch related. Cannot migrate to more reliable switches due to higher cost
- Occasional electical surges damaging customer's PC and switches
  - Started using Ethernet Surge Protectors
- Switch hangs
  - Installed remote-accessible power controllers to power cycle switches remotely using scripts

    - Replaced the power module with rating 80~130 VAC.

  - Increased the guage of copper wire carrying A/C current.
- Occasional ethernet cable and switch breaks/cuts and theft
- Faulty ethernet cables and broadband routers of customer creating a Loop subsequently broadcast storm, therefore created difficulties for other customers establishing pppoe connections

## Deployment of Last Mile Ethernet Fiber for Backhaul Phase 4

- As the number of clients increased, the wireless backhauls were incapable of handling the higher throughput
- Early 2006, we rolled-out an optical fibre network
- Created a different optical fiber Ethernet network ring and gradually migrated the wireless links
- Over 450km of optical fibre cable deployed so far.
- 15 major network points of presence (POPs) and 75 smaller PoPs for Wireless and Ethernet distrubution inside Kathmandu Valley
- No major issues till date...we are just running out of avialable lps ...:)



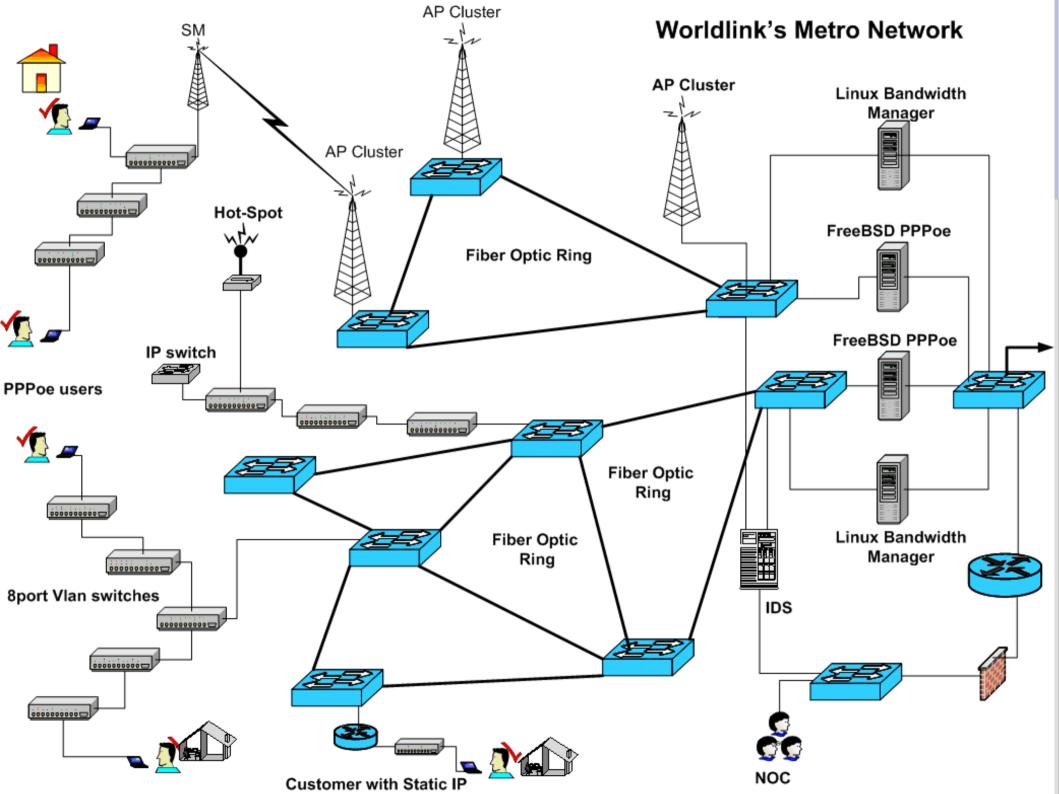


### L2 Feature we use

### Catalyst 2950G on Backbone Ring:

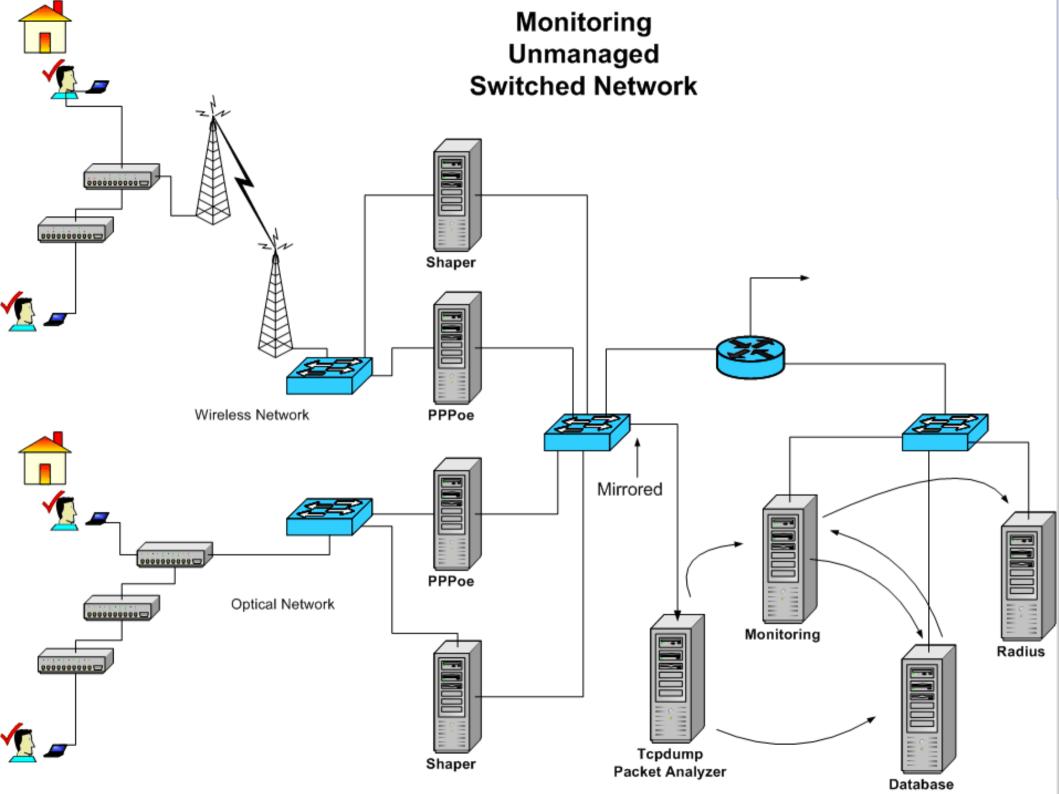
- Rapid Spanning Tree (RSTP) with Per Vlan Spanning Treee (PVST)
- Per port VLAN and VTP Storm Control
- MAC security
- Protected Ports
- Port based MAC and IP ACL

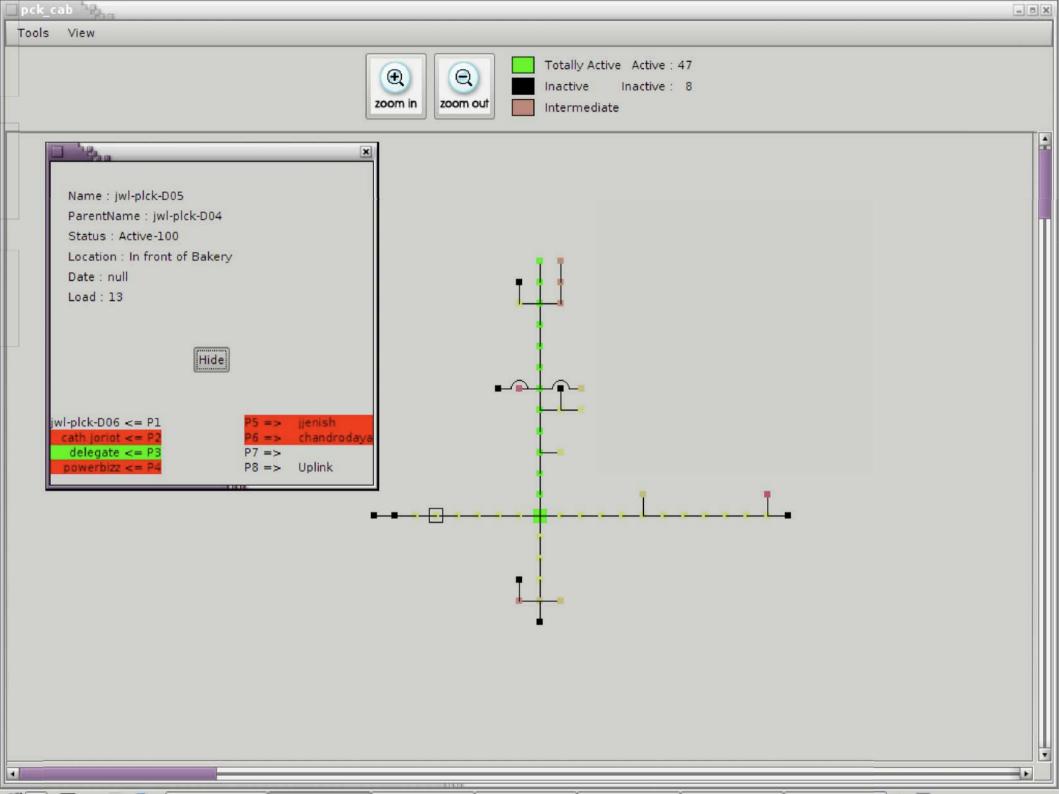
http://www.cymru.com/gillsr/documents/catalyst-secure

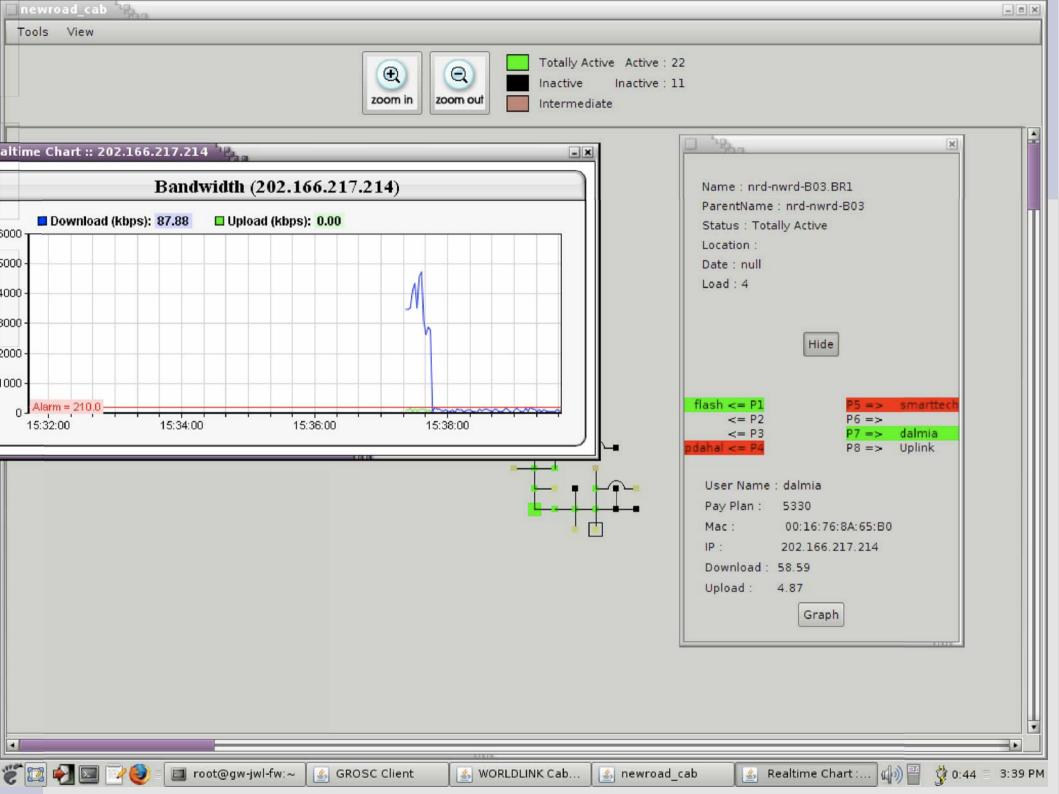


### **Monitoring Ethernet Network**

- In addition with Nagios/OpenNMS, RRD/Mrtg/Cacti we developed our own application to trap the active mac-address and analyze the packets in the network.
- Based upon the user's pc's mac-address, packets and other user information database. Developed own Java based online monitoring system







### **Currently Googling for...**

#### In Wireless SM some additional firmware features:

- MAC + IP Filtering
- Packet Rate Limiting
- Possibilites of Inbound packet filtering
  SM to SM Isolation and VLAN.

#### In metro ethernet:

Replace all unmanaged switches with affordable managed and feature rich industrial grade switches

#### **Future Plans**

- Get connected to Internet backbone via own Fibre ASAP..!
- Nationwide own Terristrial Wireless Connectivity
- Broadband over Powerline

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Thank You...!

Questions, Comments, Suggestion??