

Tetragon: Auditing and Enforcement

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Tetragon

Security Observability &
Runtime Enforcement

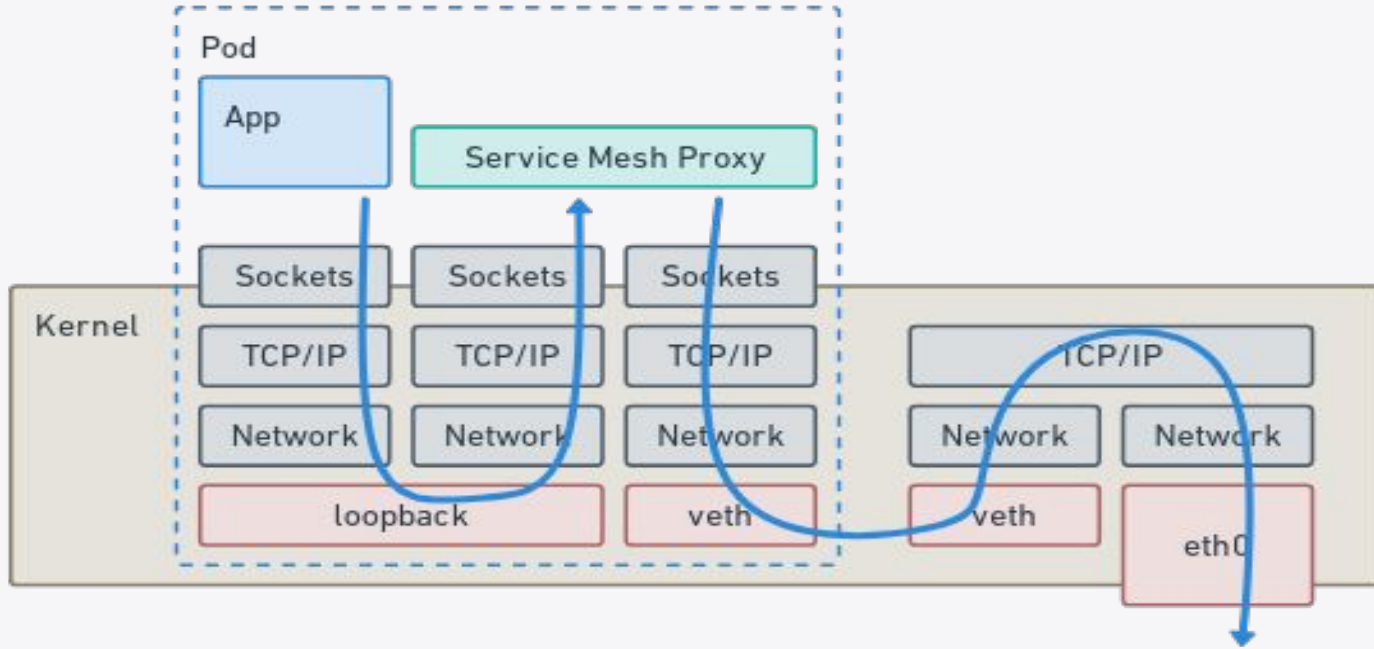


Agenda: Walkthrough a BPF Networking Stack

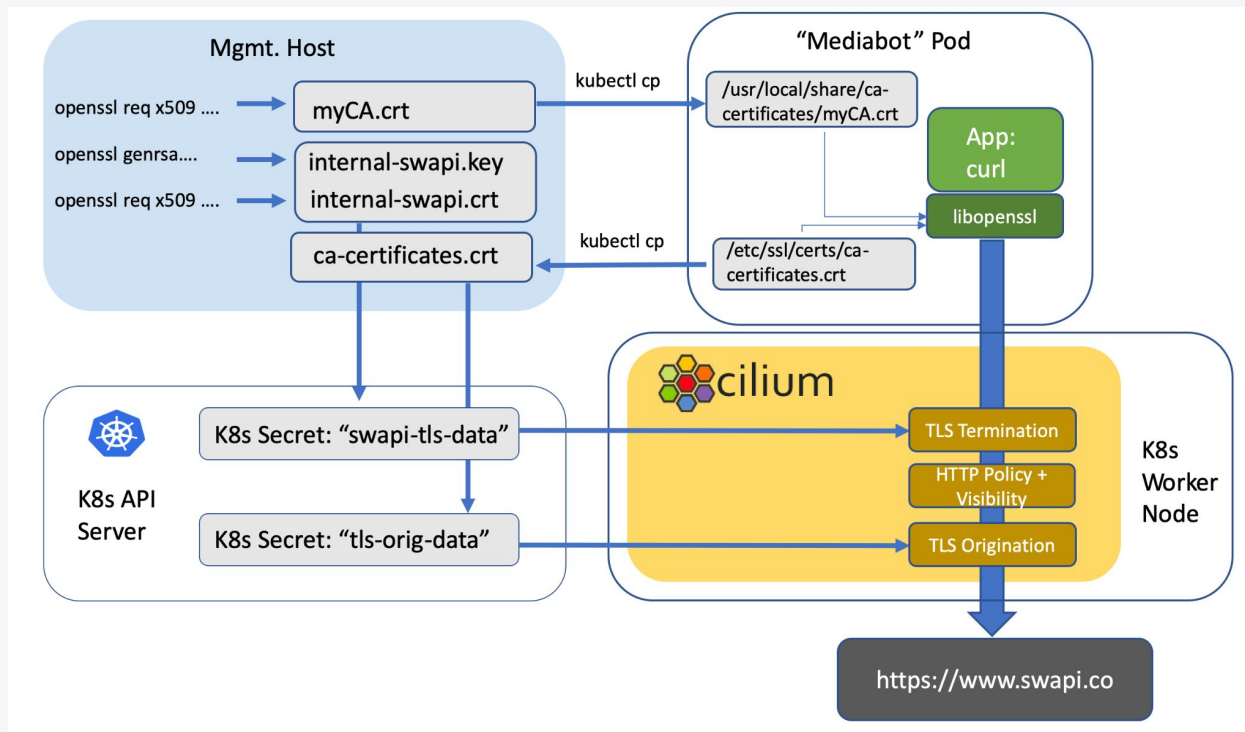


- L7: State of parsers
- L3/L4: Process Aware Network Enforcement
- L2: What is going on down here?
- Push vs Pull
- Next Steps

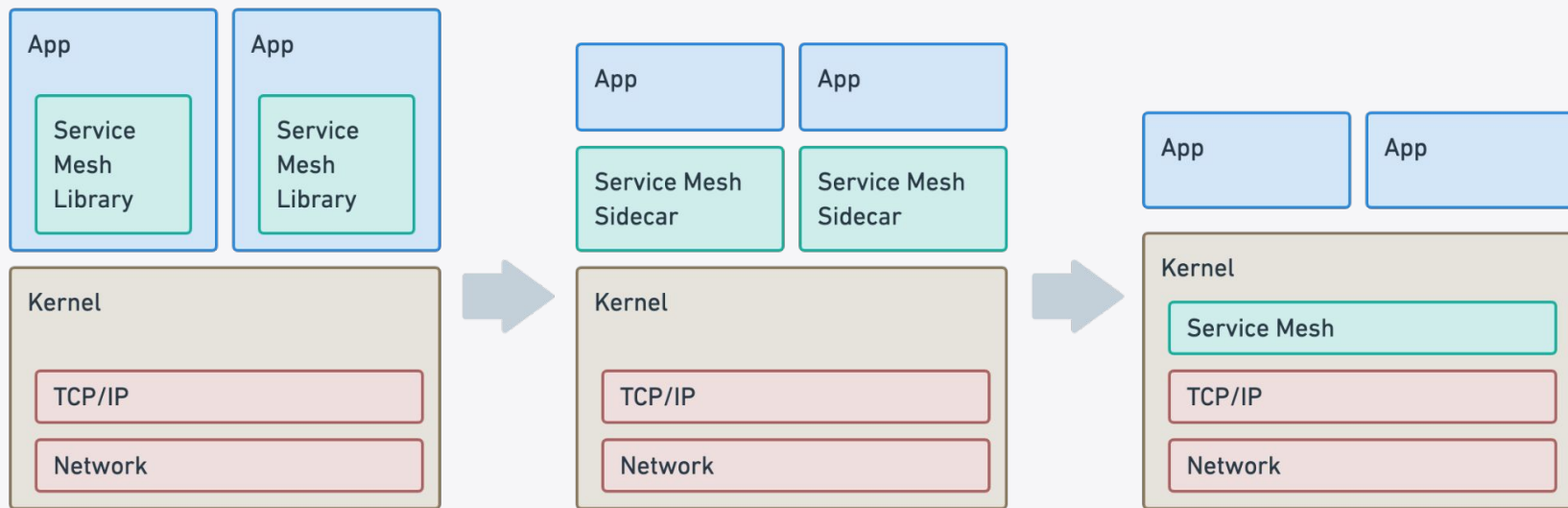
L7: Parsers Why?



kTLS + L7: Why?

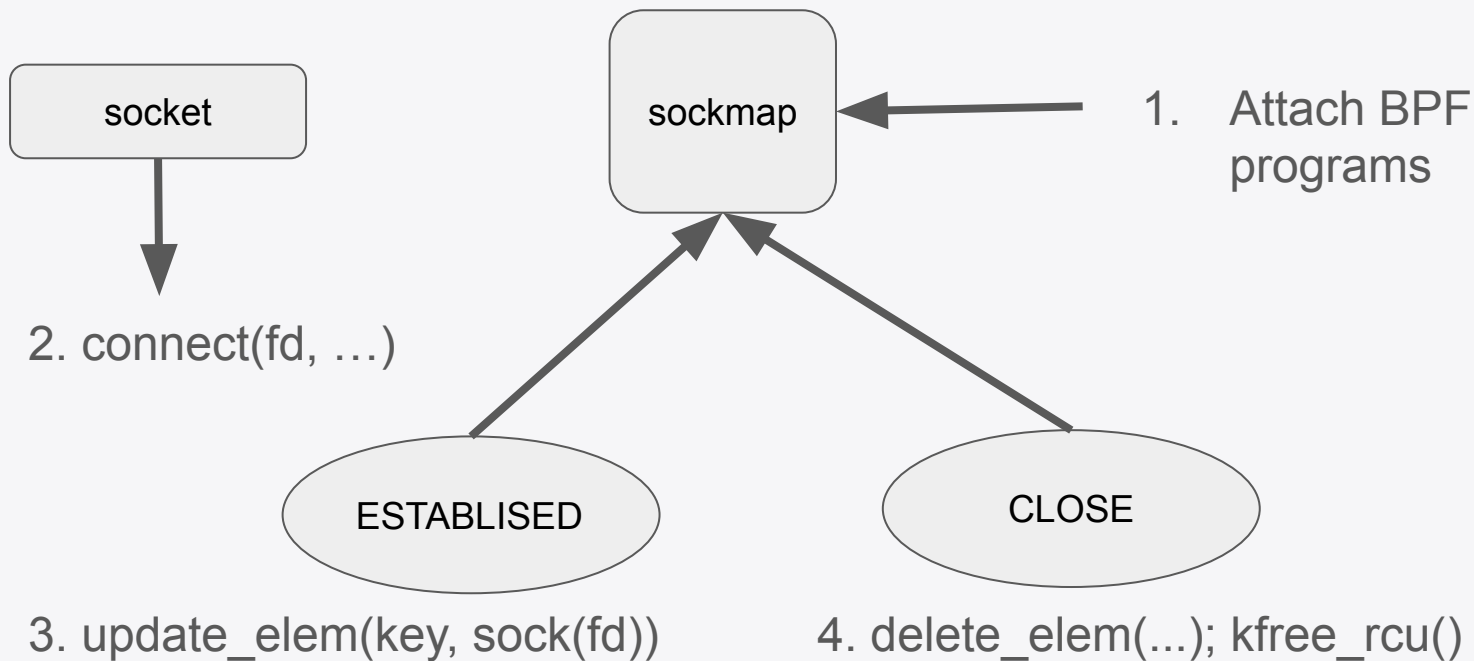


L7: Parsers as (security) kernel primitive

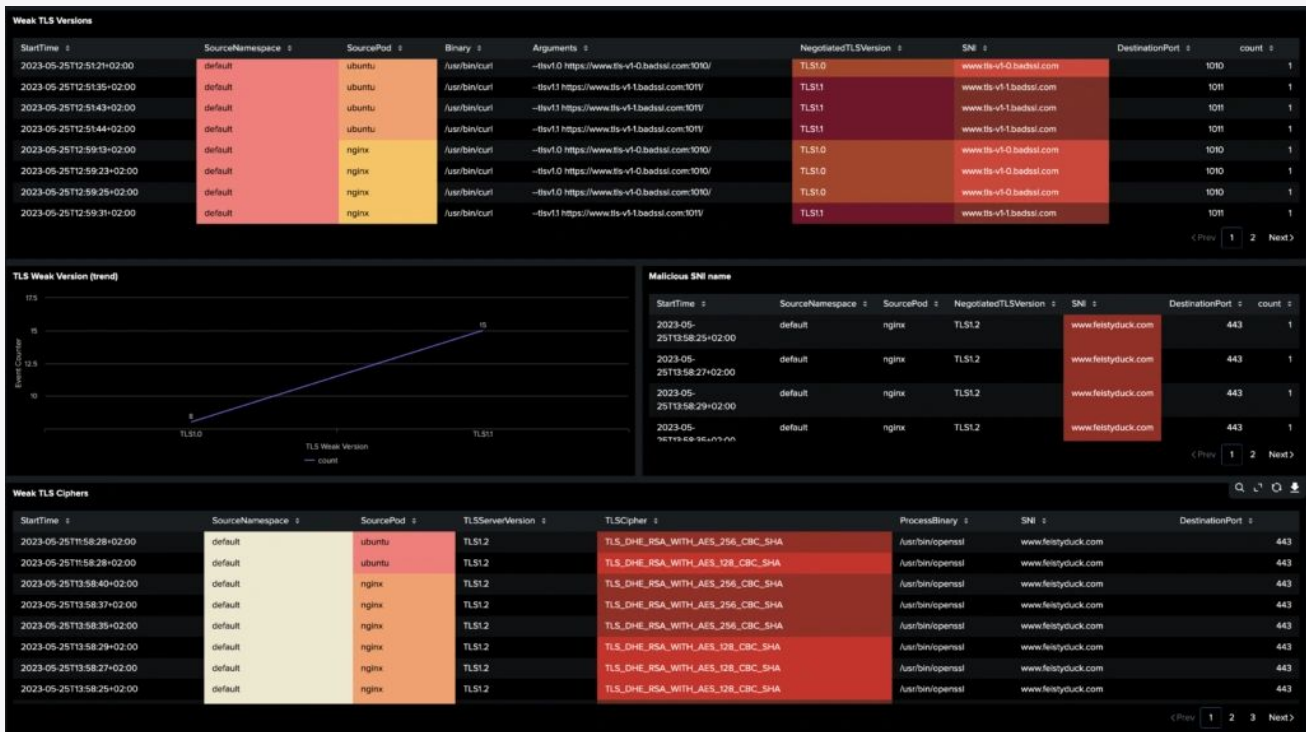


L7: Parsers as (security) kernel primitive

Life cycle



L7: Parsers as (security) kernel primitive



L7: Parsers as (security) kernel primitive



- **Streaming Parsers:** 5.15*, 6.1*, 6.5, 6.8, bpf-next
- **Distributions:** AL2022, AL2023, Ubuntu 22.04/24.04, GKE rapid
- **Architecture:** ARM, X86
- **CI:**
 - Nginx compliance test
 - Tetragon CI tests
 - `./selftests/bpf/sockmap`

L7: Parsers as (security) kernel primitive



- **Verdict/StrParser:**

Open issue:

Updates `tp->copied_seq` as data is aggregate. But, `copied_seq` is used to wakeup `tcp_poll()`.

Result:

Application may wake up before data is copied to socket receive_queue. Fix is to delay `copied_seq` update until data is enqueued in receive_queue after BPF program runs. Care is needed because `copied_seq` has implications on acks.

L7: Parsers as (security) kernel primitive

- **Zerocopy:**

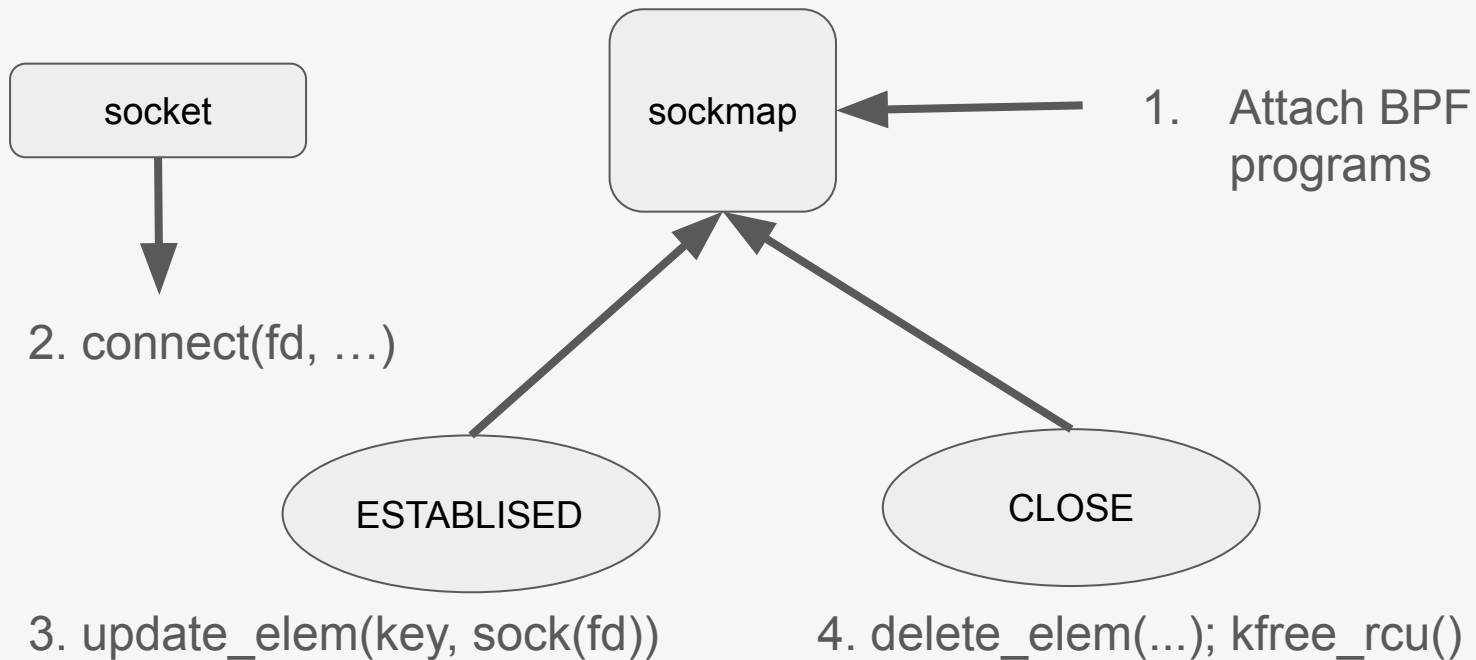
If we allow this it is problematic for security. Zero copy and L7 security tooling do not seem to be compatible.

syzbot reported an issue that needs to be addressed.

Just block zerocopy on BPF sockets? But it is still useful for !security and best effort.

L7: Parsers as (security) kernel primitive

Future



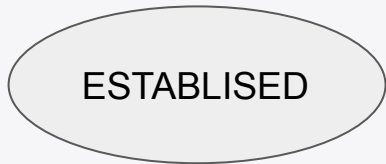
L7: Parsers as (security) kernel primitive

Future

socket



2. connect(fd, ...)



3. attach_bpf(sock, bpf_prog)



4. detach_bpf(...); kfree_rcu()

1. Load BPF program



L7: Parsers as (security) kernel primitive

Future

KTLS:

- Library supported: Openssl 3.0
- Library in use:
 - Go crypto/tls
 - Java TLS
 - *

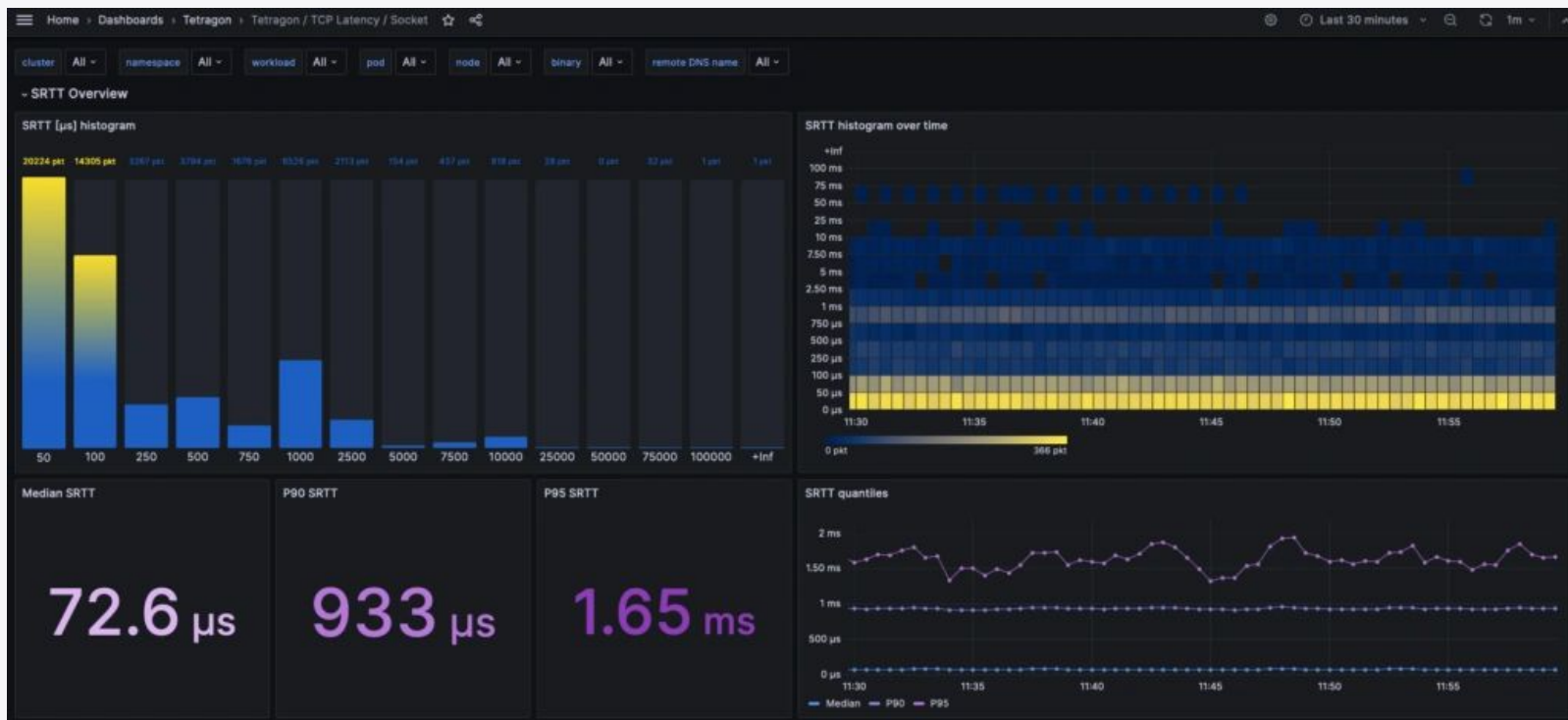
DTLS: ?

Quic: ?

L3: Audit and Enforcement



L3: Audit and Enforcement



L3: Audit and Enforcement: If I had a TCAM ...

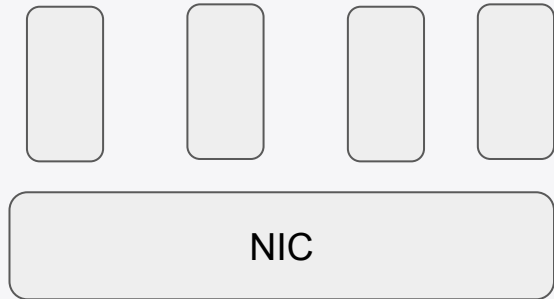
- Policy enforcement requires wildcard lookups

```
web-client : *      : ebpf.io
web-client : 443   : *
*          : 80     : *
```

- Without TCAM we end up with multiple hash lookups.
- Todo understand algorithm trade-offs and performance testing

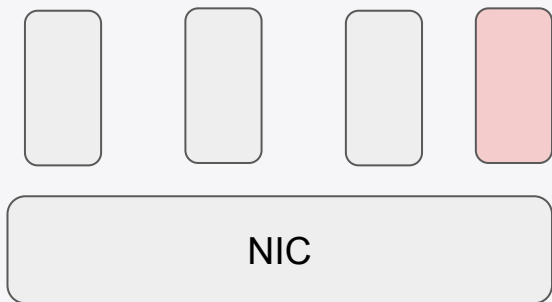
L2: NIC Stats

- NIC:
 - TX / RX bytes
 - Drops, Errors



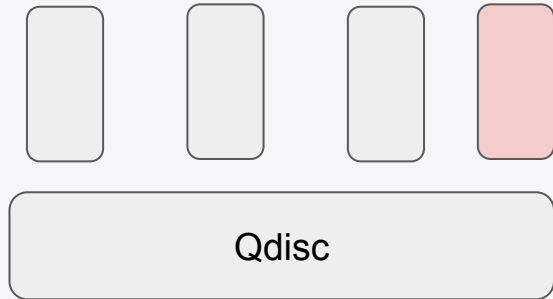
L2: NIC Stats

- NIC:
 - Lack generic mechanism to understand details
 - netns(), dev() iterators missing



L2: Qdisc Occupancy and time on Qdisc

- Qdisc: Occupancy histogram



Tetragon Interesting Comment:

Pull not Push

- Current Model:
 - BPF
 - Observe interesting event
 - Apply Filters
 - Push Events through Ring Buffer
 - Userspace
 - Reads Ring Buffer
 - Logic to aggregate, summarize, ...
 - Push to Pipeline/DB



Thank you!

 [cilium/tetragon](https://github.com/cilium/tetragon)

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