



CHAPTER 1

Overview

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Introduction

SNMP-based monitoring tools, such as Multi Router Traffic Grapher (MRTG), allow network administrators to monitor the activity and health of network devices in real time. Cisco SCA BB includes an SNMP-based real-time monitoring solution, which is implemented by using MRTG and a Round Robin Database (RRDTool).



Note

Support for SNMP Real-Time Monitoring is available only for the SCE 1010 and SCE 2020, not the SCE 8000

The SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Configuration Utility (rtmcmd) is a command-line utility (CLU) for automating the production of the files required by the MRTG tool.

This chapter consists of these sections:

- [What Are MRTG and RRDTool?, page 1-2](#)
- [Components of SNMP RTM with MRTG and RRDTool, page 1-3](#)
- [SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Reports, page 1-5](#)
- [SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Environment, page 1-8](#)

What Are MRTG and RRDTool?

The MRTG is a tool that monitors the traffic load on network links by monitoring specified SNMP counters. MRTG generates HTML pages containing images that provide real-time visual representation of this traffic, allowing the user to see traffic load on a network over time in graphical form. The Cisco Service Control Engine (SCE) platform running the Cisco SCA BB application provides numerous SNMP counters that can be used to produce reports.

The RRDTool stores and displays time-series data. The data is stored in a round-robin database so that the system storage footprint remains constant over time. This tool is used with MRTG to produce higher-quality graphics.

References

See the following sites for MRTG and RRDTool documentation and download:

- [MRTG web page](#)
- [RRDTool web page](#)

Components of SNMP RTM with MRTG and RRDTool

MRTG is a script that collects SNMP data from monitored devices. It monitors SNMP network devices and stores the retrieved data in a database. It is written in Perl and works on UNIX, Linux and Windows.

MRTG is a free software licensed under the GNU GPL. It requires the following:

- Perl
- RRDTool to persist data and to generate high-quality graphs

The MRTG CFG file lists the SNMP Object IDs (OIDs) of the SNMP counters that MRTG should poll.

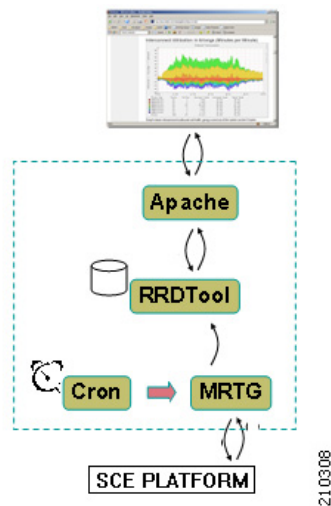
RRDTool stores data and generates charts. RRDTool uses Round Robin Database to store time-series data, and generates charts by using this data.

RRDTool is a free software licensed under the Gnu GPL. It requires a web server to delegate user-requests to the CGI interpreter of the RRDTool.

- RRDTool CGI files implement the report web pages. These files are executable scripts residing on the web server. When you request a report web page, RRDTool executes the script and dynamically creates the updated chart.
- Cron (or any other scheduling service) periodically invokes MRTG to poll SNMP counters from monitored devices.
- Apache (or any other web server) serves the charts to the user web browser.
- Cisco Service Control platforms support MIB counters that MRTG monitors.

Figure 1-1 illustrates the components of a real-time SNMP monitoring system in action.

Figure 1-1 Components of a Real-Time SNMP Monitoring System



References

See the following sites for RTM software components documentation and download:

- PyCron (for Windows setups)
- ActivePerl (for running MRTG)
- Apache web server

SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Reports

This section consists of these topics:

- [Predefined SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Reports, page 1-5](#)
- [About Real-Time Monitoring Reports, page 1-6](#)

Predefined SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Reports

MRTG and RRDTool each require configuration files containing the information necessary for creating the reports, such as the OIDs of the relevant SNMP counters. To simplify the process of creating and maintaining MRTG configuration files and RRDTool CGI report files, Cisco SCA BB provides the following:

- A set of templates for creating MRTG CFG files and RRDTool CGI files that implement predefined reports based on SCE and SCA BB MIBs. These templates cannot be used as is, and must first be processed to reflect the specific service configuration to be monitored.
- A software tool, `rtmcmd`, that processes the templates into CFG and CGI files, according to the specified SCA BB service configuration and SCE platform hostname or IP address.

[Table 1-1](#) lists the available Cisco Service Control predefined SNMP-based reports.

Table 1-1 *Predefined SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Reports*

Number	Report Title
SCA BB Reports	
1	Link 1 Global Downstream BW per Service
2	Link 1 Global Upstream BW per Service
3	Link 2 Global Downstream BW per Service
4	Link 2 Global Upstream BW per Service
5	Total Global Downstream BW per Service
6	Total Global Upstream BW per Service
7	Global Active Subscribers per Service
8	Global Concurrent Sessions per Service
9	Global Concurrent Voice Calls
SCE Operational Reports	
10	Log Counters
11	Active Flows per Traffic Processor
12	Traffic Processors Average Utilization
13	Flow Open Rate per Traffic Processor
14	Packets Rate per Traffic Processor
15	Subscriber Counters
16	RDR Counters

Table 1-1 *Predefined SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Reports (continued)*

Number	Report Title
17	Downstream Bandwidth per TX Queue
18	Upstream Bandwidth per TX Queue

About Real-Time Monitoring Reports

Note the following general information about charts:

- Each report is made of the following four charts:
 - Daily (5-minute average)
 - Weekly (30-minute average)
 - Monthly (2-hour average)
 - Yearly (1-day average)

Each chart represents different time scales. These charts are based on the round robin archives for each SNMP counter. MRTG creates these round robin archives.

- The legend items for each graph item (including the total item) include the following information for each item:
 - Average value
 - Maximum value
 - Current value
- The data in each chart is a series of average values. For example, a series of 5-minute-average values for the daily chart, 30-minute-average for the weekly chart, and so on.
- Maximum value items do not show the actual highest value of the monitored counter in each period, but the highest average value in the series, which is likely to be lower than the actual maximum value.
- The colors of the chart items are taken from a predefined, nonconfigurable set of colors.

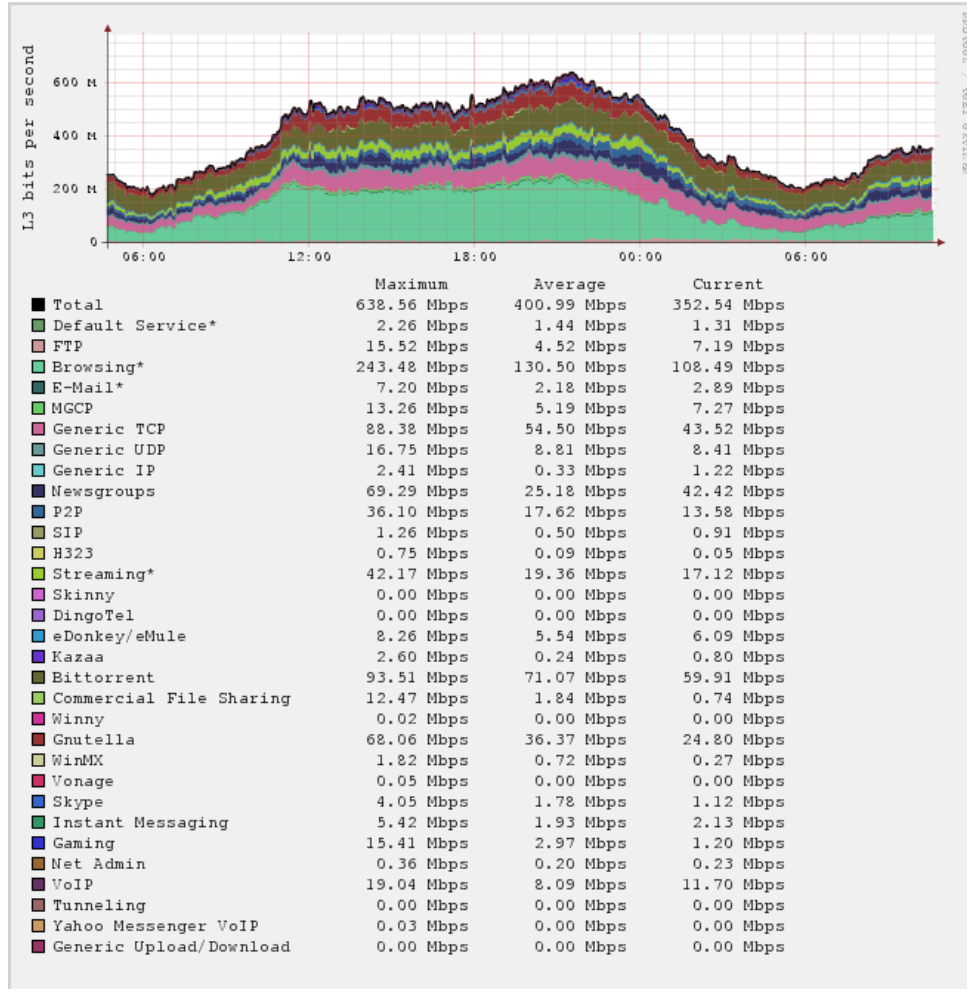
Figure 1-2 shows a report example.

Figure 1-2 Sample Graph

SCE @ 10.10.10.10 - Total Global Downstream BW per Service

Created: Mon Nov 06 17:59:33 2006 ; Refreshed every 5 minutes.

"Daily" Graph (5 Minute Average)



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SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Environment

This section consists of these topics:

- [SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Setup](#), page 1-8
- [RTM Directory](#), page 1-8

SCA BB Real-Time Monitoring Setup

An RTM setup requires the installation of the components described in [Chapter 3, “Real-Time Monitoring Configuration Utility,”](#) and can be set up on either Windows or UNIX/Linux servers.

[Chapter 2, “Getting Started”](#) provides a step-by-step description how to set up a SCA BB RTM system.

A SCA BB RTM system requires MRTG Version 2.14 and RRDTool Version 1.2. Consult the MRTG web site for the exact Perl version that is required.

Cisco has tested SCA BB RTM systems on the following setups:

- Windows 2000/XP using Apache v2.2 and PyCron v0.5
- Linux Red Hat 3 and Red Hat 4.

**Note**

The SCA BB RTM functionality can support up to 90 SCE platforms.

RTM Directory

To view a report, RTM users browse to a URL mapped to a designated directory on their web server. This designated directory is referred to as the RTM directory. Users are required to create the RTM directory under the web server web documents directory tree. For example, when using an Apache web server on a Windows system, the RTM directory might be located at

C:/PROGRA~1/APACHE~1/Apache2.2/htdocs/rtm. Upon completion of an RTM setup installation (see [Chapter 2, “Getting Started”](#)), the SCA BB RTM directory contains the following subdirectories and files:

- An mrtg-cfg folder containing an MRTG CFG file for each monitored SCE platform. The CFG file names follow this pattern—<SCE IP/Host- name>_scabb_mrtg.cfg.
- A directory for each SCE named sce_<SCE IP/Host-name >. These directories contain the Report CGI files and the RRDTool archives after the first invocation of MRTG.
- A static folder containing common, invariant files such as Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and image files.
- An htaccess file (Apache web server only). This file is used to exclude files or folders from the automatic listings of the RTM directory.