



Network Management & Monitoring

NfSen



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What is NfSen

- Is a graphical (Web Based) front end to NfDump
- NfDump tools collect and process netflow data on the command line
- NfSen allows you to:
 - Easily navigate through the netflow data.
 - Process the netflow data within the specified time span.
 - Create history as well as continuous profiles.
 - Set alerts, based on various conditions.
 - Write your own plugins to process netflow data on a regular interval.

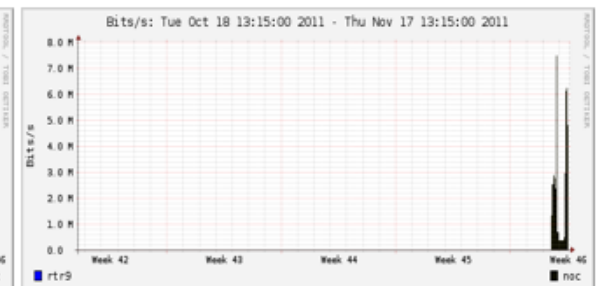
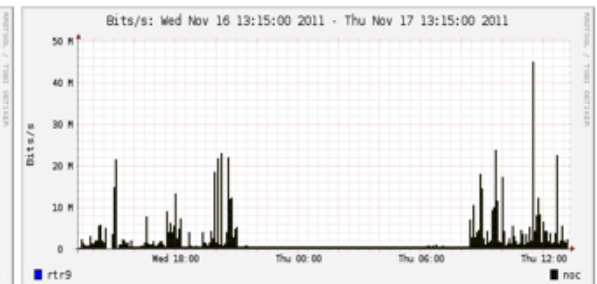
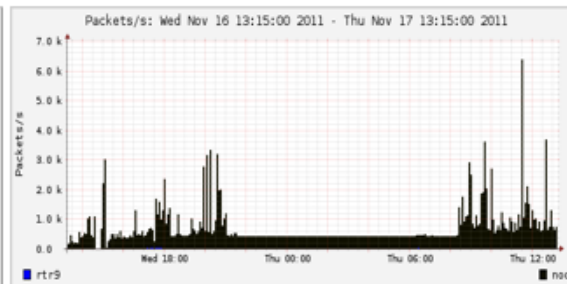
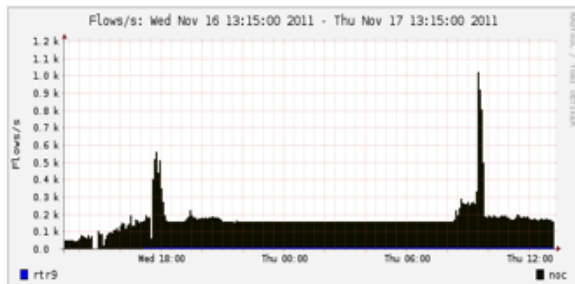
NfSen structure

- Configuration file - `nfsen.conf`
- NfDump files – Netflow files containing collected flows stored in 'profiles-data' directory
 - NB: It is possible for other programs to read NFdump files but don't store them for too long as they can fill up your drive
- Actual graphs – stored in 'profiles-stat' directory

NfSen Home Screen

[Home](#)[Graphs](#)[Details](#)[Alerts](#)[Stats](#)[Plugins](#)[live](#)[Bookmark URL](#)[Profile:](#)[live ▼](#)

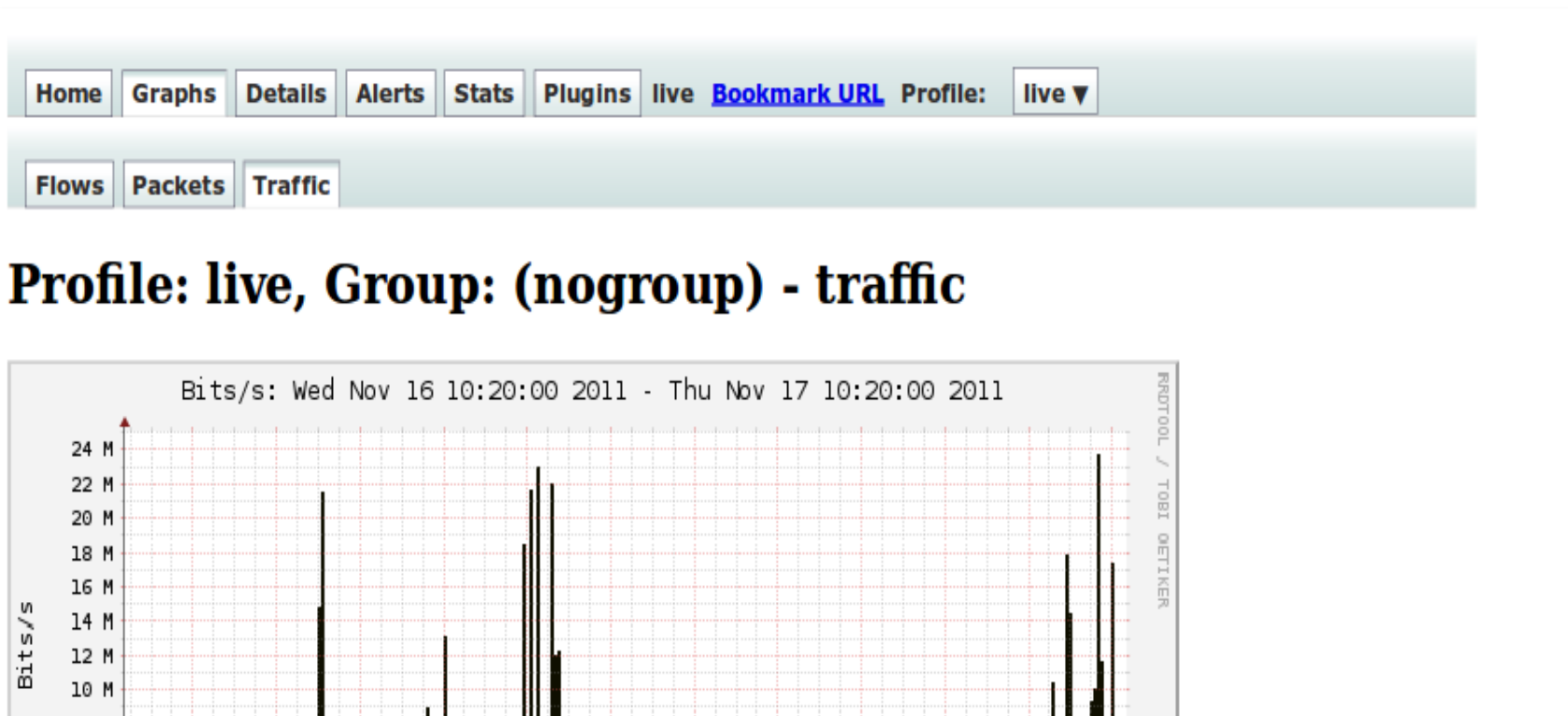
Overview Profile: live, Group: (nogroup)



Graphs Tab

Graphs of flows, packets and traffic based on interface with netflow activated

NB: What is seen under Traffic should closely match what is under Cacti for the same interface



Details Page

- Most interesting page
- Can view present flow information or stored flow information
- Can view detailed Netflow information such as
 - AS Numbers (more useful if you have full routing table exported on your router)
 - Src hosts/ports, destination hosts and ports
 - Unidirectional or Bi-directional flows
 - Flows on specific interfaces
 - Protocols and TOS



Netflow traffic graphs organized by Protocol

Graph of Netflow traffic for all Protocols

Time period for flows being observed

Routers being monitored

Extended Netflow processing options

Alerts and Stats

Alerts Page

- Can create alerts based on set thresholds eg, increase or decrease of traffic
- Emails can be sent once alarm is triggered

Stats page

- Can create graphs based on specific information
 - ASNs,
 - Host/Destination IPs/Ports
 - In/Out interfaces
 - Among others

Plugins

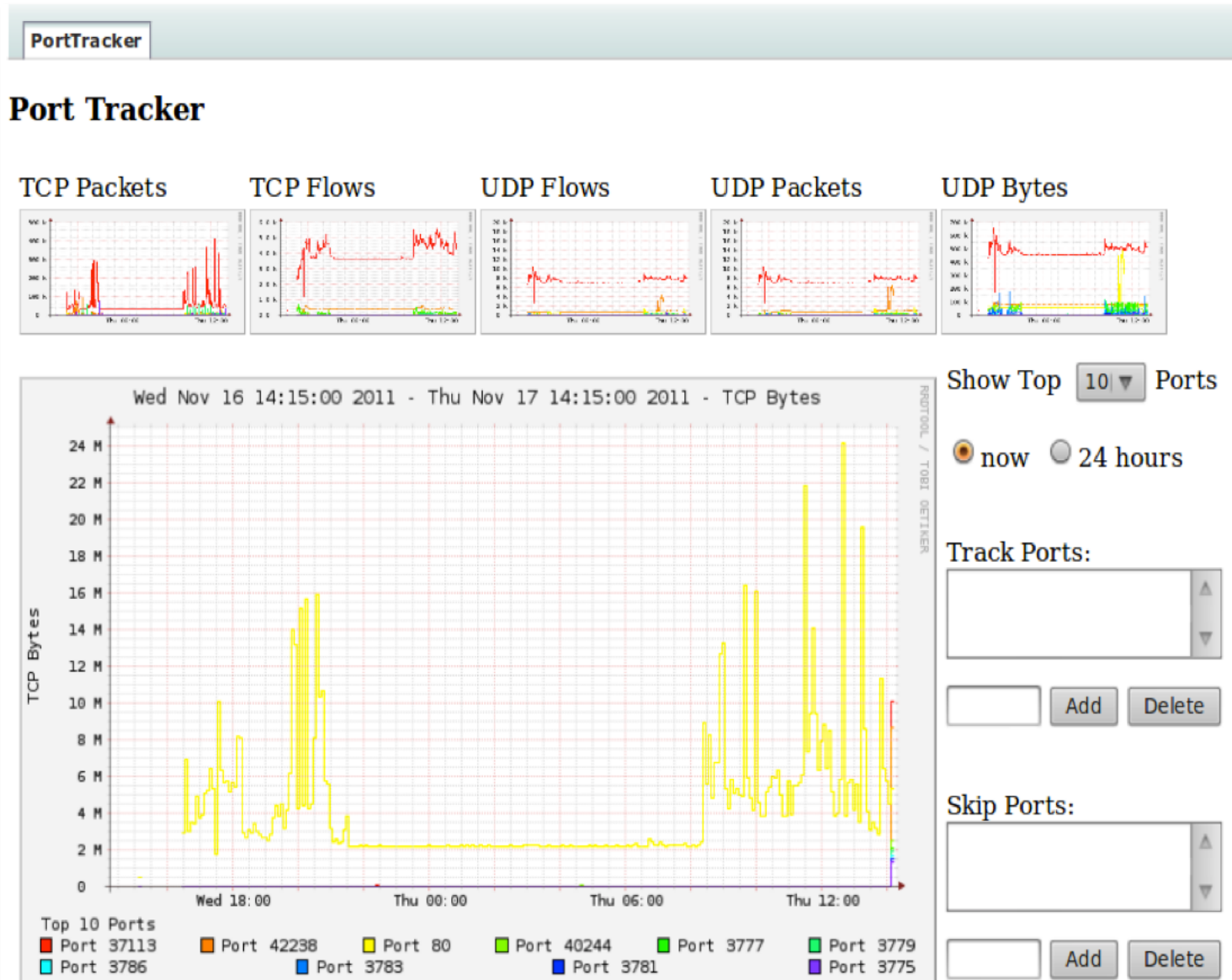
Several plugins available:

- **Porttracker** tracks the top 10 most active ports and displays a graph
- **Surfmap** displays country based traffic based on a Geo-Locator

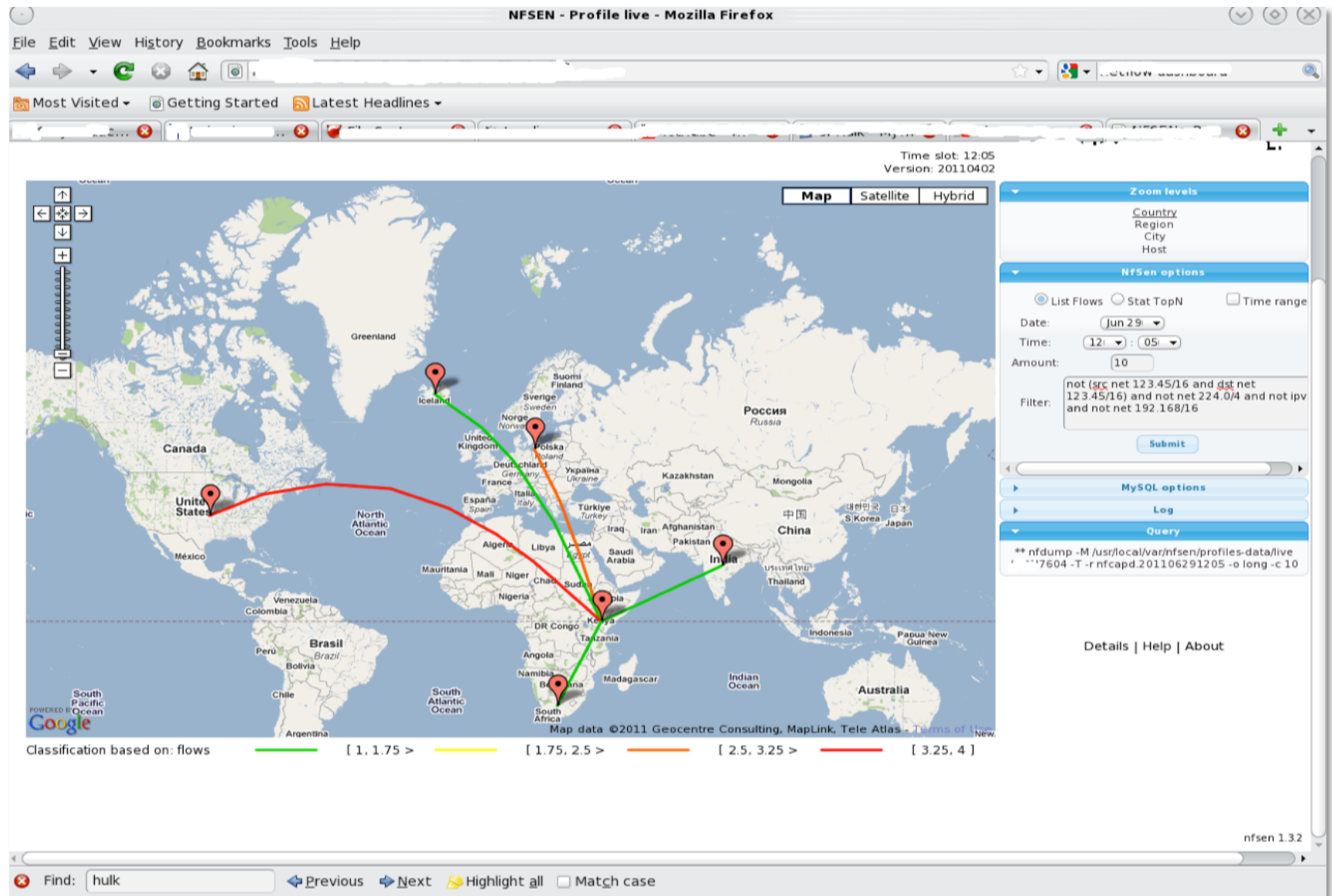
More plugins available here

<http://sourceforge.net/apps/trac/nfsen-plugins/>

PortTracker



SurfMap



When to use NfSen

- Can be used for:
 - Forensic work: which hosts were active at a specific time
 - Viewing src/dst AS traffic, src/dst port/IP traffic among many other options
 - Identifying most active IPs or Protocols
- It is a tool to complement Cacti so that you can have more detailed info regarding the traffic
- With this information, you can make an informed decision eg:
 - You have a high amount of SMTP traffic, some machines could be sending out spam
 - 80% of your traffic is to ASN X. Perhaps its wise to connect directly with that network and save costs



Bidirectional vs Unidirectional traffic as seen via NfSen

Unidirectional and Bidirectional

- Unidirectional shows flows from host A to B and then host B to host A
- Bidirectional shows flows between Host A and B combined
- Can be used with any of the other filters (src port, src host plus many more)
- List of filters can be found here:
 - <http://nfsen.sourceforge.net/#mozTocId652064>

Bidirectional

All None Display: ☐ Sum ☒ Rate

Netflow Processing

Source: noc
rtr9
All Sources

Filter: host 71.200.202.189
and <none>

Options:
☐ List Flows ☒ Stat TopN
Top: 10
Stat: Flow Records order by bytes
☒ bi-directional
Aggregate
proto
srcPort srcIP
dstPort dstIP
Limit: Packets > 0 -
Output: auto / IPv6 long
Clear Form process

```
** nfdump -M /var/nfsen/profiles-data/live/noc -T -R 2011/11/17/nfcapd.201111170930:2011/11/17/nfcapd.201111170950 -n 10 -s record/bytes
nfdump filter:
host 71.200.202.189
Command line switch -s overwrites -a
Aggregated flows 1
Top 10 flows ordered by bytes:
Date flow start      Duration Proto      Src IP Addr:Port      Dst IP Addr:Port      Out Pkt   In Pkt   Out Byte   In Byte   Flows
2011-11-17 09:34:12.206 1037.378 UDP        10.10.0.51:51413 <-> 71.200.202.189:57912   20077     19436    21.3 M    16.7 M    27455

Summary: total flows: 27455, total bytes: 38.0 M, total packets: 39513, avg bps: 292911, avg pps: 38, avg bpp: 961
Time window: 2011-11-17 08:22:09 - 2011-11-17 09:54:59
Total flows processed: 1001200, Blocks skipped: 0, Bytes read: 55186720
```

Unidirectional

All NONE Display: ☐ Sum ☒ Rate

Netflow Processing

Source: noc
rtr9
All Sources

Filter: host 71.200.202.189
and <none>

Options:
☐ List Flows ☒ Stat TopN
Top: 10
Stat: Flow Records order by bytes
☐ bi-directional
Aggregate
☒ proto ☒ srcPort ☒ dstPort
Limit: ☐ Packets > 0
Output: auto / IPv6 long

Clear Form process

```
** nfdump -M /var/nfsen/profiles-data/live/noc -T -R 2011/11/17/nfcapd.201111170930:2011/11/17/nfcapd.201111170950 -n 10 -s record/byte
nfdump filter:
host 71.200.202.189
Aggregated flows 2
Top 10 flows ordered by bytes:
Date flow start      Duration  Proto    Src IP Addr Src Pt    Dst IP Addr Dst Pt    Packets  Bytes    bps    Bpp  Flows
2011-11-17 09:34:12.380 1037.204  UDP      71.200.202.189 57912    10.10.0.51 51413    20077    21.3 M    164298 1060 14035
2011-11-17 09:34:12.206 1037.102  UDP      10.10.0.51 51413    71.200.202.189 57912    19436    16.7 M    128674 858 13420

Summary: total flows: 27455, total bytes: 38.0 M, total packets: 39513, avg bps: 292911, avg pps: 38, avg bpp: 961
Time window: 2011-11-17 08:22:09 - 2011-11-17 09:54:59
Total flows processed: 1061200, flows skipped: 0, bytes read: 55106720
```

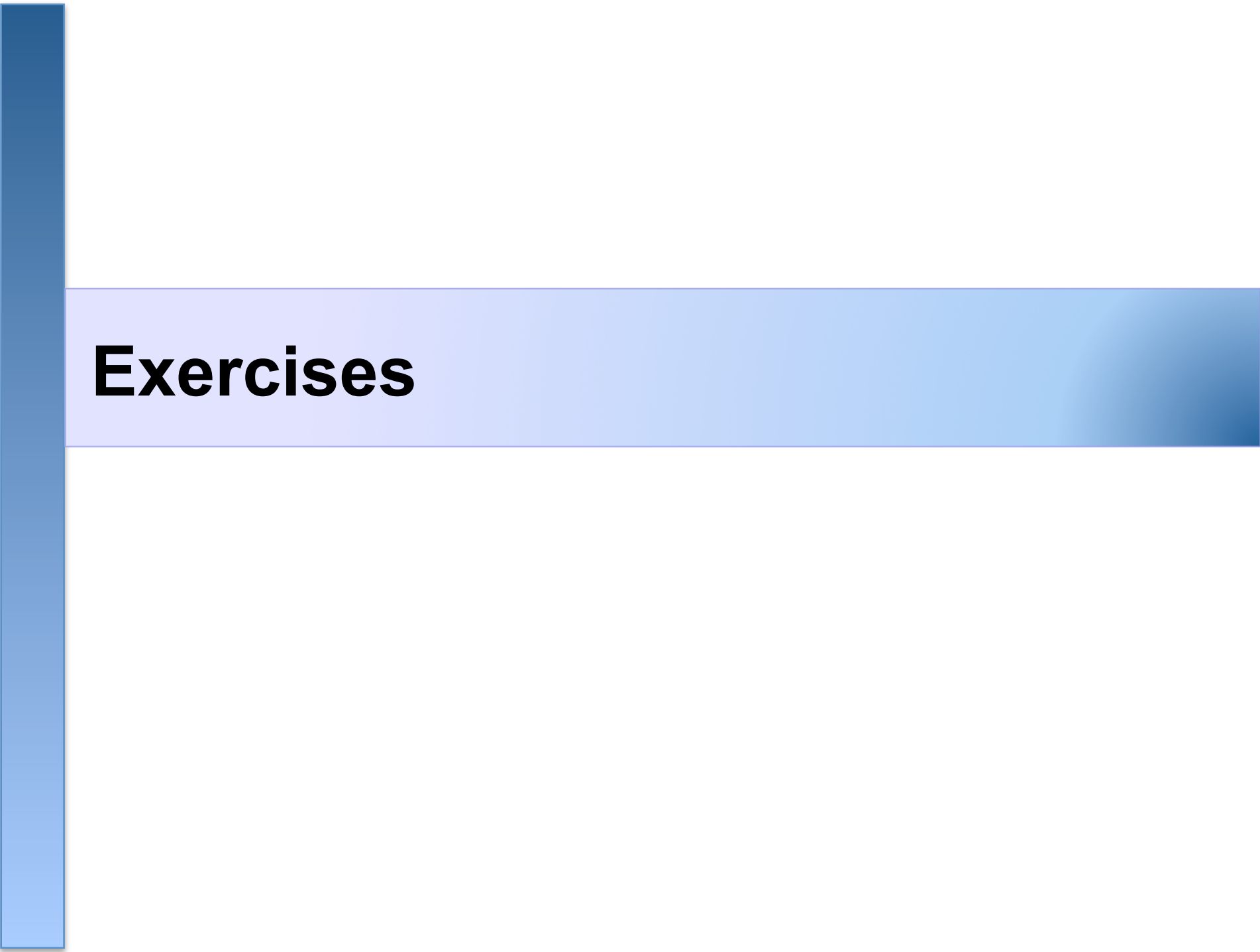
References

NfSen

<http://nfsen.sourceforge.net>

NfDump

<http://nfdump.sourceforge.net/>

A decorative graphic consisting of a vertical blue bar on the left and a horizontal blue bar extending to the right, meeting at a corner. The horizontal bar has a light blue gradient and contains the text "Exercises".

Exercises