Common VoIP problems, How to detect, correct and avoid them.

Who am I?

- David Attias
- Installing VoIP systems for over 7 years
- Mikrotik user for 5 years
- Mikrotik certifications
 MTCNA, MTCRE & MTCWE

Purpose of this lecture

To inform Mikrotik users on how to identify and resolve voip problems

Agenda

- 1) Identify factors which will affect VoIP call quality
- 2) Correct call quality issues with RouterOS QoS
 - Marking packets with Mangle
 - Shaping VoIP traffic with Queues
- 3) Detecting VoIP call quality problems
 - Check for dropped packets
 - Using RouterOS packet sniffer & wireshark
- 4) Avoid call quality issues

What is VoIP?

Several protocols used together to send and receive REAL TIME voice calls through an IP network(s).

Identify factors that affect call quality

Considerations about VoIP call quality

- VoIP calls are REAL TIME!!
- Connection between phones and voip servers must have low delay and very low Jitter.
- Must have enough available symmetrical bandwidth.

g711 uLaw codec = 87.2k per channel

[20ms voice payload per packet]

Sip = 65k (max sip message size)

The Problems

What can affect call quality?

*Not considering hardware problems

- High jitter levels
 - What is Jitter? Packet Delay Variation / The time lapse between each packet for a given data stream
- Packet Loss
- Delay

In the real world.

- Jitter, packet loss and delay can happen anywhere between the phone and (hosted) server.
- However, 90% of call quality issues happen at the customer location.
- Why? Because customer networks are rarely configured properly if configured at all for VoIP QoS.

USE MIKROTIK!!!

Correcting issues with RouterOS QoS

Quality Of Service (QoS)

- Techniques that categorize and prioritize packets
- Ensures sufficient bandwidth, controls latency, jitter, and reduces data loss.
- Regulate data flows by classifying, scheduling, and marking packets based on priority and by shaping traffic

MikroTik Mangle

Mikrotik Mangle

- Mangle is a Mikrotik routerOS facility that marks packets for future processing.
- The mangle marks exist only within the router.
- Also used to modify some fields in the IP header, like DSCP and TTL fields
- Only 1 packet mark per packet
 Only 1 connection mark per packet

To conserve processor resources:

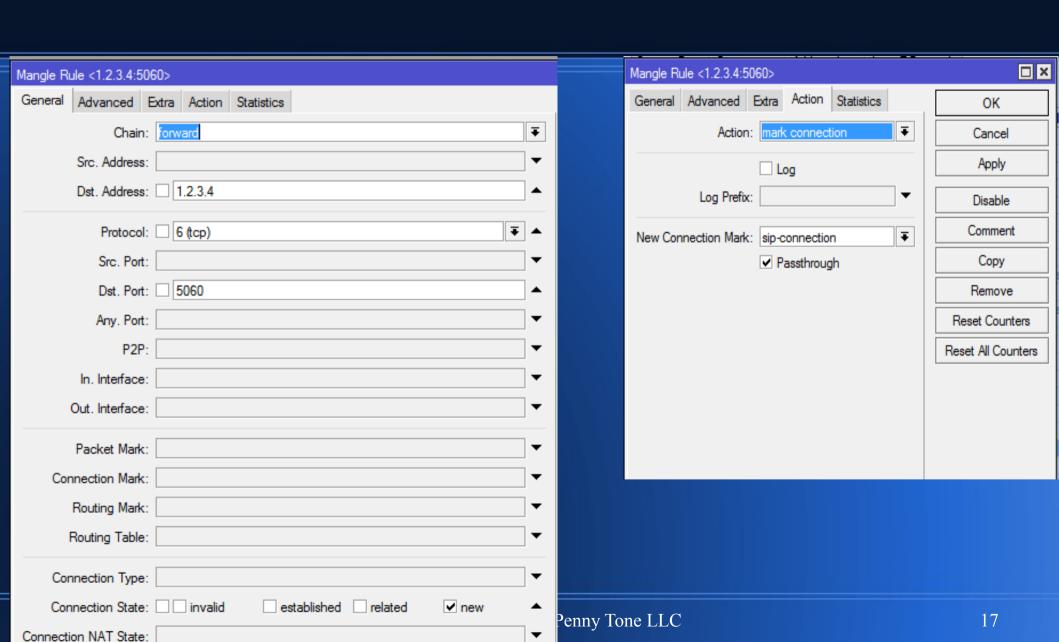
First mark the connection

Once the session is in "connection tracker" all packets for that session are marked.

This is more efficient because Mangle doesn't need to scrutinize every packet. It just needs to know if the packet is in "that" connection.

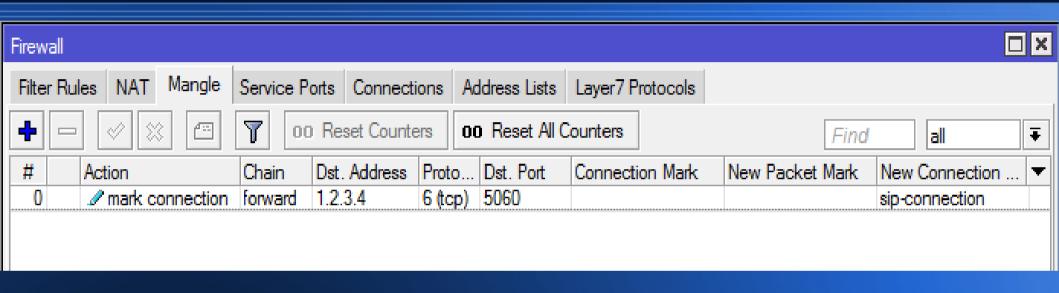
Qualify Traffic

- SiP server = 1.2.3.4
- SiP port = 5060 tcp
- RTP port range = 10000 ~ 20000 udp

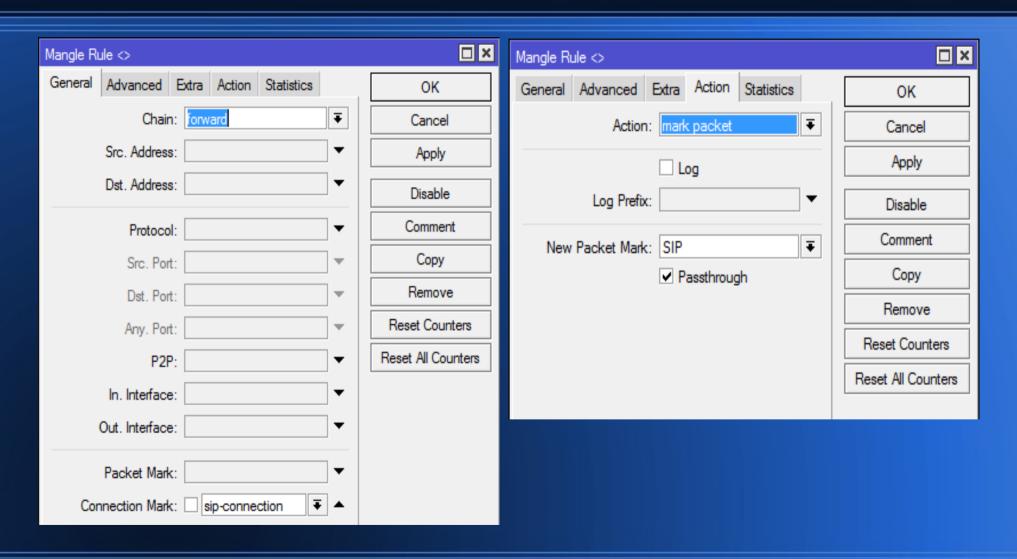


/ip firewall mangle

add chain=forward dst-address=1.2.3.4 protocol=tcp dst-port=5060 action=markconnection new-connection-mark=sipconnection



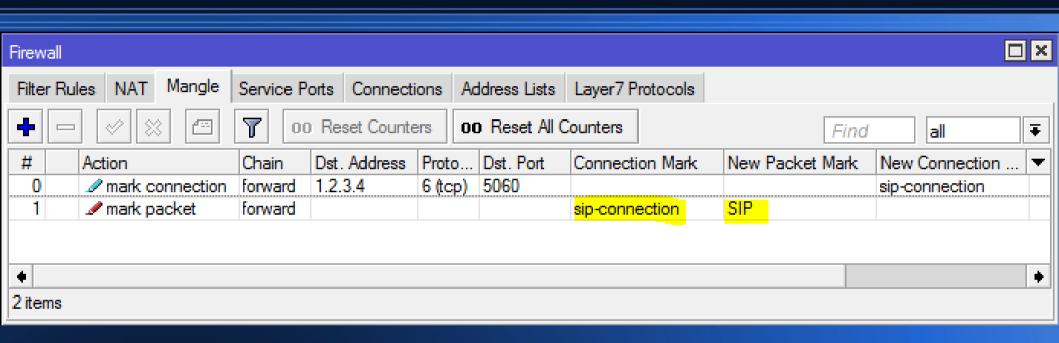
Mark the SiP packets

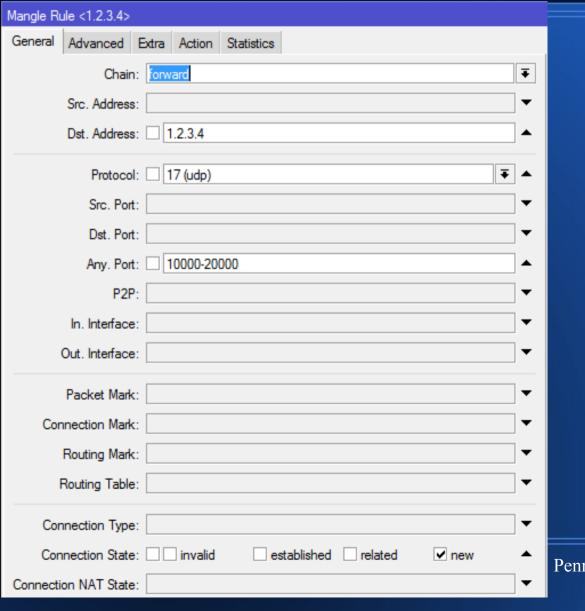


Mark the SiP packets

/ip firewall mangle
add chain=forward
 connection-mark=sip-connection
 add action=mark-packet
 new-packet-mark=SIP

Mark the SiP packets

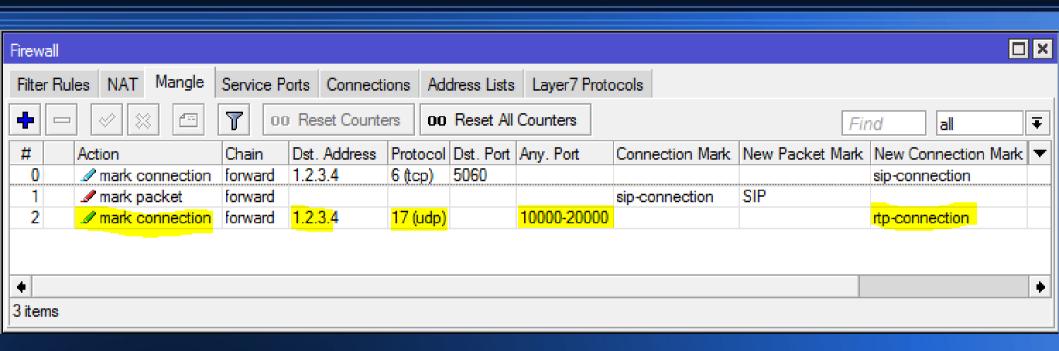




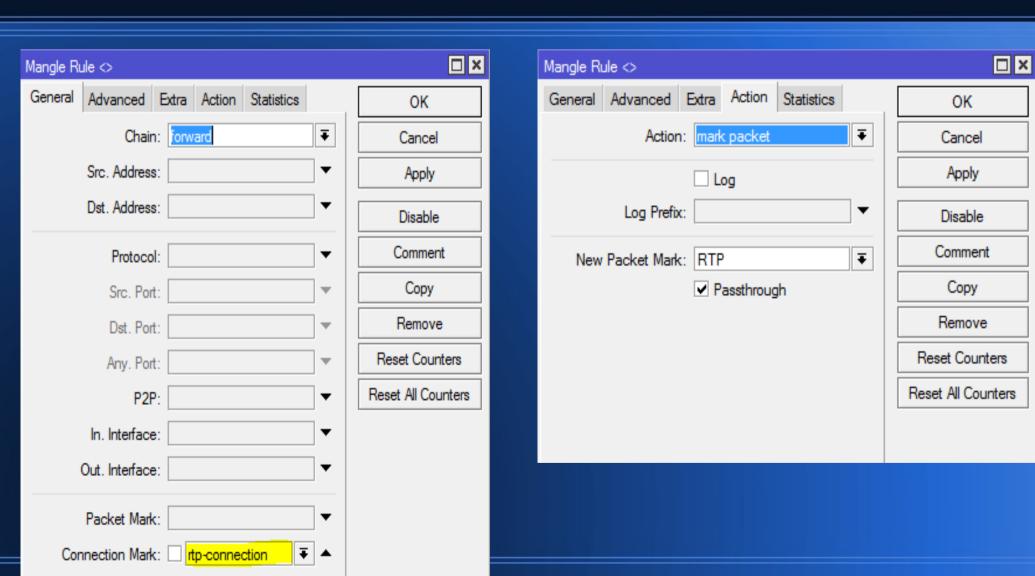
Mangle Rule <1.2.3.4>					
General	Advanced	Extra	Action	Statistics	
Action: mark connection					
☐ Log					
Log Prefix: RTP-Conn					
New Connection Mark: rtp-connection					
✓ Passthrough					

/ip firewall mangle

add action=mark-connection chain=forward dstaddress=1.2.3.4 new-connection-mark=rtpconnection port=10000-20000 protocol=udp

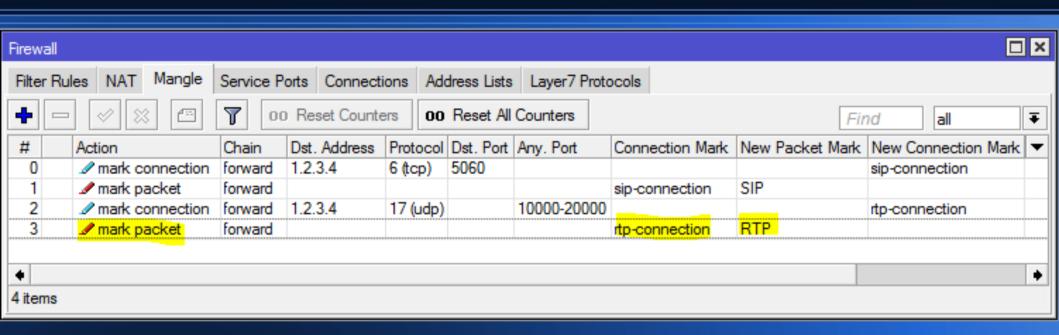


Mark the RTP packets

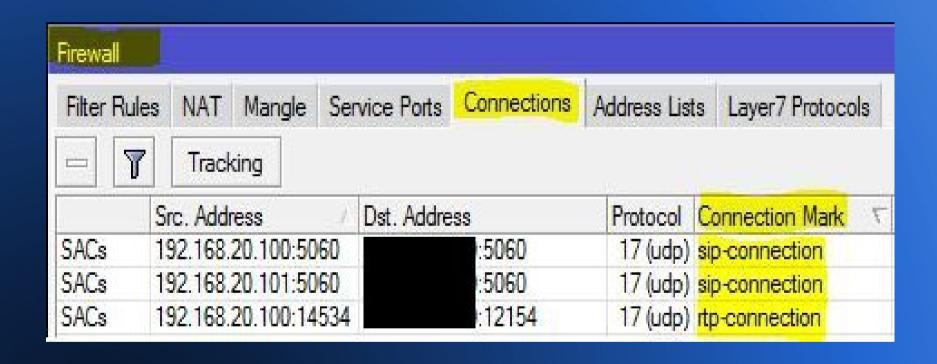


/ip firewall mangle add action=mark-packet chain=forward connection-mark=rtp-connection new-packetmark=RTP

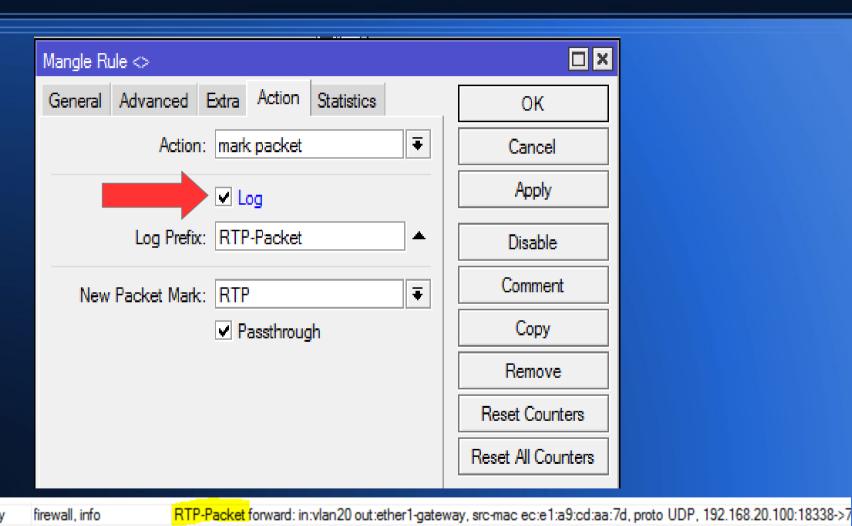
Mark the RTP Packet



How do we know its working?



How do we know it's working?



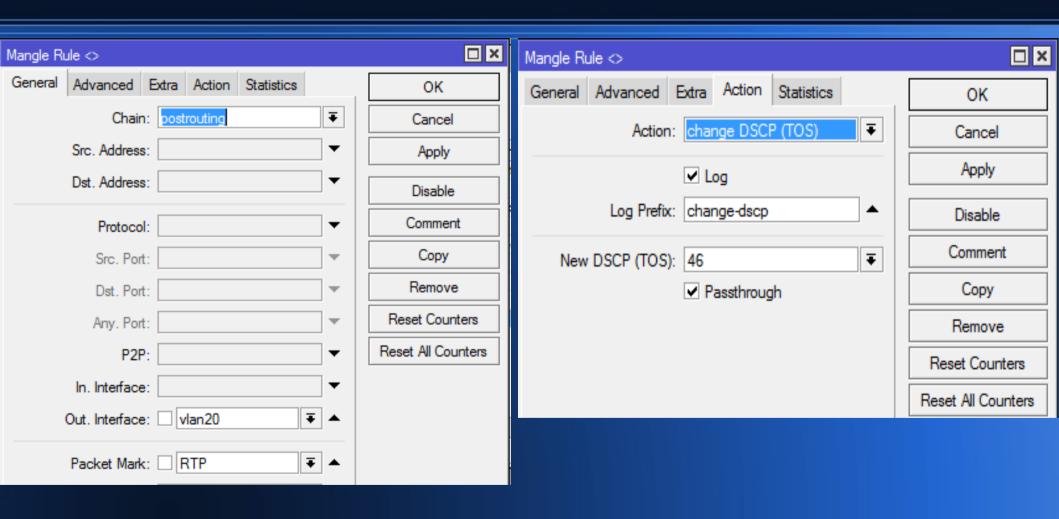
Apr/20/2016 10:46:14

Penny Tone LLC

Change DSCP

Differentiated Services Code Point (DSCP) is a field in an IP packet that enables different levels of service to be assigned to network traffic.

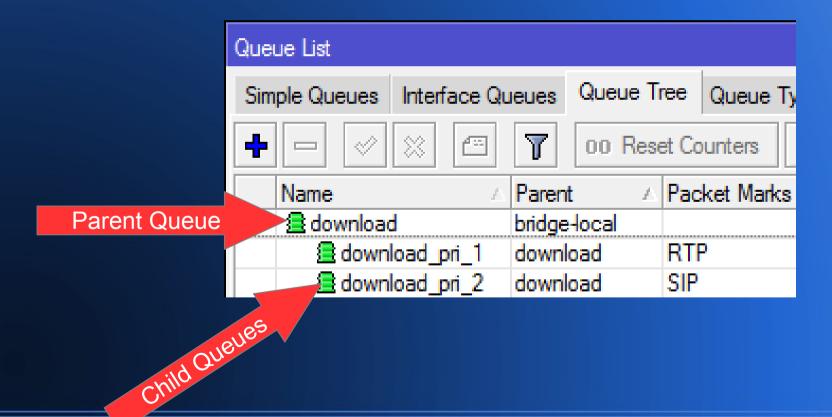
Change DSCP



- limit data rate for certain IP addresses, subnets, protocols, ports, and other parameters
- limit peer-to-peer traffic
- prioritize some packet flows over others
- configure traffic bursts for faster web browsing
- apply different limits based on time
- share available traffic among users equally, or depending on the load of the channel

Parent Queues (inner queues) – distribute bandwidth

Child Queues (leaf queues) - consume bandwidth



Mikrotik Parent Queues

- Parent Queues only responsibility is to distribute traffic to child queues.
- Parent queue will first satisfy the child queue's "limit-at" traffic then try and reach child "maxlimit".
- Priorities are ignored on Parent Queues.

Mikrotik Queue priorities

- 8 is the lowest priority, 1 is the highest.
- Queue with higher priority will have a chance to satisfy its max-limit value before lower priority queues.
- Actual traffic prioritization will work only if limits are specified.

Create A Queue Tree

Scenario:

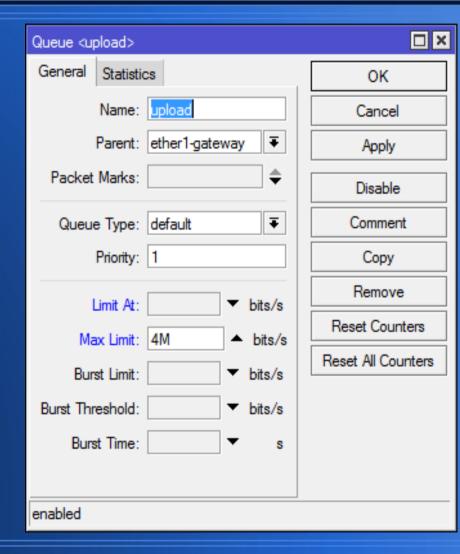
My home office

5 phones

internet bandwidth = 35Mb download 4Mb upload

Create A Queue Tree

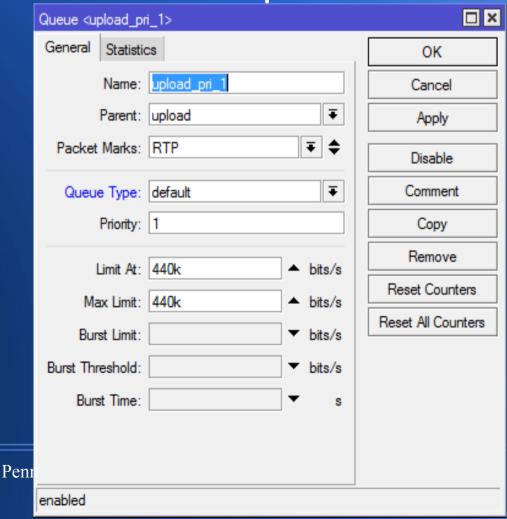
First create a queue
 /queue tree
 add limit-at=4M max-limit=4M
 name=upload
 parent=ether1-gateway
 priority=8 queue=default



Create an RTP queue and select it's "parent"

as "upload"

add limit-at=440k
max-limit=440k
name=upload_pri_1
packet-mark=RTP
parent=upload
priority=1
queue=default



Create a SIP queue and select it's "parent" as

"upload"

add limit-at=325k
max-limit=325k
name=upload_pri_2
packet-mark=SIP
parent=upload
priority=2
queue=default

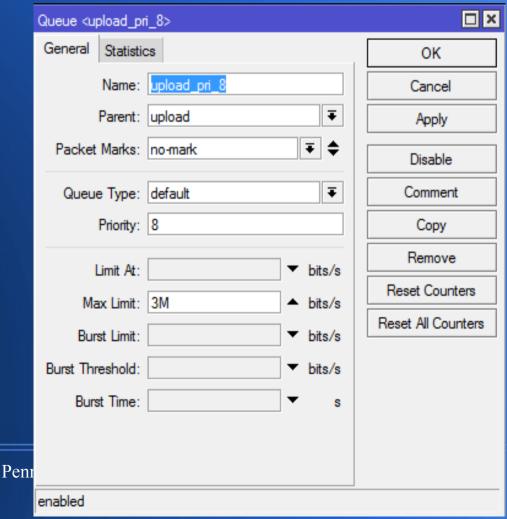
Queue <upload_pr< th=""><th>i_2></th><th>□×</th></upload_pr<>	i_2>	□×
General Statistic	CS	OK
Name:	upload_pri_2	Cancel
Parent:	upload ▼	Apply
Packet Marks:	SIP ₹ ♦	Disable
Queue Type:	default ▼	Comment
Priority:	2	Сору
Limit At:	325k ▲ bits/s	Remove
Max Limit:		Reset Counters
Burst Limit:	▼ bits/s	Reset All Counters
Burst Threshold:	▼ bits/s	
Burst Time:	▼ s	
1		
enabled		

What about packets without any marks?

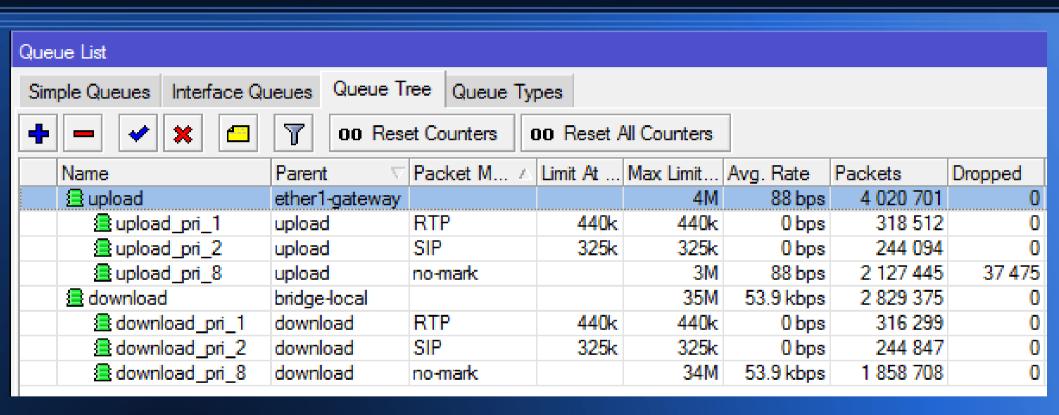
Create a "no mark" queue and select it's

"parent" as "upload"

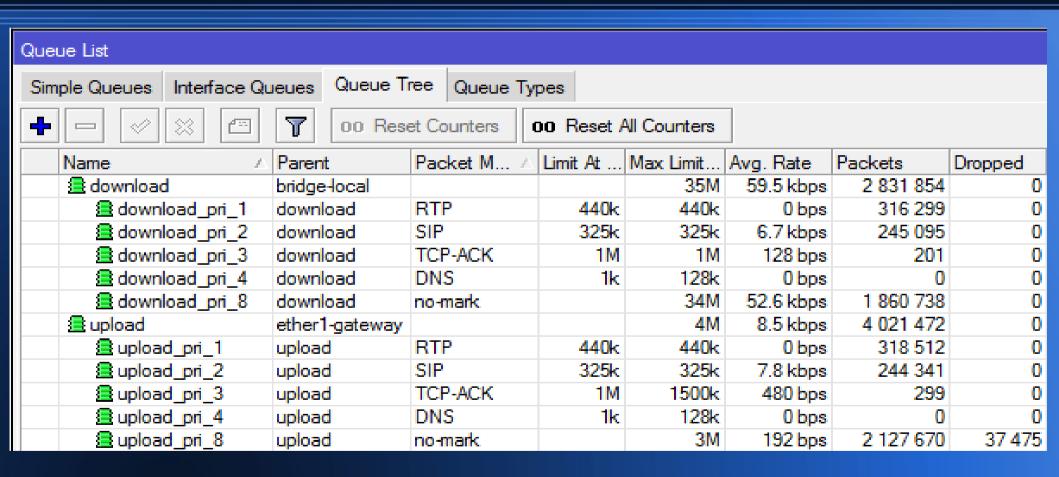
add limit-at=3M max-limit=3M name=upload_pri_2 packet-mark=SIP parent=upload priority=2 queue=default



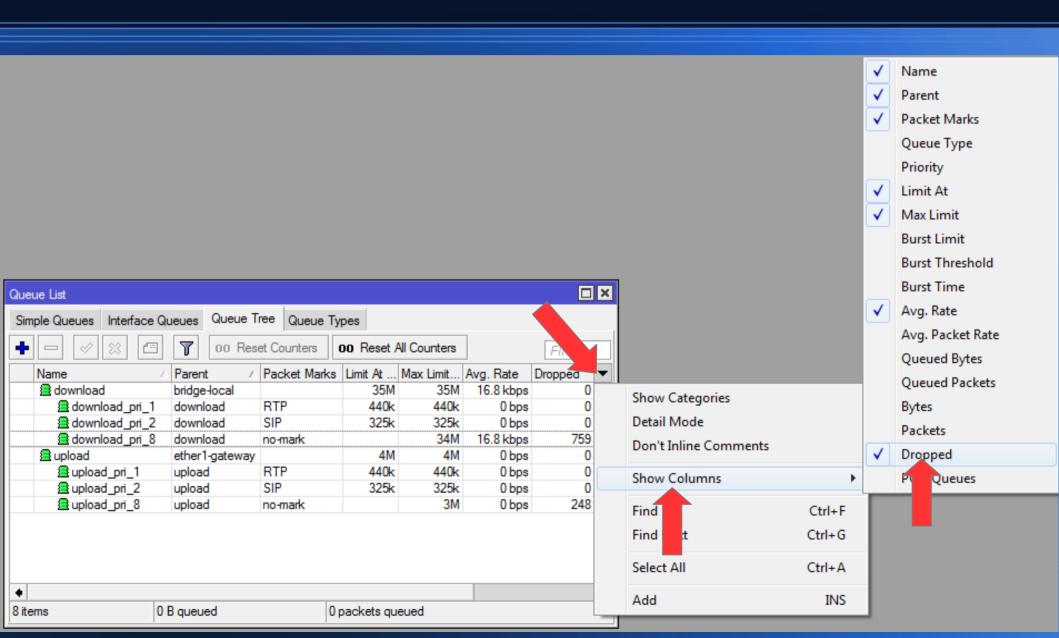
Queue Tree GUI view



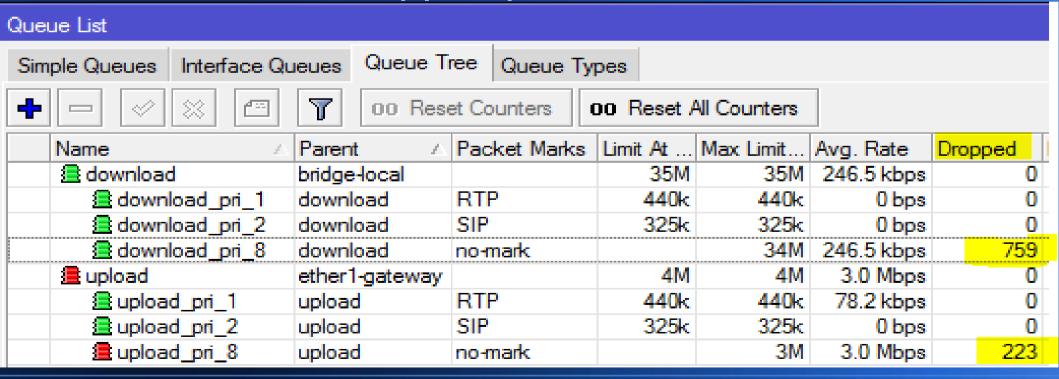
Queue Tree GUI view



- Check for "dropped packets" in queue tree
- Enable the "dropped packets" view



- Check for "dropped packets" in queue tree
- Enable the "dropped packets" view

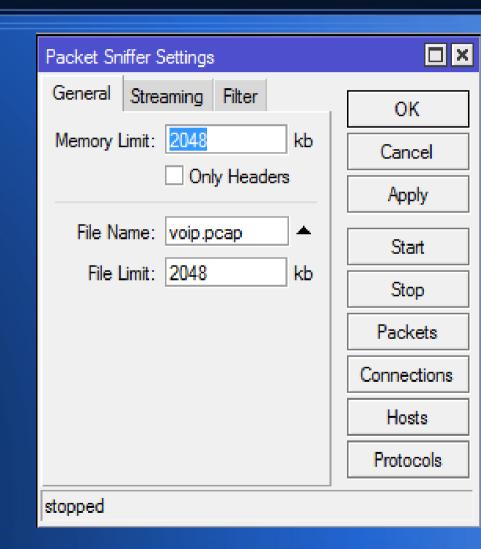


Mikrotik packet capture

Mikrotik packet capture

From GUI:

Tools – Packet sniffer



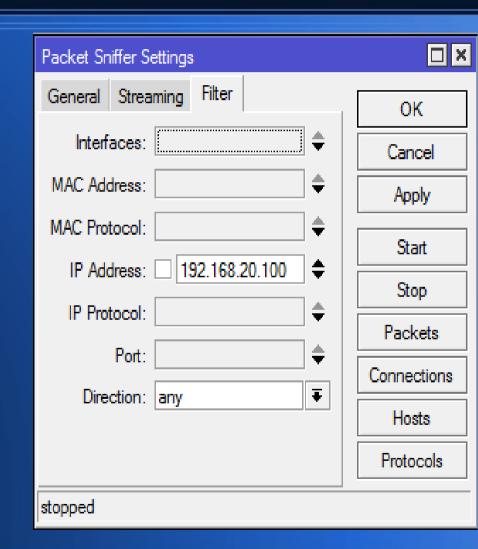
Mikrotik packet capture

From GUI:

Tools – Packet sniffer

Filter

IP



Cap file voip.pcap will be created in "Files"

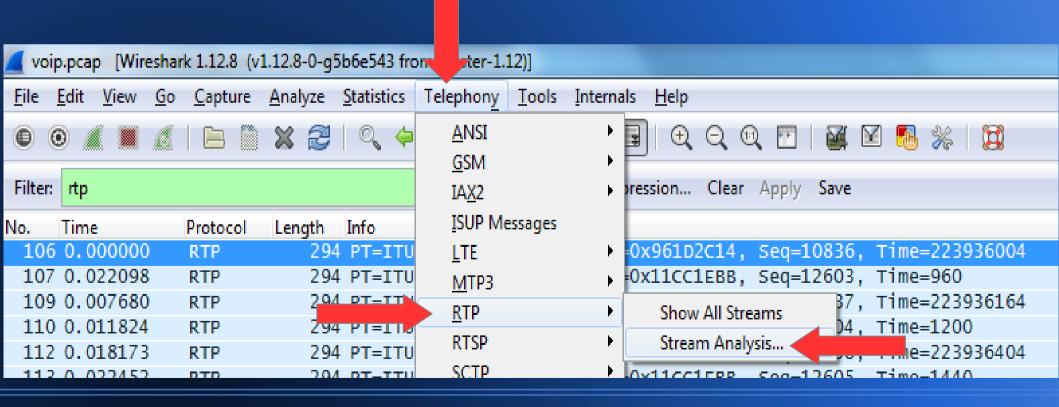
Download it

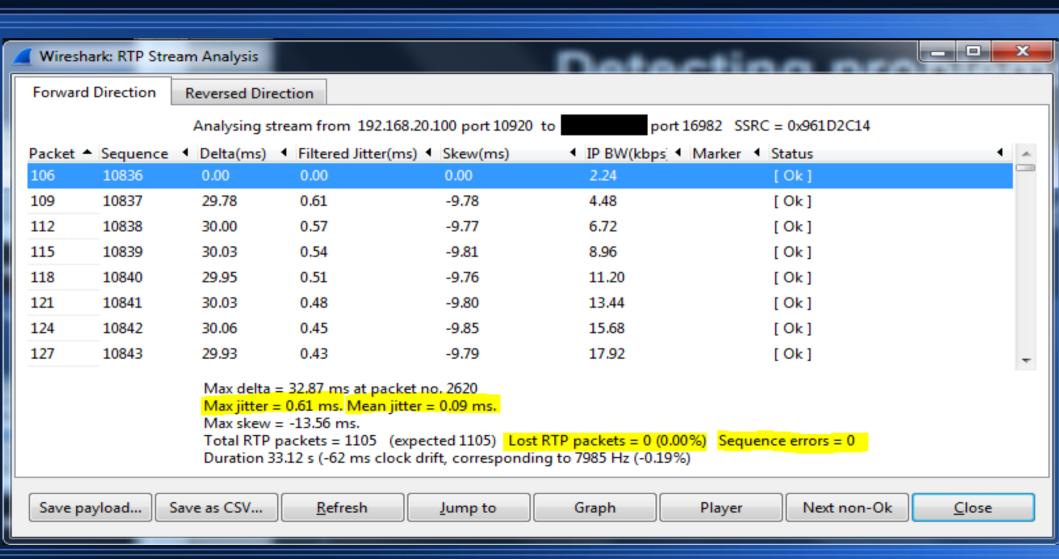
Then open voip.pcap in wireshark

Filer = rtp
Then select one RTP packet

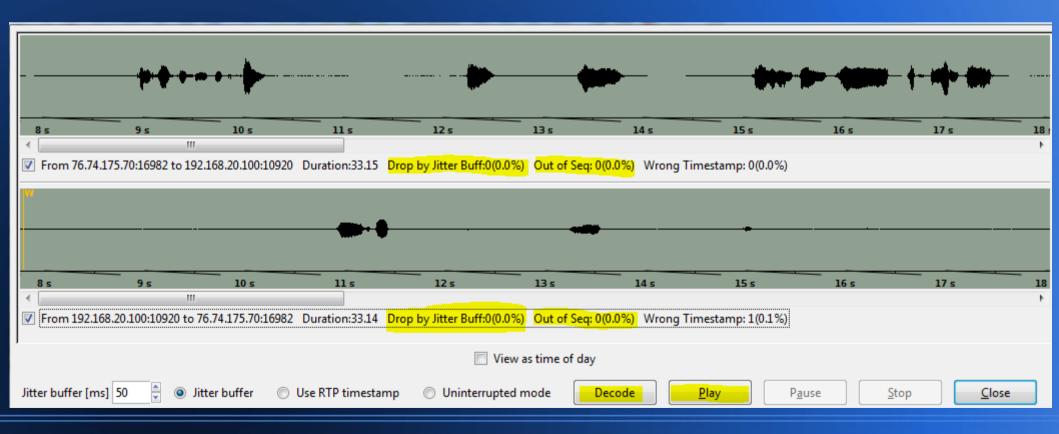
voip.pcap [Wireshark 1.12.8 (v1.12.8-0-g5b6e543 from master-1.12)]														
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Select "Telephony" - "RTP" - "Stream Analysis"





Click "Player" - "Decode" - "Play"

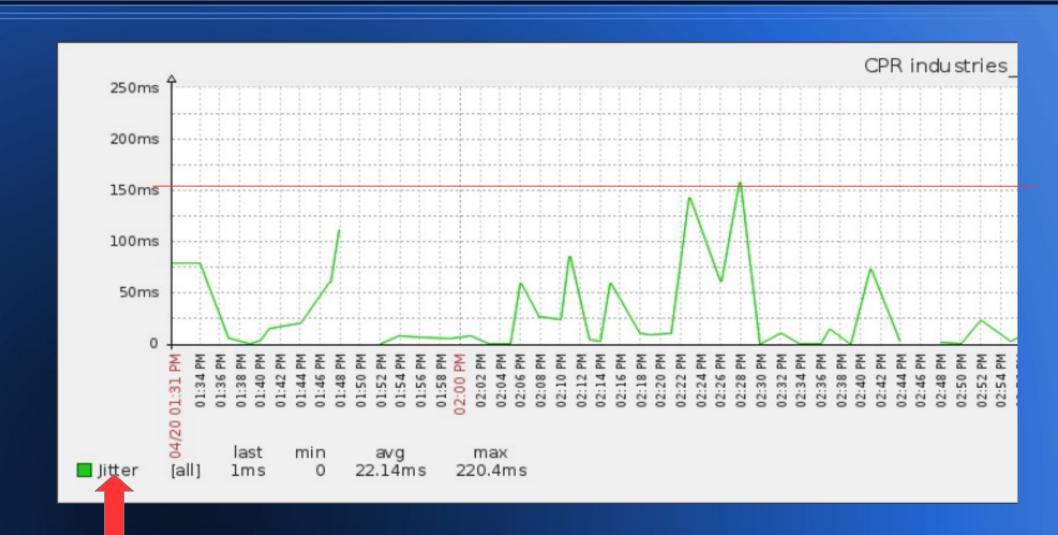


Before on-boarding a customer:

Make sure their internet connection is adequate!

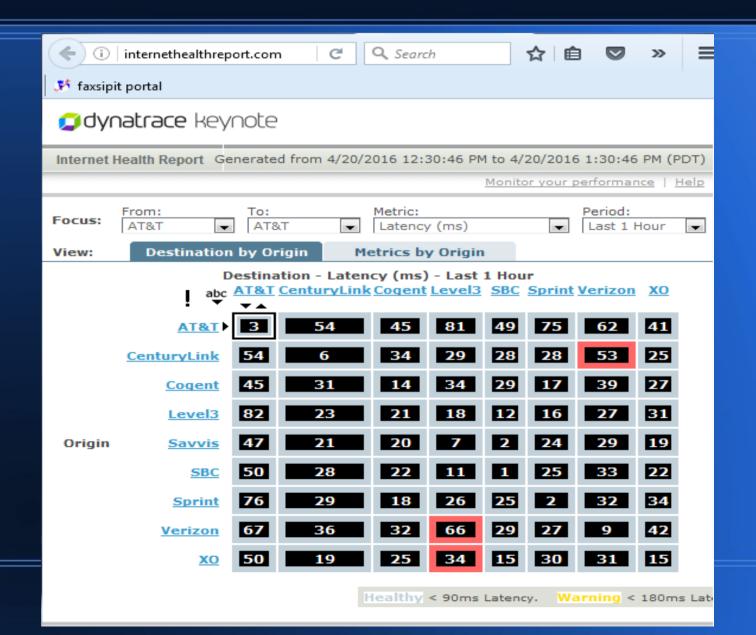
Monitor their WAN

Review the monitoring data!



- Packet capture every call! www.sipcapture.org

 Also be aware of internet carrier problems www.internethealthreport.com



Summary

- 1- Learned about some factors that affect VoIP call quality
- 2- Learned how to reduce or eliminate call quality issues
- 3- Leaned how to find issues and diagnose issues
- 4- Learned how to avoid issues