

# Log Analysis

When CLI get's complex

ITNOG3

Octavio Melendres

Network admin - Fastnet Spa

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# Introduction



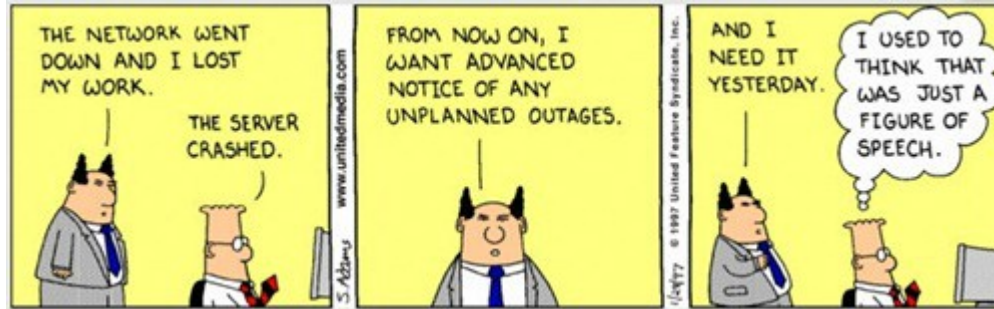
- Network engineer at Fastnet Spa from 2003
- Fastnet Spa is an ISP from Marche Region located in Ancona
- Company started in 1995 with analog modem access lines
- Today connecting companies and citizens using several technologies from wireless, DSL to fiber optics
- Uplinks to MIX and NAMEX up to 10Gbps
- Providing cloud, colocation and backup services at own Ancona datacenters

# Log analysis for a network admin

Log analysis is often a challenging task. (Even for a vi expert)

Requires the analysis of great amount of data in short periods of time

Usually under pressure from management in response of a network failure or attack



# Solution used

- There are several log analysis solutions available today!
- Most of solutions found are commercial
- Decided to use elasticsearch open source for Log Analysis
- Elasticsearch project is open source with commercial add-on modules

## Elastic Stack

User Interface



Kibana

Store, Index,  
& Analyze



Elasticsearch

Ingest



Logstash



Beats

# Log analysis process steps

1. Generate & collect
2. Aggregate & normalize
3. Store & optimize
4. Analysis & Alert

# Generate & Collect

# Generate & Collect - Send all logs!!

Log messages are generated directly by network devices and sent to Logstash module

Logdata from servers is collected using Beats package

On old servers, used sshmount from the logserver to load the files



# Generate & Collect - Filebeat

Filebeat module uses a simple configuration with sections input, output  
Includes several libraries with predefined file formats like: nginx, apache, mysql  
Support load balancing and reliable export to multiple servers

## Example configuration:

filebeat.prospectors:

- **input\_type: log**

paths:

- /var/log/fastnetmng/\*.log

**output.logstash:**

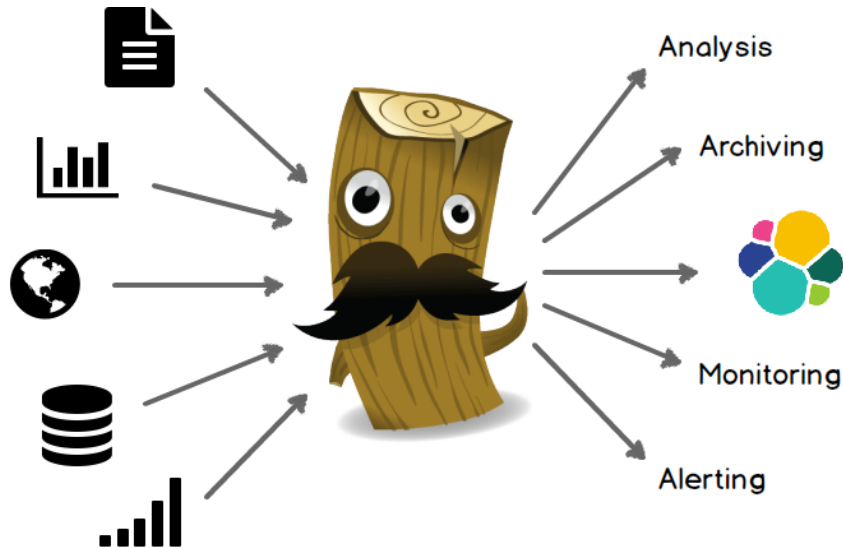
hosts: ["localhost:5044"]



# Aggregate & Normalize

# Aggregate & Normalize - LOGSTASH

Logstash is a data processing pipeline  
Ingest data from different sources  
Transforms data  
Sends reliably to elasticsearch



# Aggregate & Normalize - LOGSTASH

## Example configuration:

```
input {
  udp {
    port => 42186
    type => syslog
    tags => "cisco-fw"
  }
}
filter {
  if "cisco-fw" in [tags] {
    grok {
      match => ["message", "%{CISCOTIMESTAMP:timestamp} ?(CEDT:|CEST:) %.*: %
{GREEDYDATA:cisco_message}"]
      tag_on_failure => "_grokparsefailure1"
    }
  }
}
output {
  if "cisco-fw" in [tags] {
    elasticsearch {
      hosts => "127.0.0.1:9200"
      index => "firewall-%{+YYYY.MM.dd}"
    }
  }
}
```

# Aggregate & Normalize - GROK language

Grok is a language to parse unstructured data using pattern matching. A great tool for development is the Grok debugger interactive web page <https://grokdebug.herokuapp.com>

The screenshot displays the Grok Debugger web interface. At the top, there are tabs for "Grok Debugger", "Debugger", "Discover", and "Patterns". The main area shows a log entry: "Oct 25 23:53:32 aludra.mng.fastnet.intra 15084515: Oct 25 21:53:32.407: %CP-6-TCP: DROP TCP/UDP Portfilter 181.214.87.3(41803) -> 195.96.200.23(33889)". Below the log entry is a text box containing the Grok pattern: `%{SYSLOGTIMESTAMP:@timestamp} %{SYSLOGHOST:syslog_host} %{DATA:syslog_sequence}: %{SYSLOGTIMESTAMP:syslog_timestamp} ? : %CP-6-..P: DROP TCP/UDP Portfilter %{IPV4:syslog_srcip}(%{POSINT:syslog_srcport}) -> %{IPV4:syslog_dstip}(%{POSINT:syslog_dstport})`. Below the pattern box are four checkboxes: "Add custom patterns", "Keep Empty Captures", "Named Captures Only", and "Singles", followed by an "Autocomplete" checkbox and a "Go" button. The bottom section shows the resulting JSON output: 

```
{
  "SYSLOGTIMESTAMP": [
    [
      "Oct 25 23:53:32"
    ]
  ],
  "MONTH": [
    [
      "Oct",
      "Oct"
    ]
  ],
  "MONTHDAY": [
    [
      "25",
      "25"
    ]
  ],
  "TIME": [
    [
      "23:53:32",
      "21:53:32.407"
    ]
  ],
  "HOUR": [
    [

```

# Aggregate & Normalize - Better syslog reliability

Syslog uses mostly UDP  
unreliable protocol  
With logstash is possible  
to save unique logs from  
multiple copies, using  
hashing techniques

## Example logstash configuration:

```
filter {  
  fingerprint {  
    source => ["message"]  
    target => "fingerprint"  
    key => "fastnethash"  
    method => "SHA256"  
    concatenate_sources => true  
  }  
}  
output {  
  elasticsearch {  
    document_id => "%{fingerprint}"  
  }  
}
```

# Store & Optimize

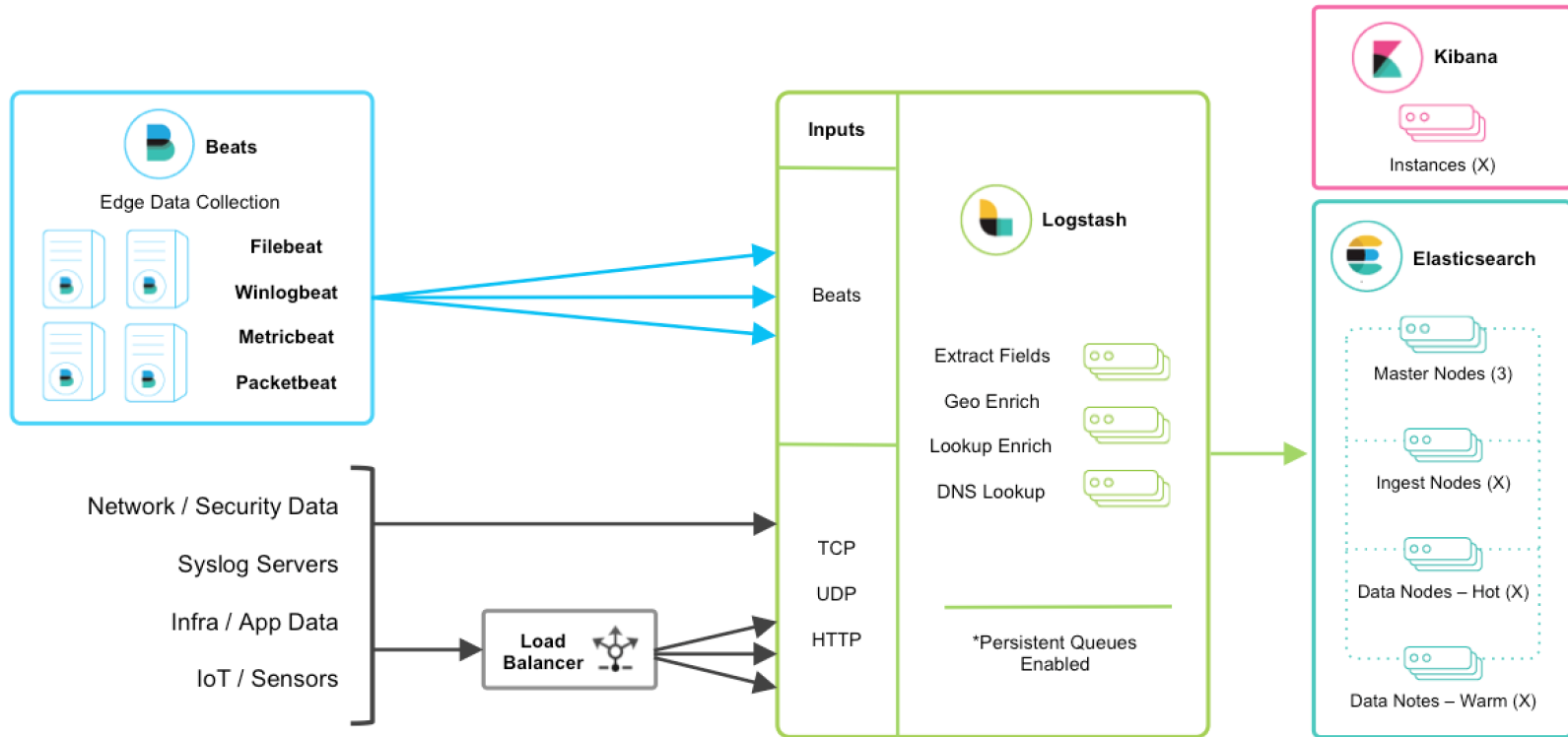
# Store & Optimize - ELASTICEASEARCH

- Elasticsearch is a search and analysis distributed engine
- Open source project based on Apache Lucene project
- Engine stores and indexes data

The Heart of the Elastic Stack



# Store & Optimize - ELASTICEASEARCH Deployment





# Store & Optimize - ELASTICEASERCH MySQL differences

Elasticsearch stores and indexes data like a database with some differences:

MySQL	Elasticsearch
Database	Index
Table	Type
Row	Document
Column	Field
Schema	Mapping/Templates
Index	Everything is indexed
SQL	Query DSL
SELECT * FROM table ...	GET http://...
UPDATE table SET ...	PUT http://...

# Store & Optimize - ELASTICSEARCH Security

- Encryption and authentication is implemented in commercial module
- A **workaround** used for deployments used by small group of admins:
  - Isolated Vlan for elastic cluster communication
  - Firewall publishes only the ports used to ingest data, filter on source
  - Isolated Kibana with NGIX server as authenticated proxy

# Store & Optimize - Index Maintenance

Elasticsearch module  
CURATOR performs  
maintenance on  
stored data  
Used CURATOR to  
automate remove or  
archive old data using  
CRON jobs

## Example configuration:

actions:

1:

action: delete\_indices

description: >-

Delete indices older than 7 days

filters:

- filtertype: pattern

**kind: prefix**

**value: firewall-syslogs-**

exclude:

- filtertype: age

source: name

direction: older

timestring: '%Y.%m.%d'

**unit: days**

**unit\_count: 7**

# Analysis & Alert

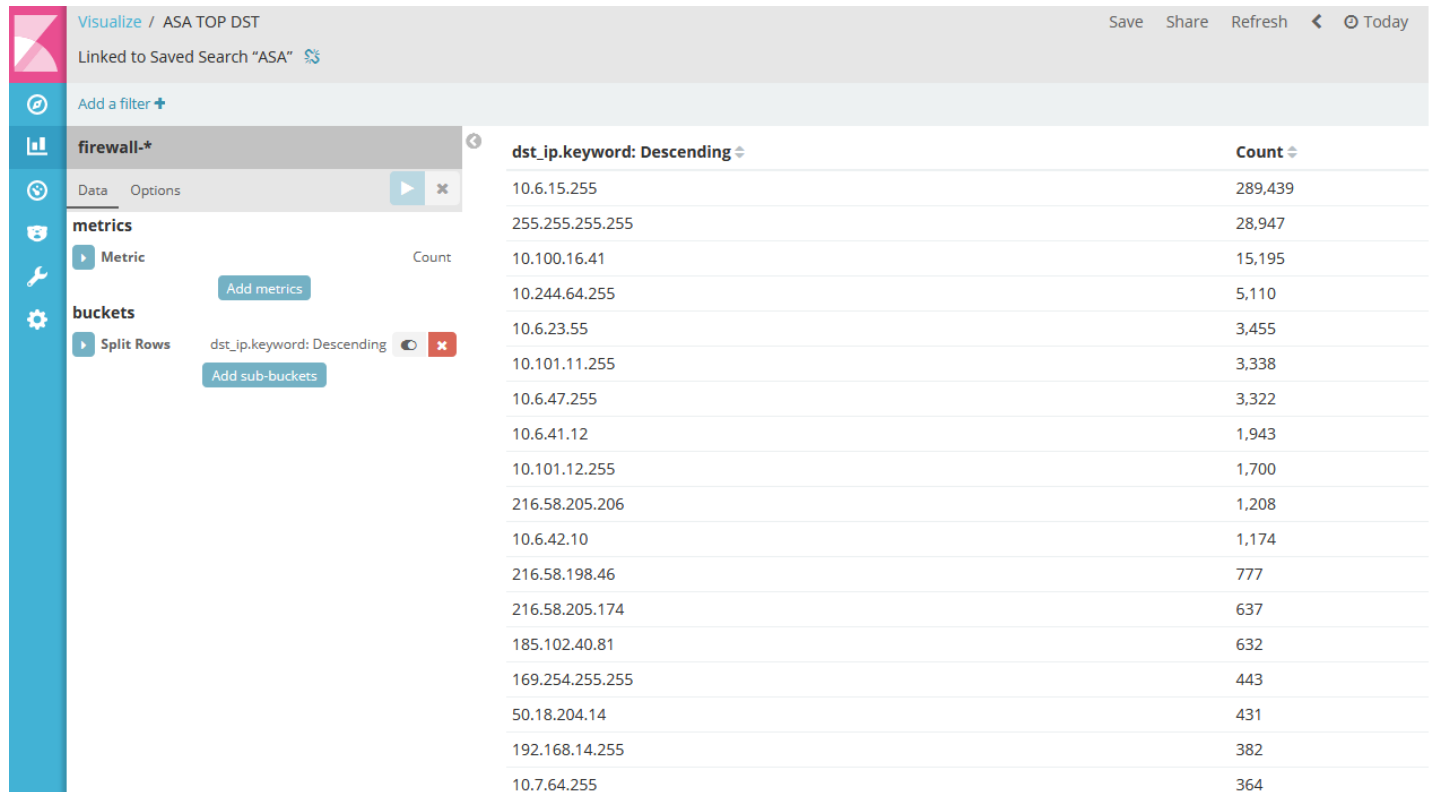
# Analysis & Alert - Search data with Kibana

Full text search  
with trends



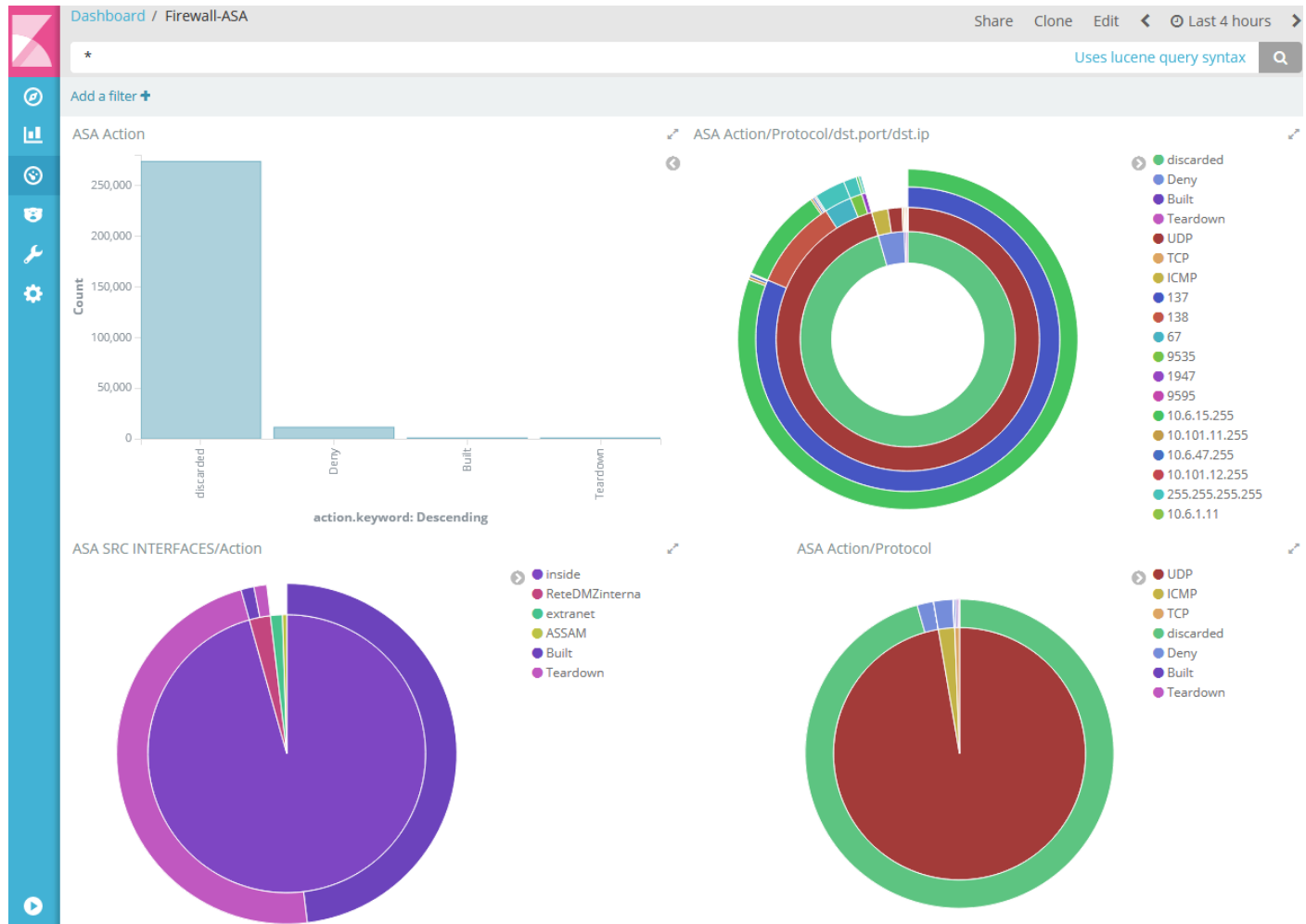
# Analysis &Alert

Counting based  
on occurrences  
of field  
gathered from  
Logstash



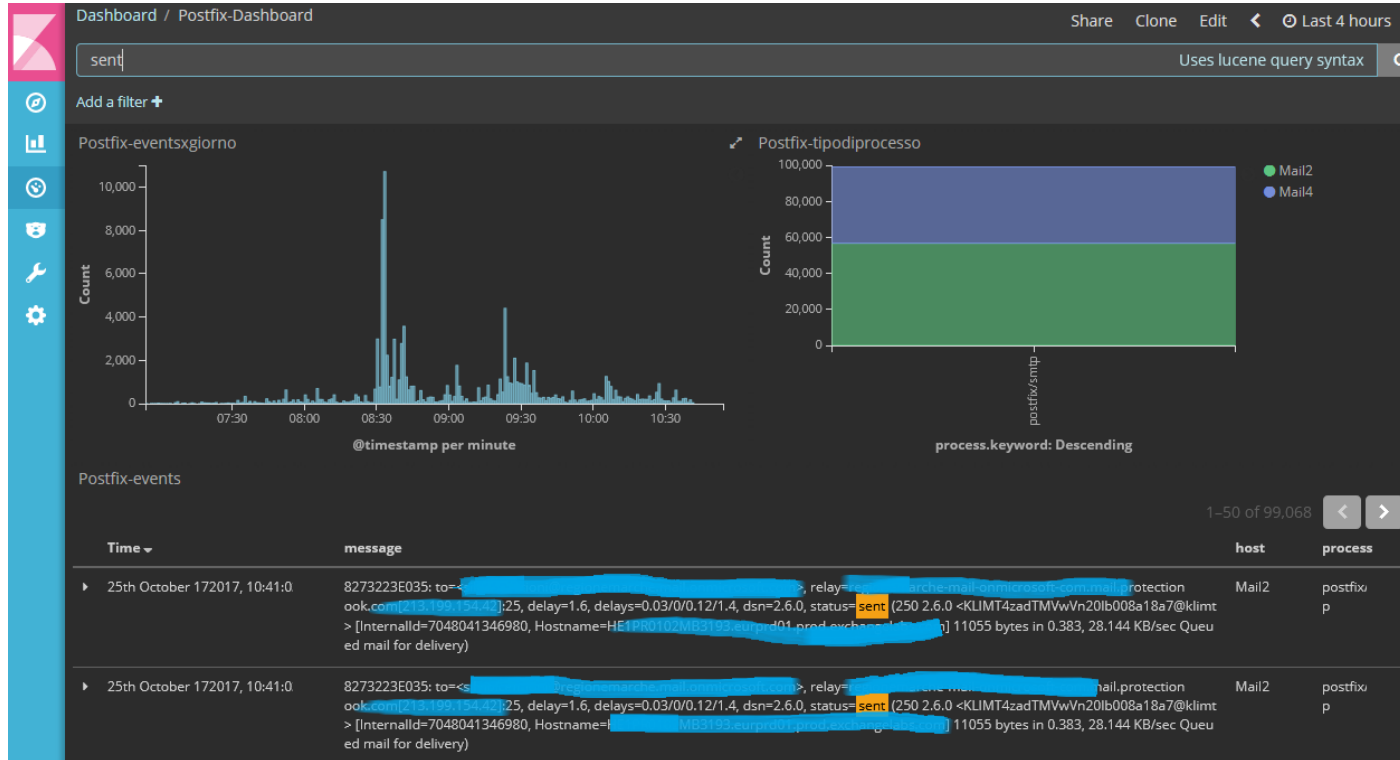
# Analysis &Alert

Graphing  
numbers of  
occurrences at  
several levels



# Analysis & Alert

Email server  
example:  
Trending  
emails sent  
over time





# Analysis & Alert - Alerting

Alerting is included in the commercial X-Pack, Watcher module  
Alternative open source project using the elastic API:

<https://github.com/Yelp/elastalert>

<http://elastalert.readthedocs.io>

# What's next? Some interesting new features

- Interesting developments are being released constantly, some recent:
- Netflow module, for easier traffic analysis
- Logstash Jquery for importing SQL data
- Artificial intelligence features, unfortunately as commercial add-on

# Thank you !



For any additional questions, please send me a note:  
[o.melendres@fastnet.it](mailto:o.melendres@fastnet.it)