

Considerations for Interpreting Packet Loss Observed by Active Performance Measurements

Observed loss is a measured outcome — not automatically the cause.

Measurement Result

Packet Loss
Missing Response
Timeout

Observable Outcome Only



Same Observation, Many Plausible Causes

- Congestion/Queue Discard
- Routing/Forwarding Change
- Endpoint or Reflector Behavior
- Policy, Filtering, Policing
- ECMP/LAG Component Path
- Validation-related Discard



Interpret with Context

OAM/Telemetry Context
Routing/Forwarding State
Counters and Logs
Endpoint/Validation State
Evidence before Attribution

What the Draft Does

Provides interpretation considerations for active loss, delay and delay variation; covers one-way/reflected measurements, OWAMP/TWAMP/STAMP, ECMP/LAG, validation-related discard, and operational context. It defines no new metric or protocol.

WG Feedback

Does the WG agree this clarification is useful, and what context should be emphasized for operators and measurement reports?