

Regulatory perspective on measuring network quality for end-users

Ahmed Aldabbagh, Ofcom (UK)
14-19 Sept 2021

Disclaimer: The analyses, opinions and findings in this presentation represent the views of the author, should not be interpreted as an official position of Ofcom and are not intended to be an official statement of Ofcom's policy.

Content

- Requirements in the wider context
- Requirements from Internet measurement systems
- Measurement approach

Operator requirements

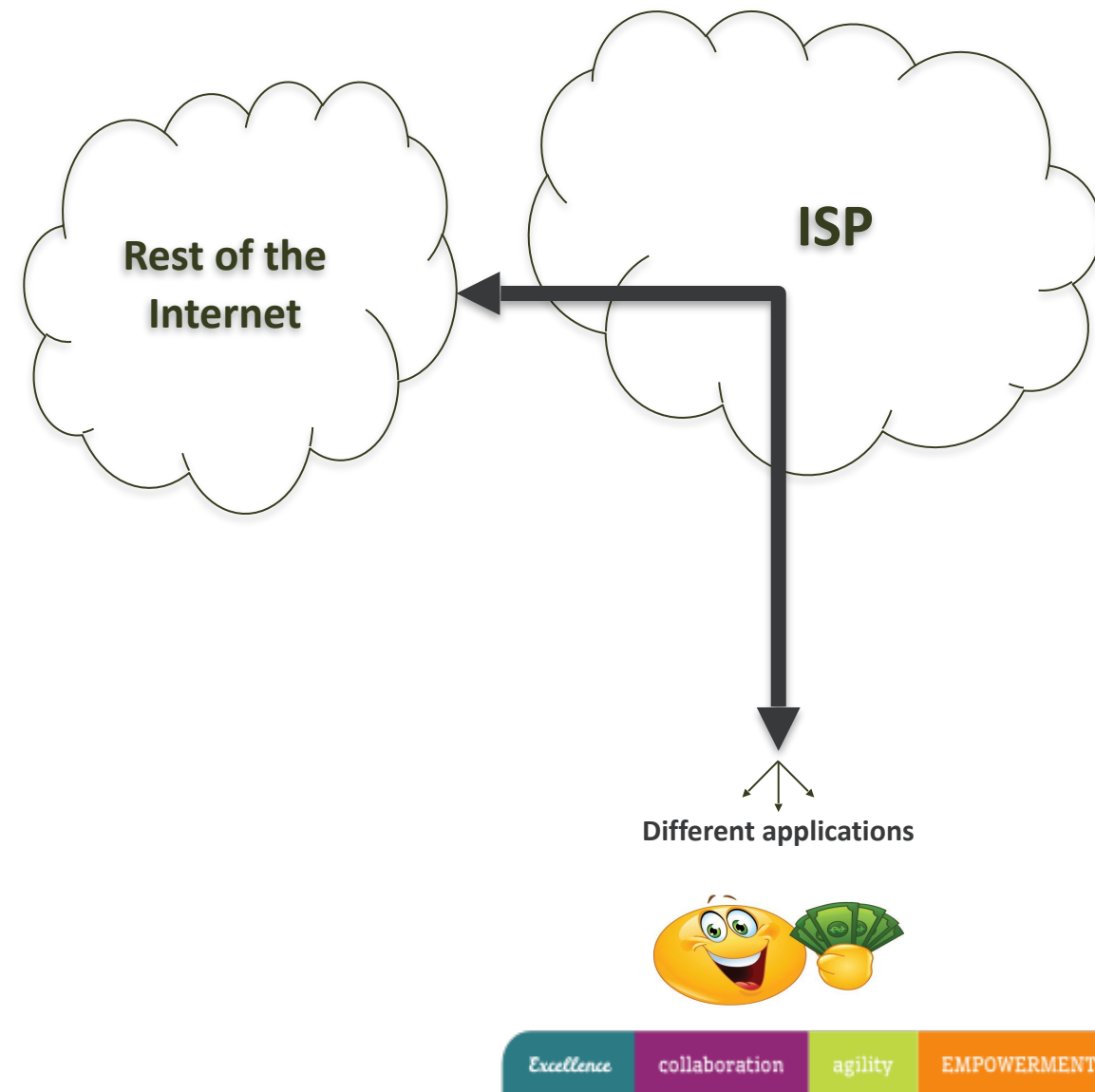
- Understand the performance of their networks.
- Understand the performance of the equipment.
- The impact that such performance has on the experience of their customers.
- Generally within the context of network management system.
 - Troubleshooting and
 - Pre-fault diagnostics

Regulatory perspective

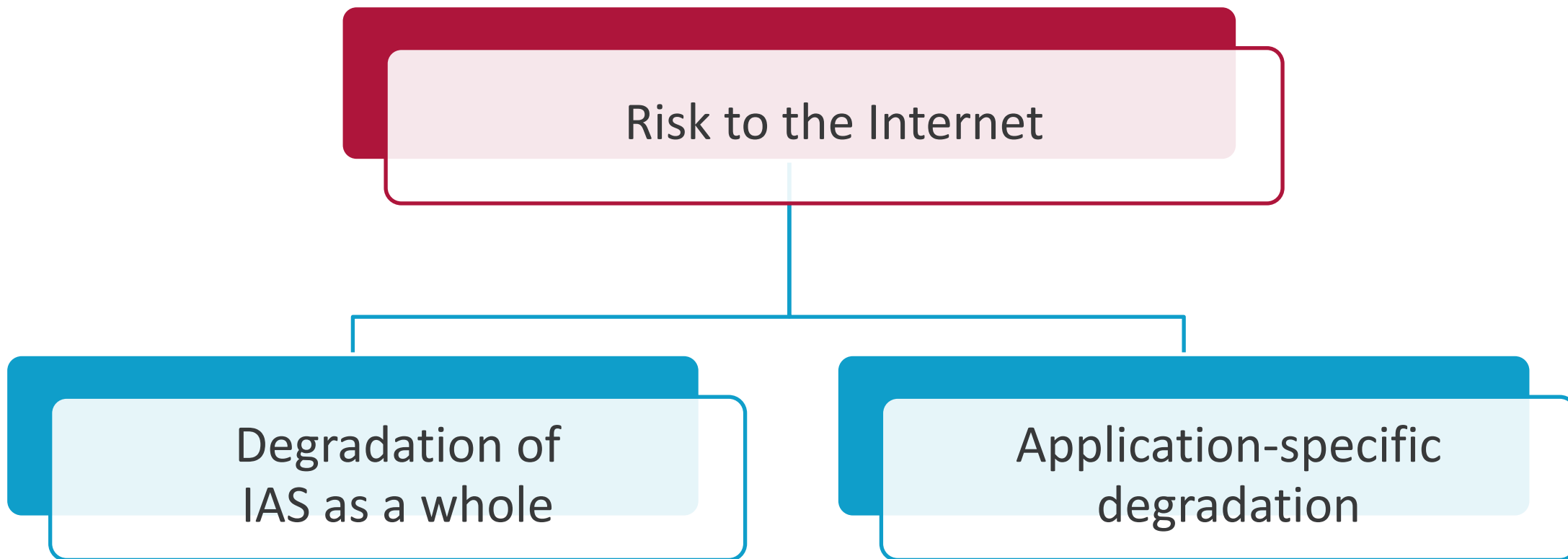
- Promoting the ability of consumers to access and distribute information or run applications and services of their choice.
- Universal service directive aims at promoting a satisfying quality-of-service and ensuring better information for consumers on its actual quality of service which will be received.

Consumers access the Internet

- **Transparency: measurement for consumers**
 - What am I getting?
 - etc
- **Measurements for policy makers**
 - Evolution of national infrastructure
- **Innovation**



Risk



High level Internet access quality monitoring system requirements

- **Accuracy**
- **Comparability**
 - Different IAS providers and their offerings
 - Different countries when possible
- **Trustworthiness**
 - Independence (from operators)
 - Accountability and legal value
- **Privacy**
- **Security**
- **Openness**
- **Future proof-ness**

Approach: metrics

QoS

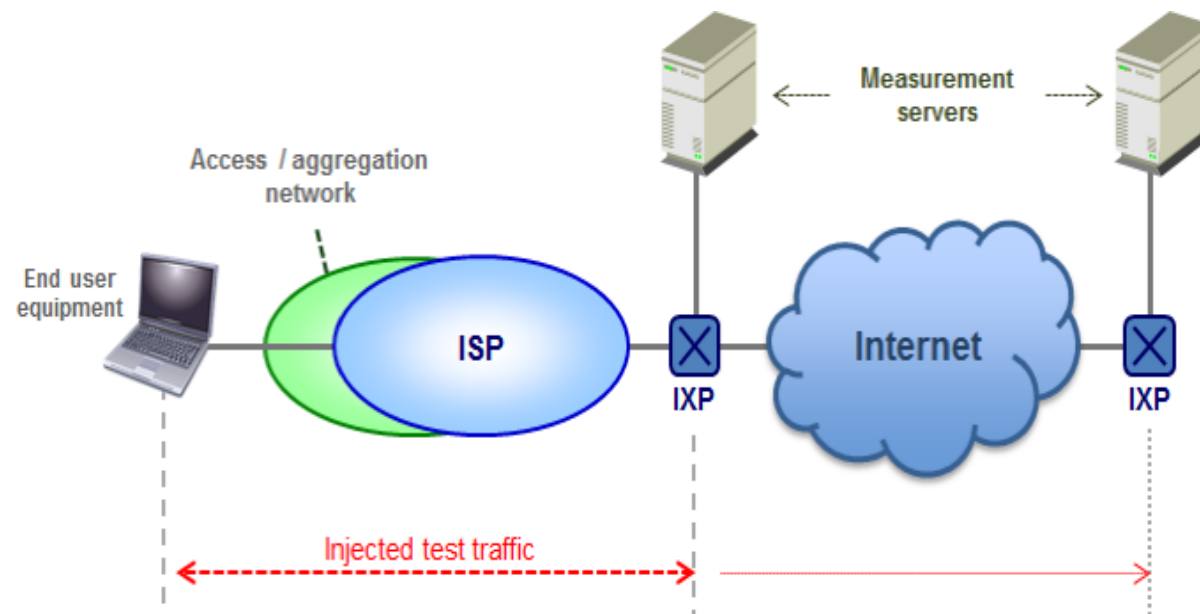
- Speed (upload and download)
- Delay and its variations
- Packet loss
- DNS look up time
- etc
- How to measure in view of earlier requirements ?

QoE

- Becoming more and more important
- But is it difficult?
- Lack of common theoretical framework?
- Lack of standardisation

General approach

- Active measurements using test traffic
- Passive measurements using ordinary user traffic
- User initiated tests
- Background tests
- Hardware probes
- Software probes
- Mobile
- Fixed
- Fixed-wireless
- Cost



Crowdsource

- **Rising in importance as it is beginning to open new insights**
- **Lack of standards**
- **Privacy issues**
- **Collection is not future proof**

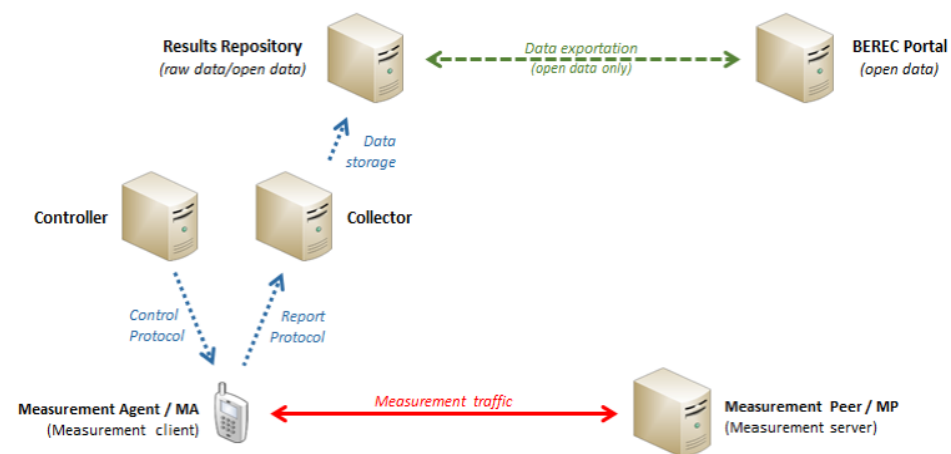
Measurement systems

Considered

- Large-Scale Measurement of Broadband Performance (IETF/LMAP)
- IP Performance Metrics (IETF/ IPPM)
- RIPE Atlas
- M-Lab
- etc

BEREC

- Federated system
- Drew a great deal from LMAP



Final remark: where should the future be?

Federation of 'Interoperable' systems

- Standardisation in measurements methods
- Common software implementations
- Standardisation in common data format and APIs

QoS to QoE??

- Difficult to solve?
- What about Delta Q as the basis for future?
- Need for standardisation