

Exporter vs Traffic Pattern Statistic

This article helps in understanding the differences between Exporter and Traffic Patterns statistics and what are they used for.

	Exporter Statistic	Traffic Pattern Statistic
Setup	✔ provided by default	✔ requires custom setup
Based on	✔ physical infrastructure	✔ logical definition
Statistic per	✔ exporters and interfaces	✔ Traffic Patterns, Subnet Sets and Subnets
Monitors	✔ traffic on routers, L3 switches and interfaces	✔ specific (custom defined) traffic
Analysis focus	✔ whole traffic on specific physical infrastructure	✔ specific traffic between two networks
Level of expertise	✔ fast setup and easy statistics	✔ complex setup and statistics

In general you will use:

- Exporter Statistic when you are interested in monitoring the bandwidth of an interface or exporter (whole traffic passing through the physical infrastructure)
- Traffic Patterns to isolate a specific type of traffic (traffic via specific ports, protocols, AS etc.): YouTube Traffic, certain service traffic, blocked traffic etc.
- Traffic Patterns with Subnet Sets to monitor whole or specific traffic per logical unit: company departments, regional company offices, member organisations, data centre traffic etc.