Exporter Traffic vs Traffic Pattern

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

	Exporter Traffic	Traffic Pattern
Setup	✅ provided by default	✅ requires custom setup
Based on	✅ physical infrastructure	✅ logical definition
Nodes	✅ 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 to understand	✅ complex setup and harder to understand

In general you will use:

- Exporter Traffic 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.