

Quoting an extract from your document:

"...the provision of services over those networks, a number of cases have differentiated treatment by network operators of services or traffic..."

Here are some UK links which demonstrate exactly the problem of traffic shaping in the UK:

http://www.plus.net/support/broadband/speed_guide/traffic_prioritisation.shtml
<http://usergroup.plus.net/shaping.php>

My business uses open source software exclusively.

My business makes use of ssh to configure and manage remote servers in the UK and US.

My business makes use of sftp, ftp, and rsync to backup moderate amounts of critical business data once a month. These protocols are being assigned low priority in some traffic shaping policies.

Because I work on servers in the UK and the US, I mainly use ssh (port 22) as it is an efficient way of connecting to remote servers.

What has happened in the last year in the UK, is that VPN and other protocols have been assigned higher priority than ssh.

It is as if running a bandwidth hungry protocol (VPN) gets you more attention from the ISP these days and running less bandwidth hungry alternatives (ssh) gets you penalised.

This is potentially a barrier to the increased use of 'open source' software on servers in my opinion. New users of VPS and Dedicated Servers will be put off from using 'open source' distributions on their server, because their connection traffic is given low priority and they see 'stalled' on their connection screen during ssh sessions.

By comparison, operating systems that are exclusively graphical, if their traffic is prioritised higher, enjoy a benefit of implicit selection, if practical business use finds their traffic is given higher priority by ISPs.

My hope for any recommendations or legislation are the following:

(1) The principles of net neutrality are rigorously enforced on basic (entry level) home and basic (entry level) business broadband packages.

(2) Every provider of ADSL, ADSL2, and Cable must provide a basic (entry level) home and a basic (entry level) business broadband package and those packages must be free from traffic shaping preferences by port or protocol.

(3) Those packages in (2) to be assigned guide pricing of £10 or 15 euro seems a fair guide price for all broadband areas in which there is observable established competition* (most urban areas). *The commission

may have a better view than myself as to a fair way to handle non urban pricing guides.

(3) Providers be given guidance on the language examples they should avoid using in any criticism of these basic packages, to avoid the temptation to sacrifice the reputation of the basic packages in order to upsell higher bandwidth alternatives.

(4) Higher bandwidth alternatives (non basic), have any published traffic shaping policy explicitly state the priority levels for character based protocols including specifically ssh, scp, sftp, ftp, rsync.

(5) Any published traffic shaping policy must not discriminate against character based protocols ssh, scp, sftp, ftp, rsync so as to favour more bandwidth hungry alternatives for the same function. Specifically VPN cannot be given a higher priority than ssh, scp, sftp, ftp, rsync as this just encourages server managers to adopt the least bandwidth efficient solution.

Personal observation 1:

Giving VPN a higher priority to ssh, it could be argued, creates a barrier to the adoption of open source software on servers. Many server managers who use Linux or FreeBSD or OpenSolaris on servers historically prefer ssh.

Personal observation 2:

If the degradation of ssh in favour of bandwidth hungry VPN is allowed to go unchecked, then metaphorically speaking, you just sat back and allowed a motorway official to give access to the fast lane to Hummers, whilst banning diesels and more efficient compacts from using that fast lane.

My situation:

I will be changing broadband provider in October to hopefully overcome seeing 'stalled' messages, when I ssh to and from servers in UK and US (due to traffic shaping policies)

In my ideal future, the implementation of (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) would mean that i could:

- (i) Choose a basic package, free from any traffic shaping, so as my ssh traffic to servers in UK and US is unhindered.
- (ii) Have the option of choosing a higher bandwidth traffic shaped package, by comparing the priority levels different providers assign to Linux, FreeBSD, OpenSolaris friendly ssh protocol.

Mr Gary Wright
Wright Solutions
189 Wallasey Road
Wallasey
CH44 2AD