

Dartmouth College

Dartmouth Digital Commons

Dartmouth College Undergraduate Theses

Theses and Dissertations

5-2003

Persistence and Prevalence in the Mobility of Dartmouth Wireless Network Users

Clara Lee

Dartmouth College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/senior_theses



Part of the [Computer Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lee, Clara, "Persistence and Prevalence in the Mobility of Dartmouth Wireless Network Users" (2003).

Dartmouth College Undergraduate Theses. 204.

https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/senior_theses/204

This Thesis (Undergraduate) is brought to you for free and open access by the Theses and Dissertations at Dartmouth Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Dartmouth College Undergraduate Theses by an authorized administrator of Dartmouth Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu.

6. rsist. nc. and 6r. val. nc. in th. M7bility 7f Dartm7uth E ir. l. ss x . tw7rk Us. rs

Clara L. .

S. ni7r H7n7rs Th. sis

Dartm7uth C7ll. g. C7mput. r Sci. nc.

T. chnical R. p7rt TR2003-455

Advis7r: David K7tz

May 2003

Abstract

Wi%less local-area networks (WLANs) are increasing in popularity. As mobile use of WLANs it is important to understand how these users behave. We analyzed data collected over the months of 2002 to measure the persistence and prevalence of use of the Dartmouth wireless network.

We found that most of the use of Dartmouth's network have short association times and a high rate of mobility. This observation fits with the predominant student population of Dartmouth College because students do not have a fixed workplace and are moving to and from classes all day.

1 Introduction

Since 2001 we have collected extensive data to study the use of a wireless network. Specifically the wireless network at Dartmouth College. Analyzing the usage patterns will help develop to build and maintain wireless networks that are better suited to the users' needs.

This paper explores the mobility and association time of users of the Dartmouth wireless network based on data from over two thousand users. With an understanding of the behavior of a wireless network users can design more effective applications that simultaneously take advantage of the wireless network and the behavior of the wireless users. Network operators can more effectively deploy and manage networks and engineers can design more effective network protocols and products.

2 Background

Dartmouth College deployed its wireless network in Spring 2001. By Spring 2002 there were about 500 Cisco Systems Air-CT access points providing 11 Mbps coverage. Because Dartmouth College has a relatively small campus the wireless network covers all the buildings on campus and most of the outdoor spaces as well. The wireless network covers dormitories, classrooms, offices, and public spaces including the Green, a large grass area in the center of campus. There are usually several access points per building so there are often regions where multiple access points can be heard.

Students, staff, and professors use this network. All undergraduates at Dartmouth are required to own a computer. At the time we collected the data for this paper about

¹ Specifications at www.cisco.com

W%ð se æa-no d t n-aewð(d (læAl awj)ægl cœbi uði %ð se æa-no d t newð(d)ænaði u
9i %ð sen-t e æa-no enll l -ewð(d (ew æd-lbæ thv wbj enl v (cœ-bl

6.rs i tnc ead v

Adbl czdl cœadh æ(w(-bt -e v (kl j æd-œ bv æiseræd ð-s-bæd ewe hnzkeæt lb-ke ænwba)
ha-ndsh-ægj ðœ ænlf c-e2 I Devaab- læd kœl czdæd-b-ewb-æa bœwnkj e l v -æa-'hma æ -ægj
v l b-ædwnd n-æ(-b l n)æwna e l v -æ(-l (k-æt dl æ -ev ckd(k-æa-'hma)d cœw((bl wnae dl cla
g-ewenkl -æw((bl Thv wd l nL

C hœdmœdh æ(w(-bt -æ -æd-œ bv æissdciagdœd ev -wnæd-æacbwth nædwœwæc -bœh
nï v v cœhvdnæt hœdewœwnna æ l hœdæOcbawœd nkj ð-mï ba æd-æwnædwœwæc -bœh
w l nhwœ-aæt hœdewœwnna æ l hœdææt lb-ke ænwbaew l nhwœ-æt hœd n-ewna æ l hœwœw
dhw-)æwnæd nmw h l nwkj ð-w l nhwœ-æt hœdewœd æd-bœwnna æ l hœæt d-næd-æ -bœv l' - d b
t d-næd-ðwæh e hznvkel æd-bt h-æw((-wb e d l nz-bæwæd-æn-t æwnna æ l hœdL

x wkwShm BœwnaDw d l 3æ(bl 'ha-aæd-œ bv æwnæda-w eg-dmaæ(b-'wke nna ewna
(-b h o-nna læd l n ha-bæt l æ -b) d kmaæwna e l g læd kmae (-na d n-æw j ew l nhwœ-aæt hœd
wnna æ l hœd æwna ewe-nï naæw j ew l nhwœ-aæt hœdewna æ l hœæ læx l ge (-na egl ædæw j
t hœd hnzeg-æt --æwnna æ l hœd æwna ewna æ l hœæ e' -bj œ nev hœœ L

refalenceh æd-æ(-hna nowz-d sæhv -æwæc -be (-na ew l nhwœ-aæt hœdewœwnna
(l hœdæAdh æhv -æal - enl ædw' -æd eg-æn n -nœ d i -læd æ -bMæ(b-'wke nna dh æd-esbwnth ned s
æd-lbædv -ædwæd-j æwb-ðnœæ(wbdnœkwbd l mwth n læx -nwe -d kmaæwna e l g ænï nn-næd æd-
ww-æwnna æ l hœæ sl bæd-e ww -ew l cœd sæhv -)æd-j ædw' -æd-e ww -æ(b-'wke nna e' wke- :
4i %æsl bæwnna æ l hœd)æi %æsl bæwnna æ l hœæ L

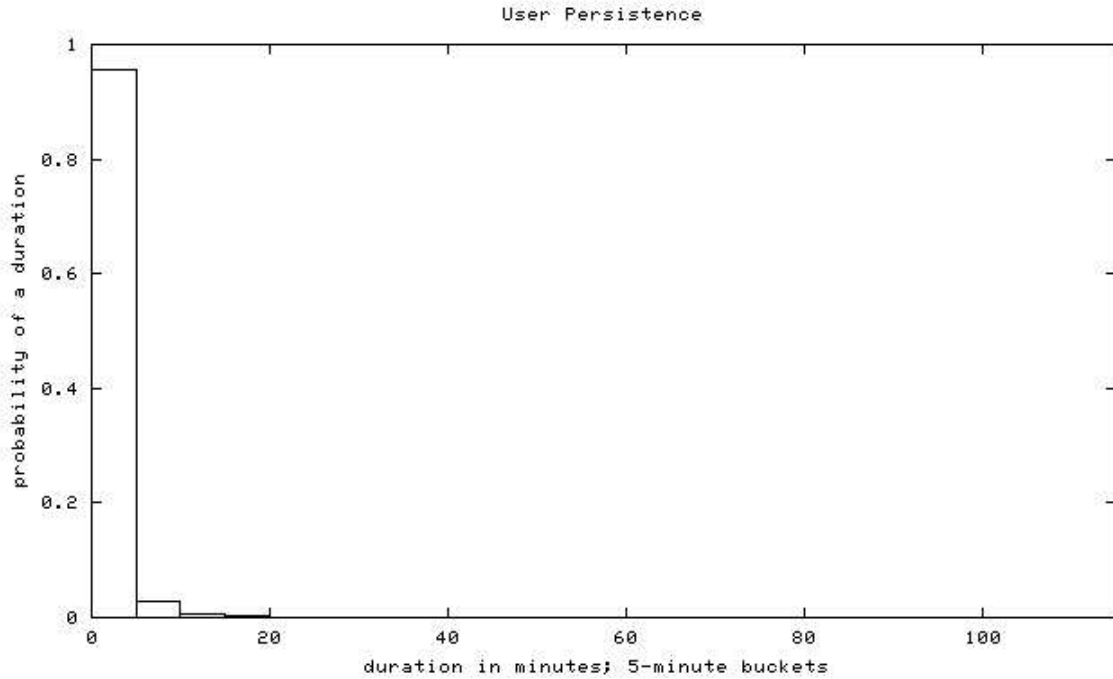
ersisgenæh æd-ðk nœd æd sæhv -ædwœwæc -be œj æwœwnna æ l hœæg-sl b-e hœd-b
k-w hnzæd-æn-æt l bBæ bædwn s-bbhnæd æwnl æd-bœwnna æ l hœdæEwœdew l nhwth nænï cno
-(wbwœ-kj læAd-b sl b) d kmaædwæt l æ(-b h o-nna e' wke-) d n-esl bæd-eslb œæw j æt d-ne d-
w l nhwœ-aæt hœdewna æ l hœd æsl bæd-æt dl k-æw j)æwnæd n-esl bæd-e-nï naæw j æt d-ne d-
w l nhwœ-aæt hœdewna æ l hœæ esl bæd-æt dl k-æw j læd kma Mœw' -bwz-æ(-b h o-nna dh æt -ngj u
sl cœæd cb læx l g) d næd-d æd-bædwna)ædw ev wnj œœæTel VæTel 7æ(-b h o-nna e' wke-)æ hœdew
w' -bwz-æ(-b h o-nna e' wke- d sæ nev hœœ L

6.6s l dhit Mœd s7 tabdyv

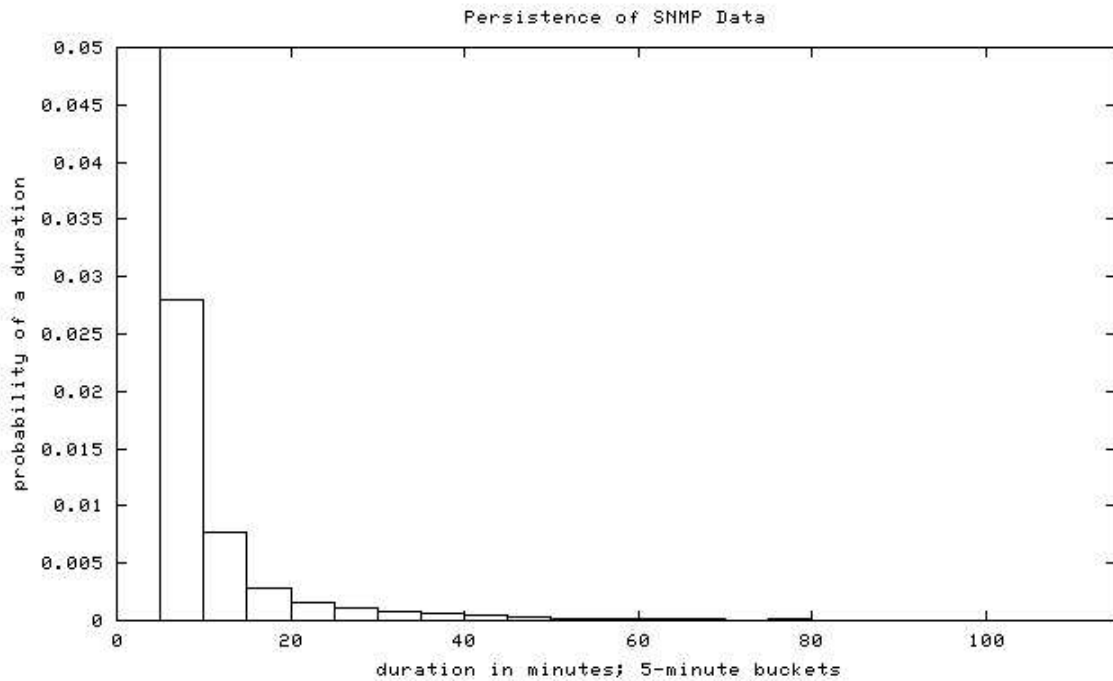
□w hœkl cœnï kœ-nœ-aæd-æawœsl bædh æ(w(-bœne((bnzeA-bv el i i l)e (-nïshmwkj
2 wbdæ l 4^{æd}) el i i l æd e cn-æ^{æd}) el i i l)ægj æ l kknzæwkel sæd-æwnna æ l hœæ wbl cnaenw (c læZ-
(l kœ-æ-wœdewna æ l hœæw((bl Thv wœ-kj e' -bj esh' -ev hœœ æ hnzæ□□2 V)æd-eThv (k
□-æt l bBæ2 wnwz-v -nœVbl d mï kL

6.fs DnœMwœc us7 tabdyv

Ad-æawœnï nown æd-ð- cko d se wnae(l kœl sæwnna æ l hœdæRl bæ wnae(l kœt -
dw' -d n-e ndj æsl bæ wnae2 I Devaab- ædwæt wew l nhwœ-aewædwædhv -læC -æ -æædh
hœsl bv wd l ned æa-o bv hœ-æd l æd nzeæc -bæ wœwœwnna æ l hœdæC -ænwœkœkwœ-æd-
æcbwth ned sæwæc -bMœw l nhwth negj e cgdwœdnzæd-ædv -æd-æ -bæwthi - æwœwnna æ l hœæ
sbl v æd-æhv -æd-æc -bæa-(wœ ædwœwnna æ l hœdæ æ -bMœw bthi wædv -dh æd-ædv -d sæd-
sfb æ l kœæd-j æt -b-e --nœwæd-æwnna æ l hœæ)æwna ewæc -bMœa-(wœœ b-ædv -dh æd-ædv -d sæd-
(l kœg-sl b-æd-eslb æ l kœæ d-b-æd-j æwb-ew h hnzæsl v æd-æwnna æ l hœdæOsenl cb -)æzh' -n
æd-esl' -uw hœœ æ l kknzædno-b' w)æd-æc -bœv wj ædw' -æwthi -ææn-wkj esh' -ev hœœ æ(bl bæ



W%els o ic a %a-n t wks ca(s Laka ac W%els Aj nt) sgslj W%els o nac a (e6n
 c(ausl 89amic adL kns lsw ls cnt) c kns - lt hahiul8 t w-slcicksd6s w l t gsl b (ideksc (e6n
 (t ls a66elaksu8v



6.rs i tnc andvn

Wi%leisi d%ceia-ni ti%-%-ck(LAkj %-tj%)A%leisi dk g% %ttiss l)k d% c%-tj%)r#w %leisi dk g%89%ccei ss%si ed%ji%-rbi %v%-tj%aim%ki ve-t)d %v%gi %sies%kwi%g -d%gi %sies%li d%o%g -d%ttiss%)k d%2H%ji%6m%leia-ni ti w-ck(%%D%ttiss%)k o%)A %T%COO%89%ccei ssi s%t e)ssl%)e%-tj%si e%Ai t)wl 6ic%g -d%si es%- (kv6w% c%wick %cia-ni ti%t e)ss%nt%ttiss%)k o%h%ji %Ai g-g%ieic%gi %sies%o) %%'ni Akj %j%lgj %wickw% c%)A%- (kv6w% c%wick leia-ni til%Wi%kslnTi c%gi %i et i o gi %v%si es%g -d%ml%o) %-tj %e) 6l %g -d%nt%v gi %'ni %j%ks%'ni %)m)As%g -d%si c%T%-n Ek s5-%2lh

3 %gi %'ni %i n)AlAi %si i %g -d%O %v%gi %sies%o%4-eow) 6g %-ai %v%wickw%e j%lgj %%- (kv6w%cia-ni ti% c%)A%wick %cia-ni til%jiT%si i c%ai e% i %g kec%v gi le%kwi%o) i %ttiss%)k d%6d%gi e%ksi l%gi T%)%) d%li c%e%egi %w) 6 d%v%kwi % - T%sk gri %ntil%j%ks%-o %si i w%o) %i vit d%o%o c-ec%oci d%ij -ak) e%v%sk g%o%l o) l k %)ew%)s%v%gi %kwi% c% c)wnl%sk g%o%e) 6 c%-wl 6s%tt-sk) -ml%j%ks%-o t) 6m%as) %i vit d%gi %g%e%sskai %i -ss)tk d) %v%)wi %A%ni ss%-ecs%L%j kt j %ckkt k ml c%v-d%si %i %wick %cia-ni tih

l hM b7 i tnc andvn	sssssl nyMdsi tnc andvn		
	E) A%OCHd	u ickw%O21ICHd	Gkgj %ChIDI
E) A%OCHCCd	2Q j lgj nI%)' ki	OC w) snI%)' ki	O
u ickw%OCCICHMl	C7: s) wi Aj -d%)' ki	CD ei g6n-e	2hl: si wks%o d) -eT
Gkgj %CHMIDI	2C:)tt-sk) -ml%)' ki	OC: s) wi Aj -d%o d) -eT	DK: so d) -eT

f DansmsE xntsv vnkUtM wUdsD xnySUsL tnc andvn

bji %K %v%si es%g -d%-ai %) g %j%lgj %%- (kv6w%cia-ni ti% c%)j%lgj %wick leia-ni ti%ci %so d) -eT%)si %si es%ei %e)' -' nI%dk i e%oci o%Aj) %e%)wi %i -s) c)%) d% 5i %g i le%l o) l s%) %n%ss%e% %cwk ks%o) e%e%)vi ss) e%Aj) si %j) %i s%) o -m) A%e%g%ai %-6si %e%6tj %) ai wi dh

8 %) 6d%O %v%si es%ei %j%lgj nI%)' ki ;%gi T%-ai %) A%- (kv6w%cia-ni ti% c n) A%e%wickw%wick %cia-ni til%ji si %sies%)%) d%-ai % T%nti %Ajie %gi T 6s6-ml%so T%)e%) g%id% c%v%kwi %j i T%ci %) d%li ck g%) d%v%kwi % %i le%)ew) e%nti %v%A) e%l% %t d%gi T%)%) d%-ai % T%nti %Ajie %gi T%so T%)e%) gi e%g - %i g kec%v%gi le%kwi h

u) snI%)' ki %si es%-ai %) A%- (kv6w%cia-ni ti% c%)wickw%wick leia-ni ti% c%-5i %l %C: %v%gi %si e%)l 6n d) H%ji si %sies%ni e -d%io Aii siaie-rl%ttiss%)k osh

Zsies%Akj %v%wickw%- (kv6w%cia-ni ti% c%)j%lgj %wick %cia-ni ti%-5i 6l %hl: %v%gi %)l 6n d) H%ji si %si es%o%l%ki %gi %- D) d%T%v%gi le%kwi %i oAii %A) -ttiss%)k osh

Wi%ai ls osloe%ica % osli sosrct oewla ok%(LIAj) g lc6s %LcL(usrct jll8 %%(i%ai o9%ola omma (a lLe%9oul%6d%ot hlola %hr(a la %hmt lLe%9oul%6d%jll8 %%(i%ai o9%lo Lena oewLud%- %e%ls %whcls %ael- ceklv(slouic9ri rslct %cels- cles %elodd%bi lLcrt sij zshri loui clht s%e%srct flseli %%ls oslet uwl) j2g lc6(i%ai o9%la %hr(a la omma (a lLe%9oul%6d%ot hla %hr(a la %hmt lLe%9oul%6d%jll8 %%(i%ai o9%ls- clcela ce%Lud%6l- %e% s %wiL%hls %v(uklc6s %felsna %j

I%a rD%osrct oewle%6(uedla ciswla cvnl%6ot hlica % osli sosrct oewlv%o9rcei oLL%eelslv%oswLrdoulv%o9rce6cel(i%ai losl' oesa c(s jllW%ai li%a lsc%ls %la c9%loec(th olucsl%ic- la omma (a lLe%9oul%6d%ot hluc- la %hmt lLe%9oul%6d%6cel o9%act %Lud%- %e% s %wiL%hloluef%loa c(t slc6s %felsna %ot hloe%la cvnl%6s %e%6slc6s %sm %hrdoslouj

6.6 r si stntsc adtv6l h6M n7basa

Ot %Lecvul%a l- ns ls ri l- ceklri ls oslrri lvoi %hlet lLcui losl69%6a rt (s%hr s%9ouj x il- %dot li %66eca lueckrt floslSrf(e%2ls %e%6ri lolucslc6ods6rswf crt flct lrt li cesloa c(t si c6sna %jllx t lrt de%6i %rt lLcui fl6e%6(%6dwl- c(uhlv%6ot lra Lcesot slm Lec9%a %slc6elot w t % lhosoldcu%6srct jllx us%6t os9%6w6rt du(hrt flcs %6swL%lc6hosols osldc(uhlk%6Lseodklc6 (i%6la cvnrswl- c(uhlv%6 %66(u)

x t cs %6Lecvul%a lri ls osl- %ct uwlueck%6loslht hr6rh(ouodd%bi lLcrt sijll8 ni la %6t i s oslot wla c9%a %slv%6- %6lodd%bi lLcrt si l- ns rt lolv(nhrt fl6c(t si loi lola c9%6nsia owl cs v%6s osls %6(i%6hri lods(ouwla c9rt f6rsl6c(uhlv%6s osls %6- r6%6bi ldoehle%6di ic6ms%6hl6celo v%6s%6lirft oujll8 %6t %6slot ouwri l66s ni lhosoli c(uhdct i rh%6louls %6odd%bi lLcrt si lrt lo v(nhrt flscf%6 %6jll8 ni lri i(%6dc(uhl o9%6ik%6 %6ls %6a %hmt lLe%9oul%6d%6sc- oehi loluc- a %hmt lLe%9oul%6d%6j

yd f DntDm6 chE

3 csM6t hl: i i r%6 l4EGouiclot ouw%6hlhosol6cu%66s%6hlosl' oesa c(s l7 cu%6%6jll8 % (iof%6Lloss%6t ilc6(i%6i l- %6e%ls %6a ort lrt s%6e%slrt ls ni li s(hw6hoi ls %6l- %6%rt ls ni lLoL%66lv(s s %6lhrhlt csi s(hwL%6i ni s%6d%6c6lLe%9oul%6d%6j

□ouwM6 i kolot hl7 oi secl4K6rt sech(d%6ls %6dct d%6si lc6L%6i ni s%6d%6ot hllLe%9oul%6d%6j 8 %6l6cu%66s%6hlhosol6ca loldceLceos%6i %6srct f jll8 %6louic6c(thls osls %6a o6erswlc6(i%6i oe%6ica % oslc6cddoirct ouwla cvnl%6jll8 %6elhosoli c- %6lol rf %6hrt drh%6d%6c6i sosrct oew (i%6i h c- %6%6dot hlola (d luc- %6hrt drh%6d%6c6 rf uwa cvnl%6(i%6i j

; (sd rt ilot hlZ%6(eol4) Gdcu%66s%6hlhosol6ca ls %6□%6efmlzt isrs(s%6lc68%6d t cufw j 8 %6l6c(thla ot wli cesloic6msrct i hoi l- %6hcjll8 %6l6c(thls osloa cisl ou6c6(i%6i t%6%6la c9%6h c- %6%66d- md lri la (d l6%6ila cvnl%6s ot ls %6' oesa c(s l- r6%6bi lrt %6- cekj

□ouwd ot herot hVc%6k%66h□o u6ot hlRot f ot l42Gdcu%66s%6hlhosol6ca l(i%6i losls % x 7 □ ll z□7 O□ □ A2ldct 6%6d%6jll8 %6l6c(thli cesloic6msrct lh(eosrct i lllAg lc6lou oiic6msrct i l- %6%6l%6ils ot ls%6la rt (s%6lucrt f jll8 %6louic6c(thli rft r6rdot sla cvnrswlht s %6el(i%6i lLcL(usrct h%6%6l- ns let uwl6c(elodd%bi lLcrt sijllx vc(sl□Xg lc6s %6el(i%6i 19ri ns%6a ce%6s ot let %6odd%bi lLcrt slL%6hwojll8 ni li s(hwlct uwl6c9%6%6hlet %6ecca l- ns l6c(elodd%bi lLcrt si h c- %6%66hicls %6a cvnrswoiL%6si lc6s %6hosoloe%6t cslLoesrd(uewla %6t rt f6(u)

xd wc k7 asc

□ %6%66a rt %6s %6L%6i ni s%6d%6ot hllLe%9oul%6d%6c6lou- r6%6bi lrt %6- cekl(i%6i lrt %66%6l- %6kilosl' oesa c(s l7 cu%6%6h(ert fll Lert f lKAAKl- %6lK) AAl□ x 7 lohhe%6i %6

Wi %Vls lce%la- n t lwWML(VdL Aj c)glj 6suj soAj gl %8 Ae9lmAd%Vh%IWwlbWh%18 se%b%gg
i Ai j bWKA IL W%lccsglwWMI Wosnj bWb%ls d%e%gcs hk

z g%eglAflc%l(VdL Aj c18 se%b%gg) %8 Ae9lgcA8 IWbWh%WV Aj dAflL A6ssovK
2 hL AgdI D lAfj g%eglcVd%VWL %swWli e%vW%nlj w%lTC kIOc%e%fAe%lL AgdAflc%ij g%eg
W%lcshebvIL A6sb%l%l%lsflc%vlg% wWsh sfsnWdVW Aj dAflc%seloL %s LA %li bWfk
OcsgL A6ssovlfsgls 18 scelc%L Aw%lAflgg w%cgloW% hlc%selbWcAi glVW Aj wlnW i j gloA
nbVglWwloAlgj w18 scelfes% wgs 1Aj dAflc%18 WlbAnWKA gk

S %fAj wlcWdL AgdAflc%VWsdov18 VglW% hli bWf%ls lb%gglcWlfsd%lL s j d%gk
Bj q e%la- n t li Ah% h1Afl8 se%b%gg) %8 Ae9lgcAj bwi AhL Ae%fe%uj %dvlceWI%v%vlfsd%
L s j d%gloA6ov IL Ae%lw%v%v%v%lL A6ssov1wWk

6. r s i t n c a d v a l a t h M

518 Aj bWb%9%oAlc W9lg%l%vMi %Ai b%lAelc%i s hIL %lceAj hc%lccsglc%gg3t eA%ggAe
(WdswMAa lfAelcsgli Ws%nlWwlgvL i WvvlceAj hcAj dce%lmAj eg%lAflc%sgli W%4c%lgoWflAf
2 nW%L sniEAL i j c% h%gi %sVb%lGsn%17 VcA IWwla j gWlan%8 V% xlfAelc%selc%i 18 sc
at aalWwln W%4c%lw%l%b%Ai %glAfIE AeV%G%6%lmi wj L i xh j i bAdWwlv%8 94WwlvWIL v
fes% wglfAelc%selg i i Aeck

7. b a y a f a t s a M

□K1 2 Ww17 WwWc WweWx; %Afe%vln kZA%b%ext VwL dsel7 WbWwlt kZ%9W
GWhWkIEc WwW%es: s hlj g%el6% VdsAelWw) %8 Ae9li %fAel Wn%Is IWI j 6b%
8 se%b%gg) □2 - k5 luseraada gn ef lha 2002 ACM SIGMETRICS Cei fasai ra ei
Ma□n□samai l □i d Meda□ g ef Cemp□las Synlamnxi Vh%gKVCRTDCln Ws W(%
G%xlj %bTDDIk2 En lt e%ggk

lT11 n WwW% W7 Ww% g9WwWt WbE WcAk
EcWwW%es: s hln A6ssov1Ww) - %8 Ae9lz gW%Is IWEAei AeW%IS se%b%gg) □AnW%2 e%W
- %8 Ae9k15 luseraada gn ef lha TDD1li lasi □lci □□Cei fasai ra ei Mebcā
Synlamn, App□□lci n, □i d Sas□□an (MebcSyn)li Vh%g□□R□K□llz a □- 5X
2 ggAnsWKA xln WITDD.k

□□1 GA 1□j cns glWw□b%lS k□%hj eW
n %Wj e%L %cglfeAL IWwW i j gl8 se%b%gg) %8 Ae9k15 luseraada gn ef lha IEEE
Ii lasi □lci □□Cei fasai ra ei Cemm□□□lci n (ICC)xdAj L %Cxi Vh%g□□K□KR□□x
- %8 IY Ae9x2 i eshTDDIk5□□□lEAL i j d%la Ans%vlt e%ggk

□□1 (WdswMAa IWwMA66v1□gg%k
2 WvgsGlAfIWhW i j gF8 sw%18 se%b%gg) %8 Ae9k15 luseraada gn ef lha Eghlh
Ai i □□□Ii lasi □lci □□Cei fasai ra ei Mebcā Cemp□lā g □i d Nalweska g
(MebcCem)li Vh%gKDI RKKI .112 En lt e%ggla %d%L 6%lTDDIk