(Ab)Using Route Servers

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Agenda

- Why Route Servers?
- What do Route Servers do?
- Current implementations and Route Server Working Group
- Functionality and scalability testing

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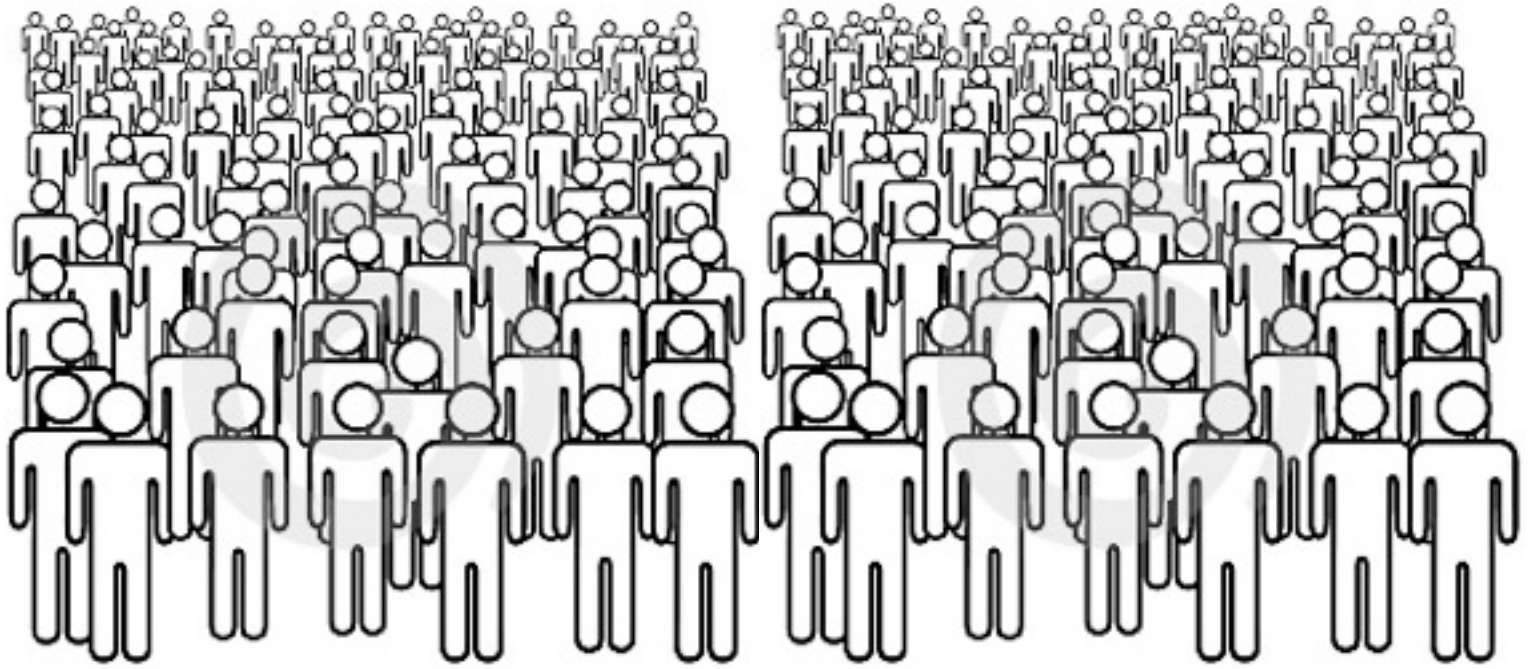
Why Route Servers?

- Internet Exchange (e.g. AMS-IX, DE-CIX, LINX)
- Peering Platform for many Parties
- Route Servers for the Participants

Why Route Servers?

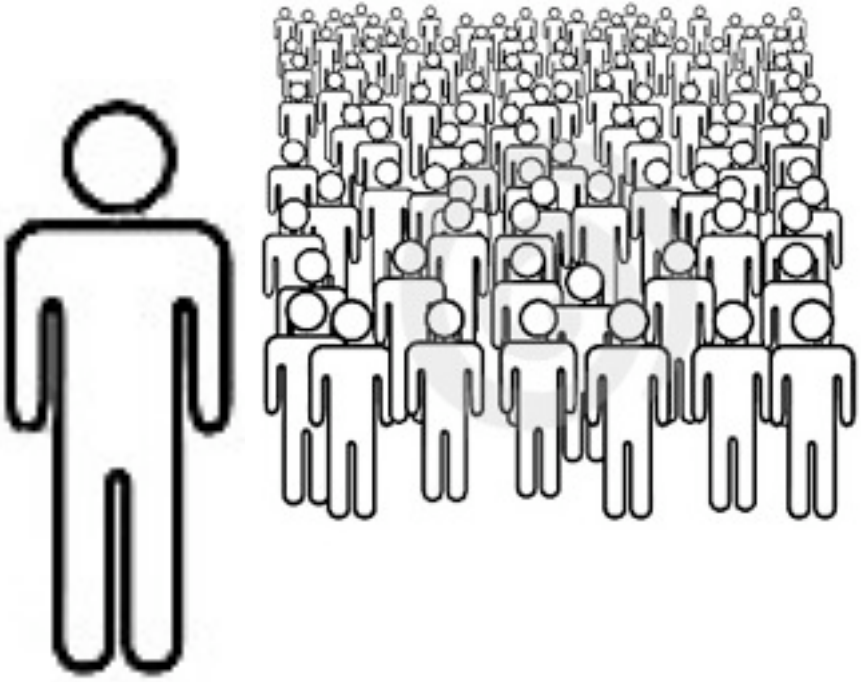
- Peer with as many parties as possible

➡ Maintaining lots of BGP Sessions



Why Route Servers?

- Reach a lot of Parties with just one BGP session



Why Route Servers?

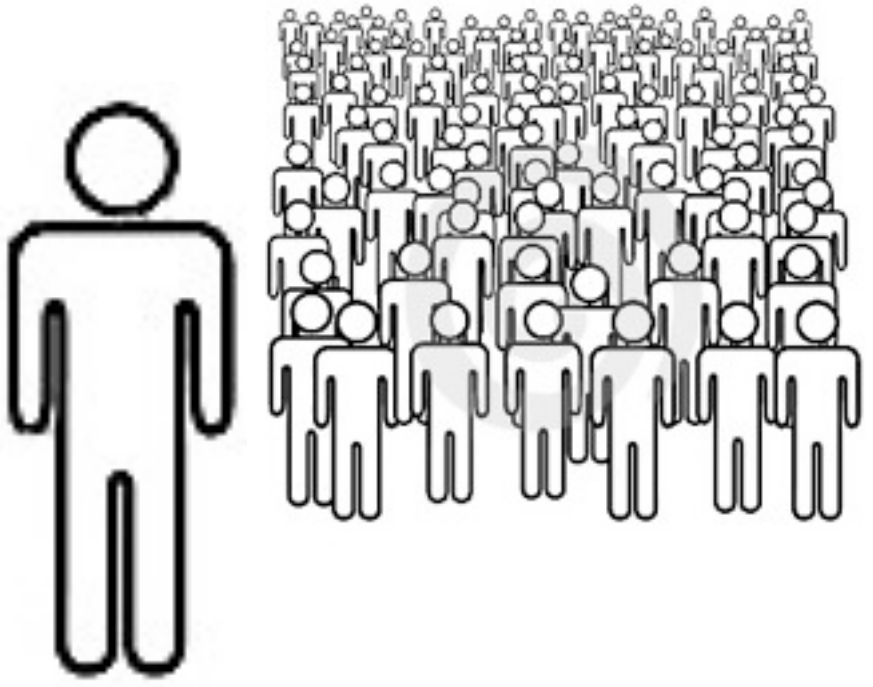
- Redundancy ... in case your sessions die ...

Why Route Servers?

- Redundancy ... in case the Route Server dies ...

Why Route Servers?

- Easy entry point for new Members to the Exchange - immediate traffic



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What do route servers do?

- Receive UPDATEs from every participant

```
19:58:33.721679 IP (tos 0x0, ttl 64, id 44576, offset 0, flags [DF], proto TCP (6), length 117)
10.23.0.5.58880 > 10.23.0.1.179: P, cksum 0xb892 (correct), 48:113(65) ack 61 win 1460
<nop,nop,timestamp 1976783474 3177206804>: BGP, length: 65
        Update Message (2), length: 65
...
          AS Path (2), length: 10, Flags [T]: 65499 11 12 13
...
          Next Hop (3), length: 4, Flags [T]: 10.23.0.5
...
          Updated routes:
            2.0.5.0/24
19:58:33.723897 IP (tos 0x0, ttl 64, id 42762, offset 0, flags [DF], proto TCP (6), length 117)
10.23.0.4.33349 > 10.23.0.1.179: P, cksum 0xb033 (correct), 48:113(65) ack 61 win 1460
<nop,nop,timestamp 1976783474 1916183085>: BGP, length: 65
        Update Message (2), length: 65
...
          AS Path (2), length: 10, Flags [T]: 65500 11 12 13
...
          Next Hop (3), length: 4, Flags [T]: 10.23.0.4
...
          Updated routes:
            2.0.4.0/24
```

What do route servers do?

- Apply filters for the receiving peers

```
from AS65500 accept ANY
to AS65500 announce AS65499

from AS65499 accept ANY
to AS65499 announce AS65500
```

What do route servers do?

- Perform “best path” selection for every peer
- Store Routing Information Base (RIB) for every peer

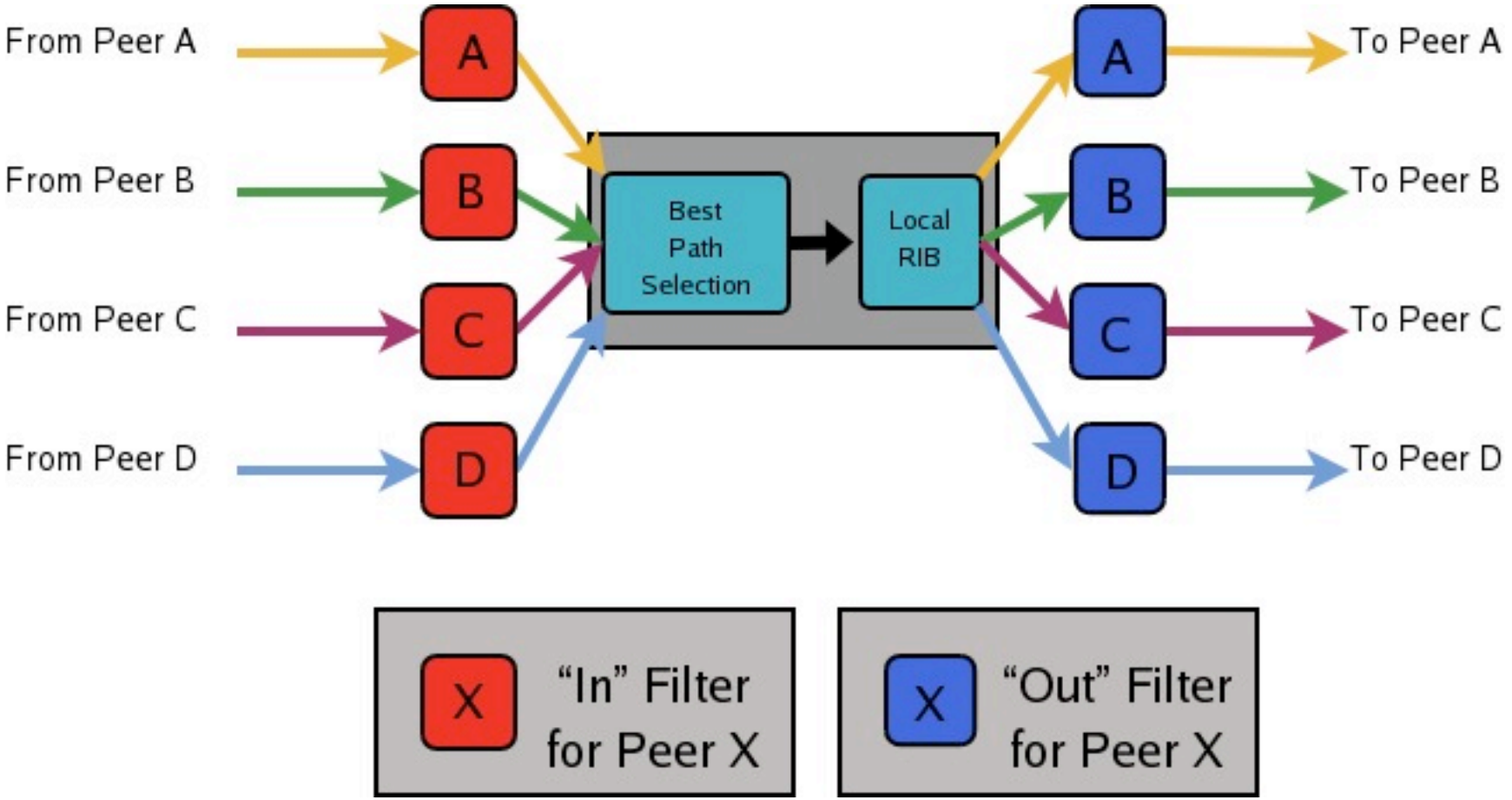
```
  flags destination          gateway          lpref   med aspath origin
*>    2.0.4.0/24           10.23.0.4           100   200 65500 11 12 13 i
*>    2.0.5.0/24           10.23.0.5           100   200 65499 11 12 13 i
```

What do route servers do?

- Forward the RIB contents to the desired peer

```
19:58:33.901718 IP (tos 0xc0, ttl 1, id 15745, offset 0, flags [DF], proto TCP (6), length 103)
10.23.0.1.179 > 10.23.0.4.33349: P, cksum 0x2b21 (correct), 61:112(51) ack 114 win 17376
<nop,nop,timestamp 1916183105 1976783474>: BGP, length: 51
        Update Message (2), length: 51
...
          AS Path (2), length: 10, Flags [T]: 65499 11 12 13
...
          Next Hop (3), length: 4, Flags [T]: 10.23.0.5
...
          Updated routes:
            2.0.5.0/24
19:58:33.903463 IP (tos 0xc0, ttl 1, id 12268, offset 0, flags [DF], proto TCP (6), length 103)
10.23.0.1.179 > 10.23.0.5.58880: P, cksum 0x377e (correct), 61:112(51) ack 114 win 17376
<nop,nop,timestamp 3177206824 1976783474>: BGP, length: 51
        Update Message (2), length: 51
...
          AS Path (2), length: 10, Flags [T]: 65500 11 12 13
...
          Next Hop (3), length: 4, Flags [T]: 10.23.0.4
...
          Updated routes:
            2.0.4.0/24
```

What do route servers do?



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Current Implementations

- Quagga
- OpenBGPD
- BIRD

Route Server Working Group

- Andy Davidson - LONAP
- Chris Malayter - Switch & Data
- Elisa Jasinska - AMS-IX
- Mo Shivji - LINX
- Robert Wozny - PL-IX
- Sebastian Spies - DE-CIX
- Wolfgang Hennerbichler - VIX

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Functional Testing

AS4 / 32 Bit ASN

- All three implementations support AS4
- All three versions tested as of 12/4/2009 to properly implement AS4

IPv6

- All three implementations support IPv6
- We highly recommend running a current version of any of three implementations
- MANY bugs fixed between 10/1/2009-1/1/2010
- Running a port of a route server is ill-advised and can leave a bad taste in your mouth!

Scalability

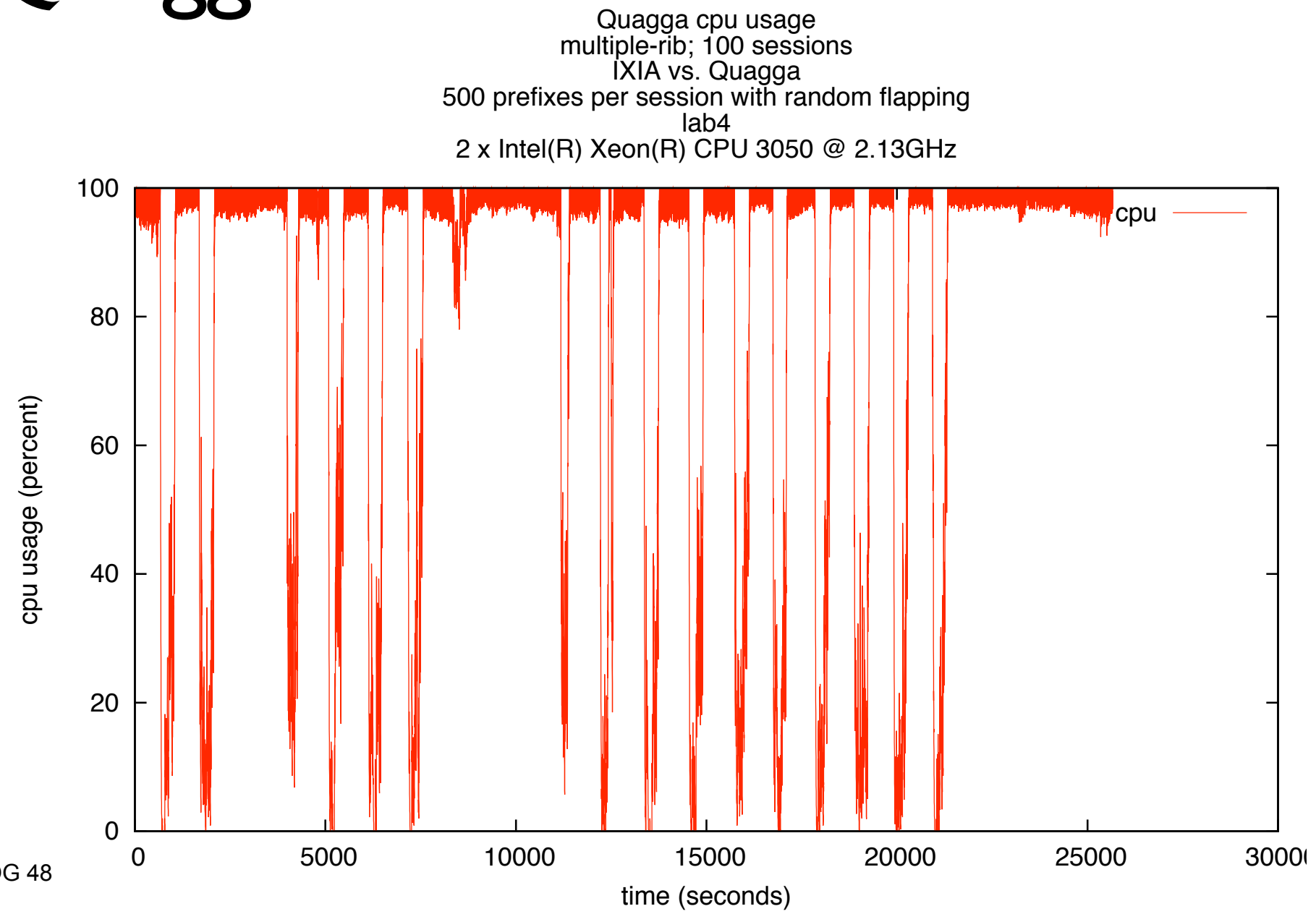
Testing

- 100 sessions, set up from IXIA
- 500 or 1000 prefixes per session
- Additional random flapping

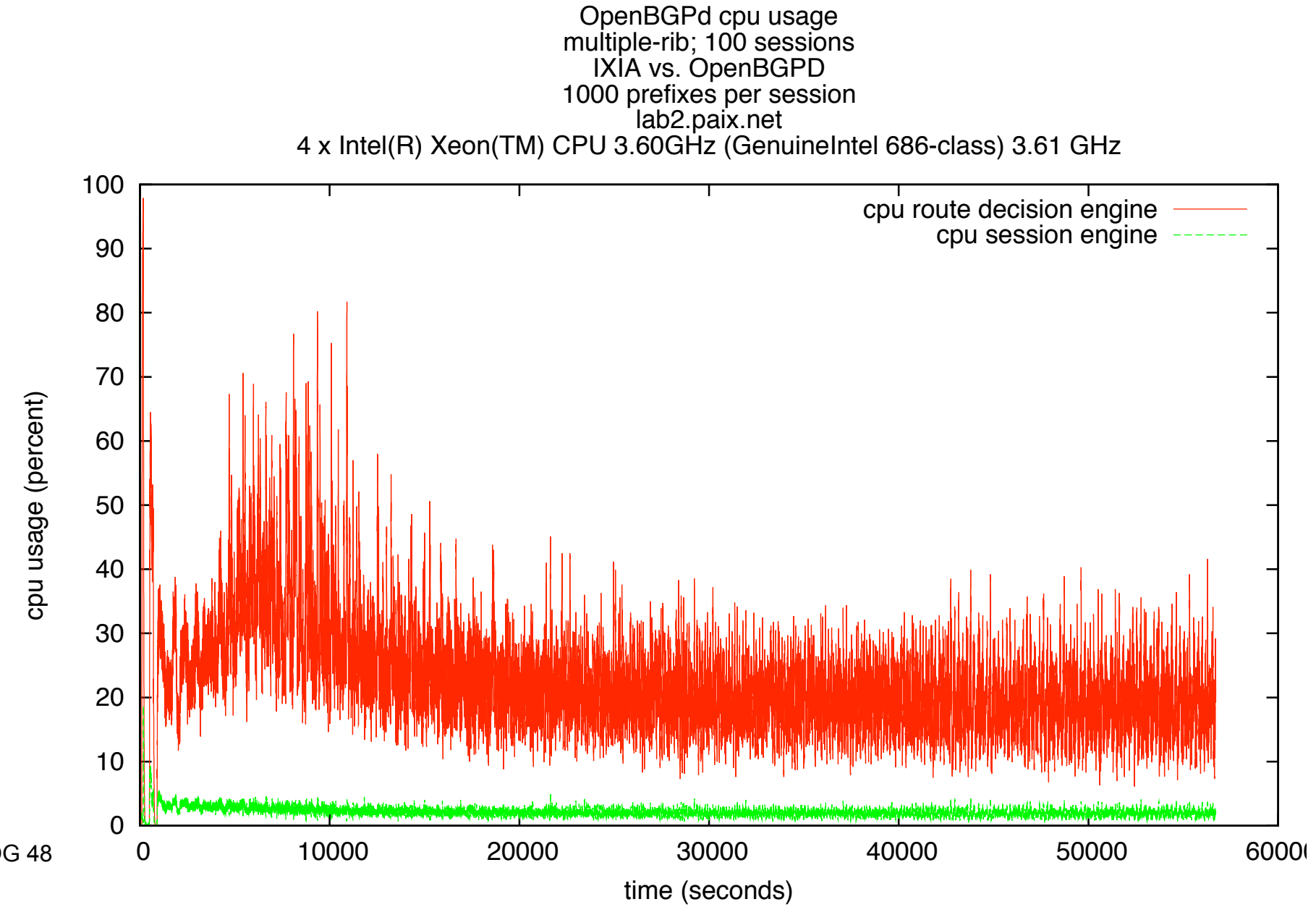
Quagga

- Single threaded implementation
- Issues with performing its tasks on time
- CPU thrashing during periods of instability
- Bug causing crash during flapping

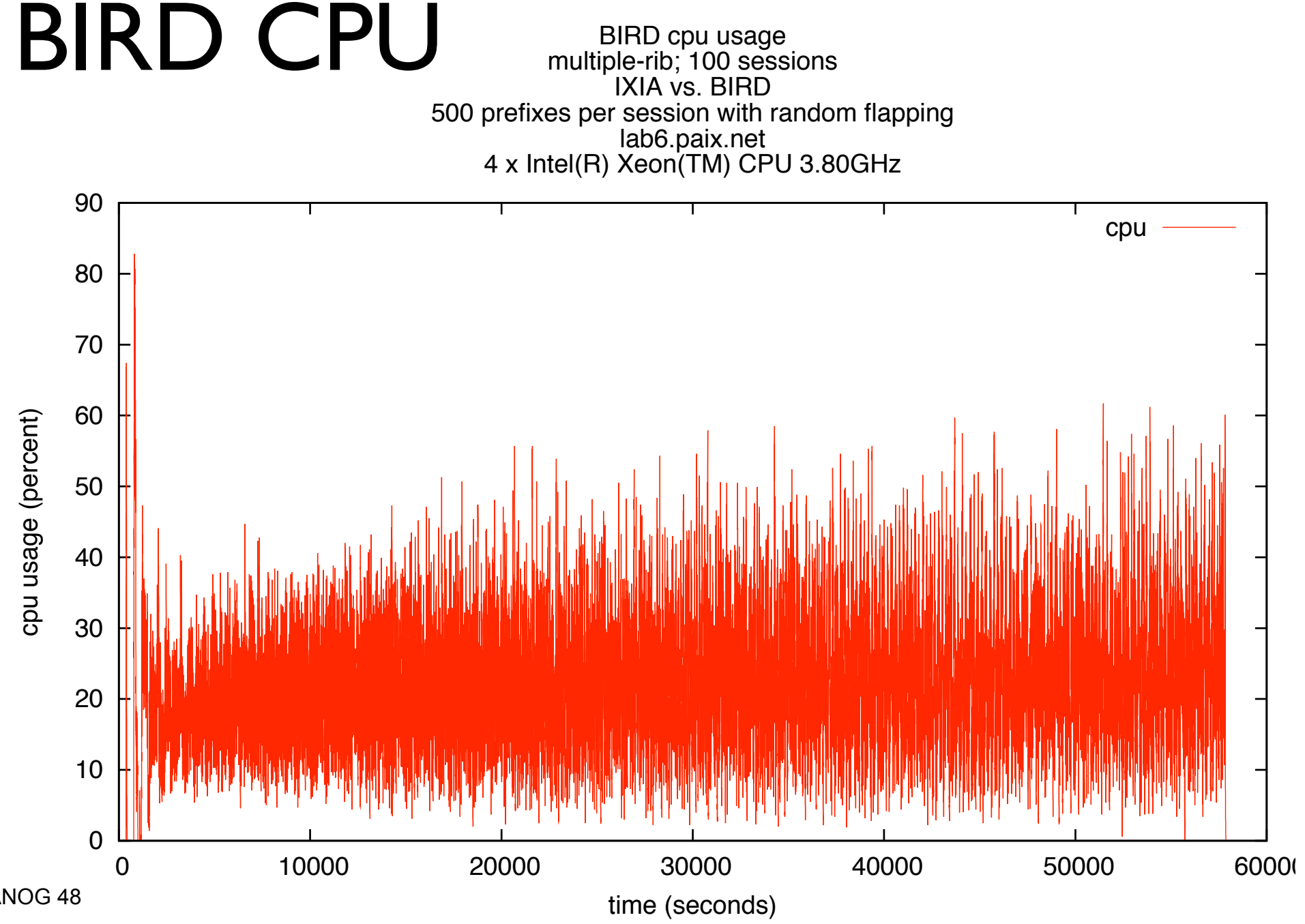
Quagga CPU


Quagga cpu usage
multiple-rib; 100 sessions
IXIA vs. Quagga
500 prefixes per session with random flapping
lab4
2 x Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU 3050 @ 2.13GHz
cpu usage (percent)
time (seconds)
cpu
0
20
40
60
80
100
0
5000
10000
15000
20000
25000
3000

OpenBGPD CPU



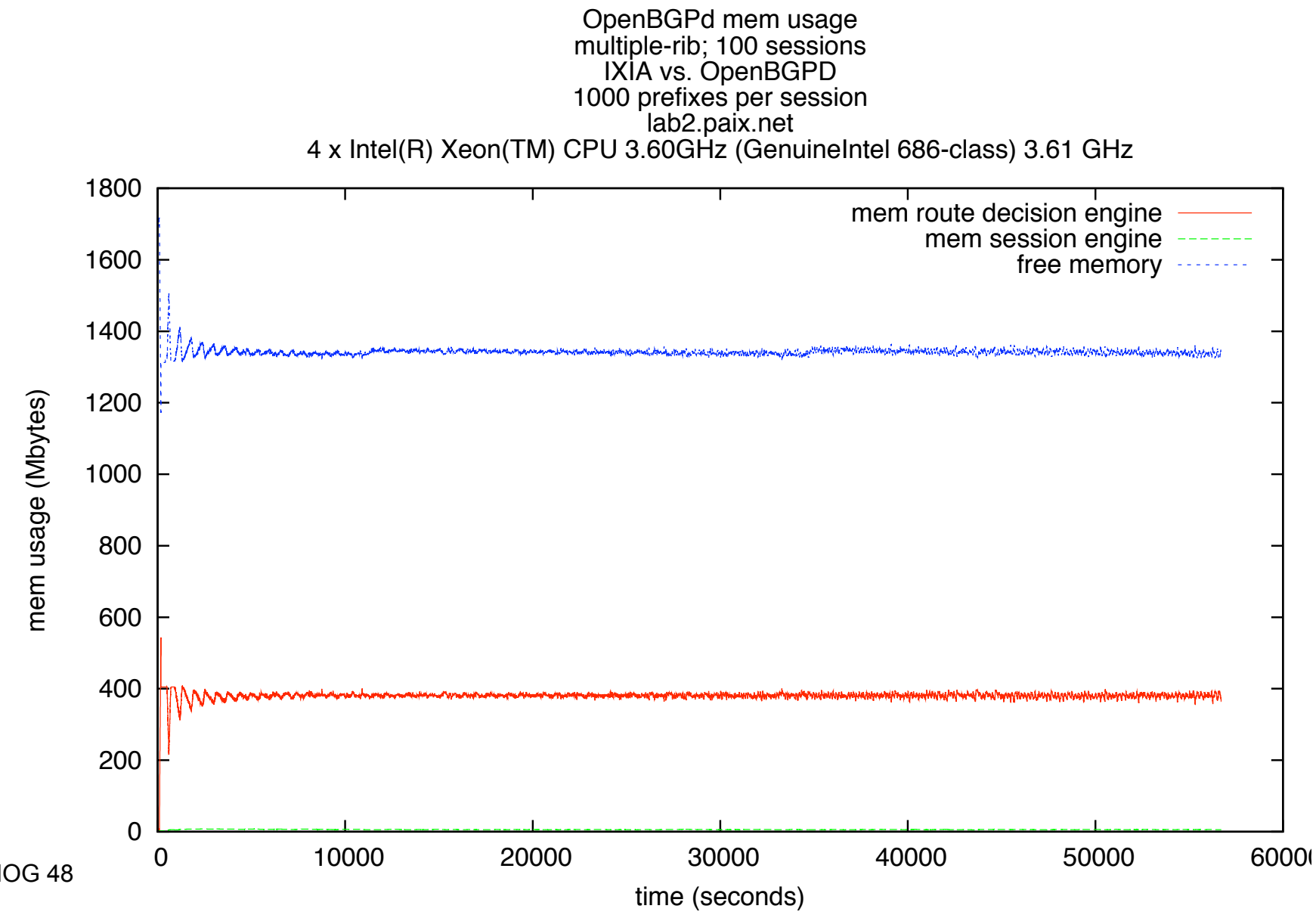
BIRD CPU


BIRD cpu usage
multiple-rib; 100 sessions
IXIA vs. BIRD
500 prefixes per session with random flapping
lab6.paix.net
4 x Intel(R) Xeon(TM) CPU 3.80GHz
cpu
cpu usage (percent)
time (seconds)
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
0
10000
20000
30000
40000
50000
60000

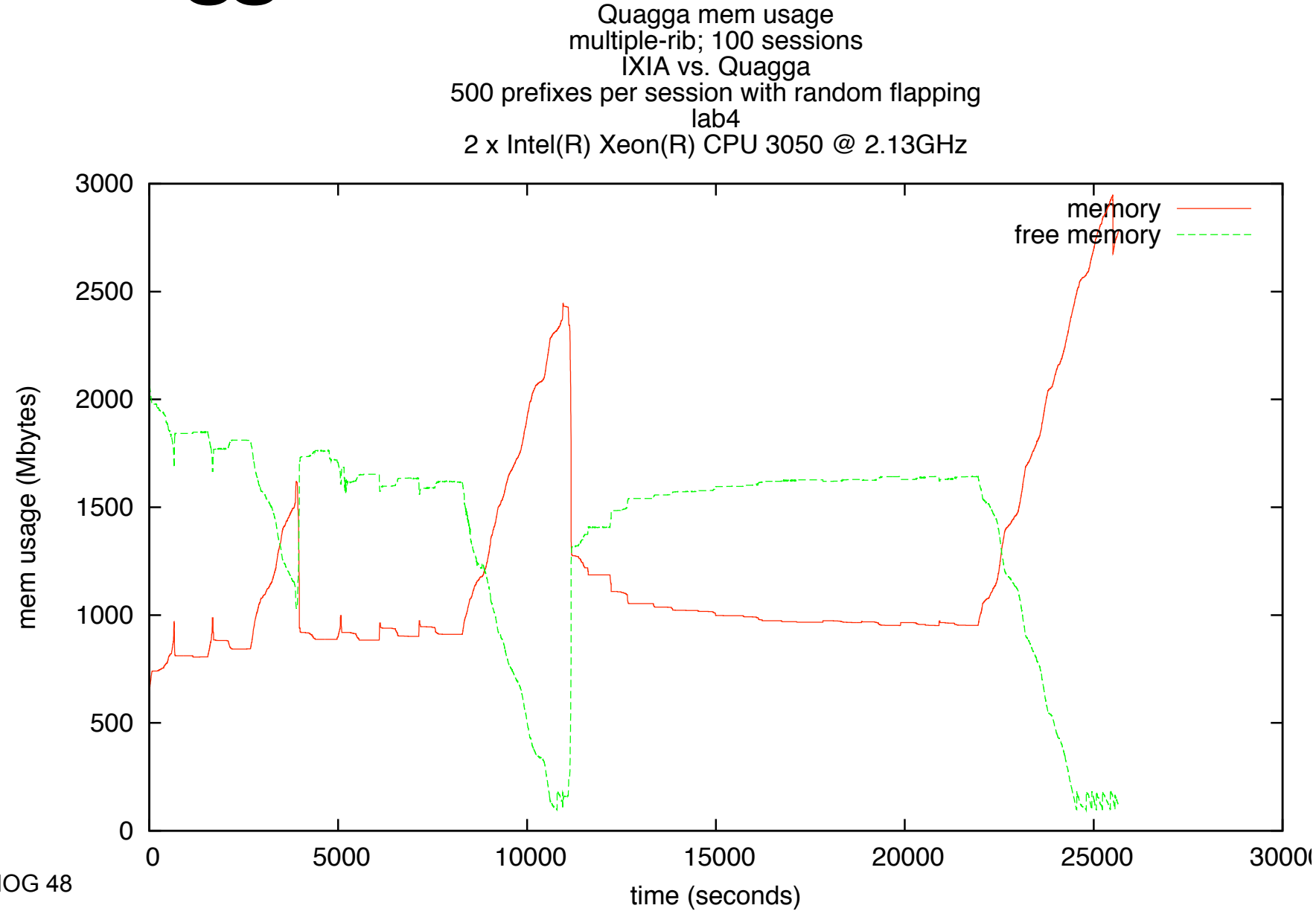
OpenBGPD

- Multi-threaded implementation
- Session thread keeps sessions active while instability is occurring
- 1GB memory limitation per process on i386 and a 4 GB memory limitation on amd64

OpenBGPD Mem



Quagga Mem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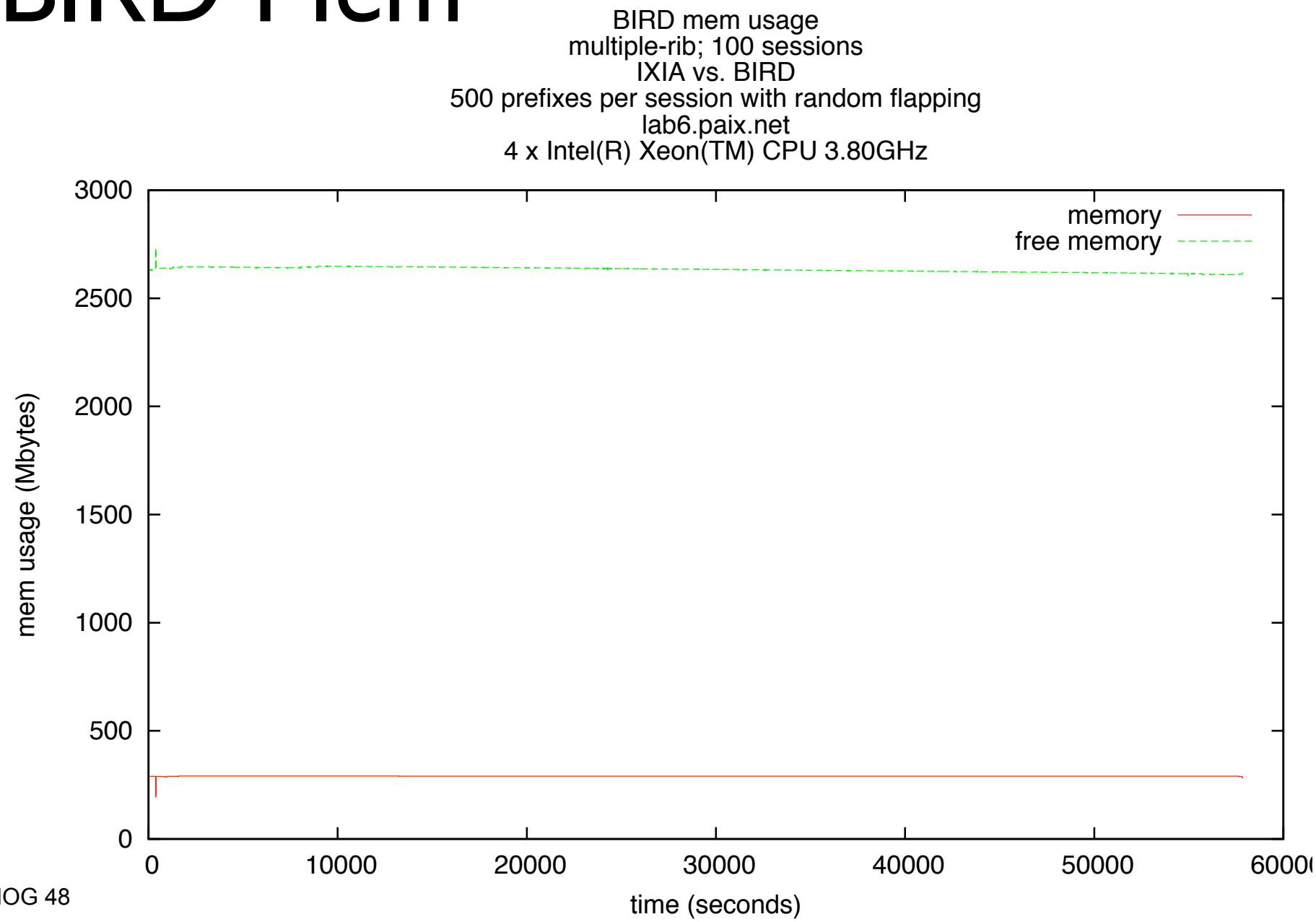
500 prefixes per session with random flapping
lab4
2 x Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU 3050 @ 2.13GHz
memory
free memory
mem usage (Mbytes)
time (seconds)
0
500
1000
1500
2000
2500
3000
0
5000
10000
15000
20000
25000

BIRD

- Single threaded implementation
- Amazing scheduling system
- The most stable route server we tested
- Discovered odd memory freeing issues in Linux glibc

BIRD Mem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memory
free memory
mem usage (Mbytes)
time (seconds)
0
500
1000
1500
2000
2500
3000
0
10000
20000
30000
40000
50000
60000

Thank you!

Questions?

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<cmalayter@switchanddata.com>