

# Raspberry Pi as Black Box

Raspberry Pi “Black Box”  
Download Test and Logging Tool

Ian E. Gorman

Ottawa Canada Linux Users Group  
July 7, 2016

# National Capital Freenet

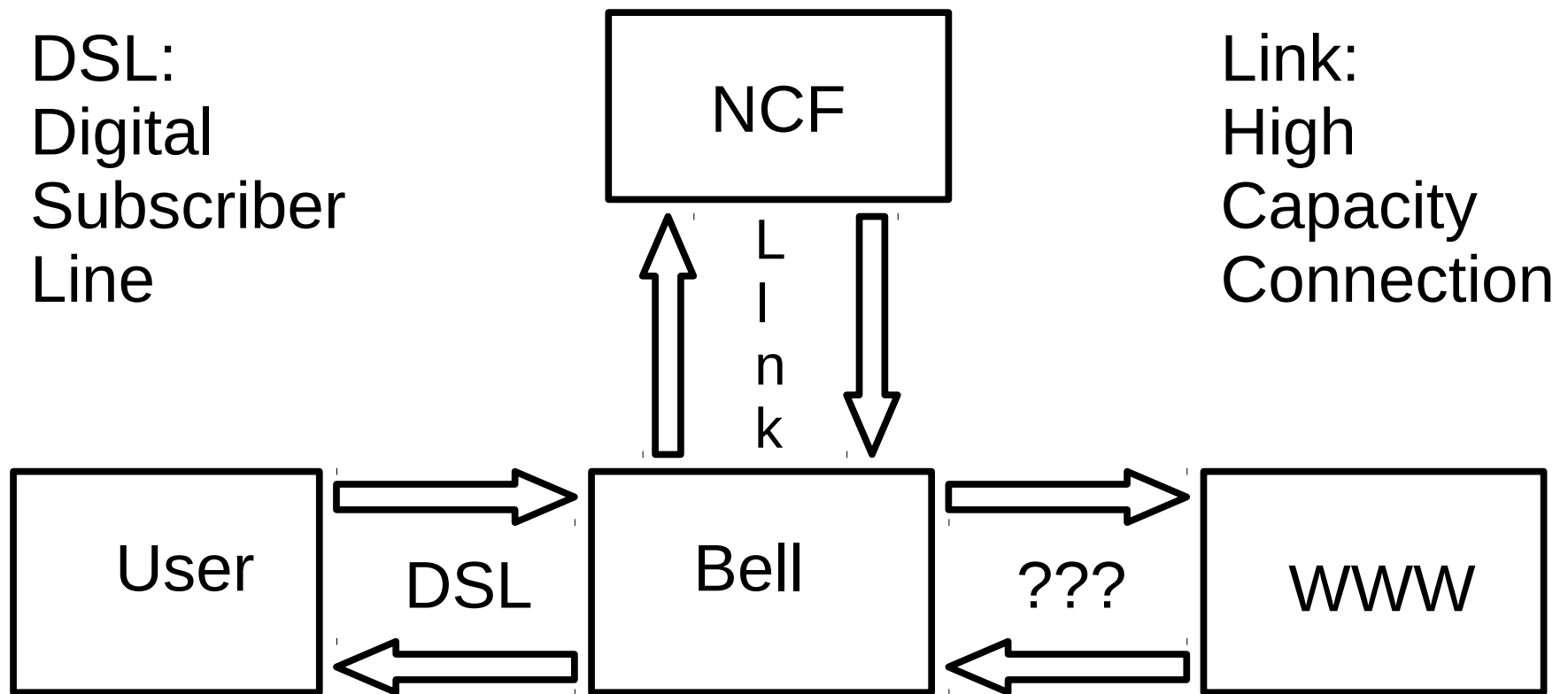
- NCF, in Ottawa Ontario, is a local Internet Service Provider
- NCF is a Bell reseller for DSL service
- Bell provides NCF with test data and technical support to diagnose and eliminate problems that may originate in Bell equipment or services
- Bell support does not extend to problems originating from NCF or from NCF users

# Problem

- Some NCF users report download speeds much below expectations
- Test data may indicate that, notwithstanding low speeds, a user has a good and properly functioning DSL connection
- Speeds experienced by the user are influenced by factors other than the quality of the DSL connection
- Many users do not have the expertise to assist NCF in testing

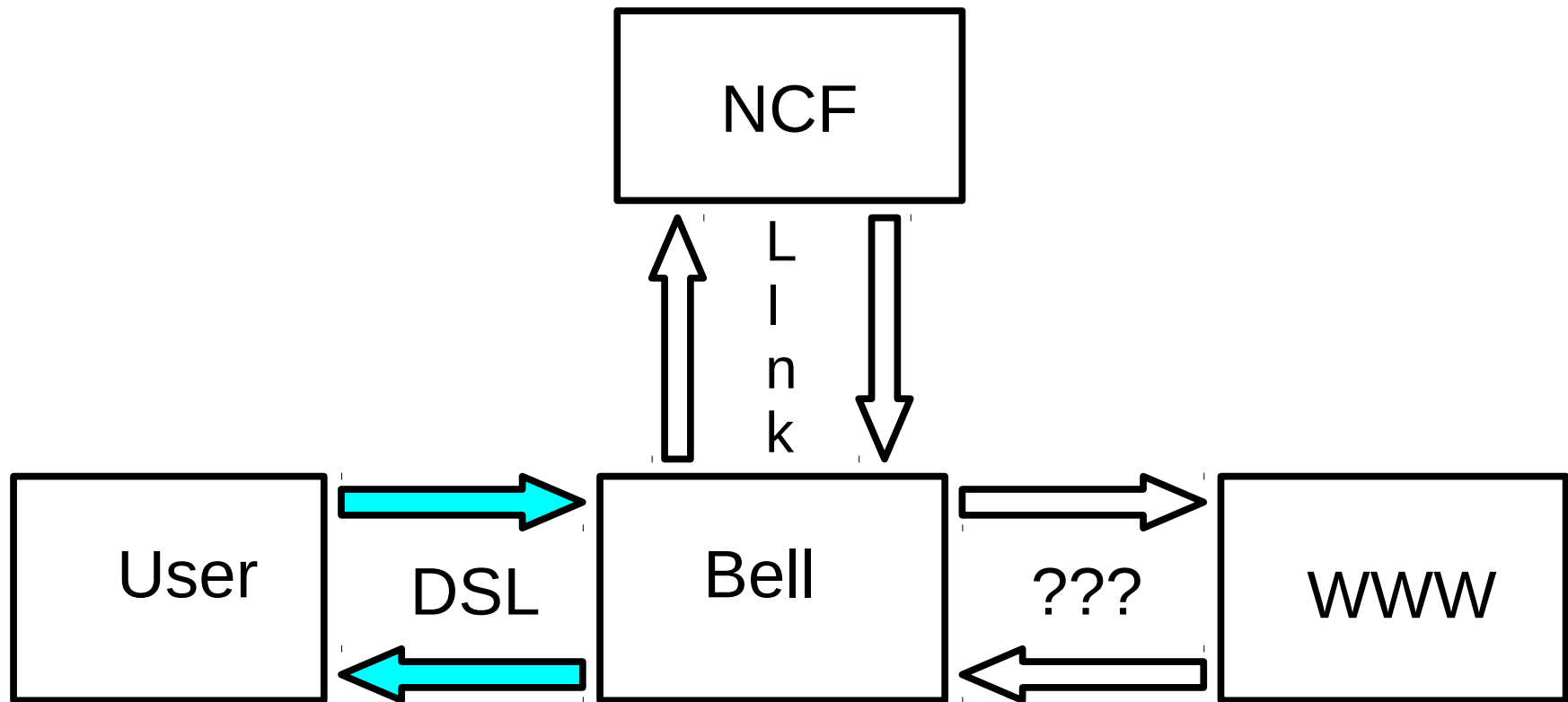
# NCF Connection to WWW

Bell provides communications infrastructure, used by NCF to provide Internet services to end user.



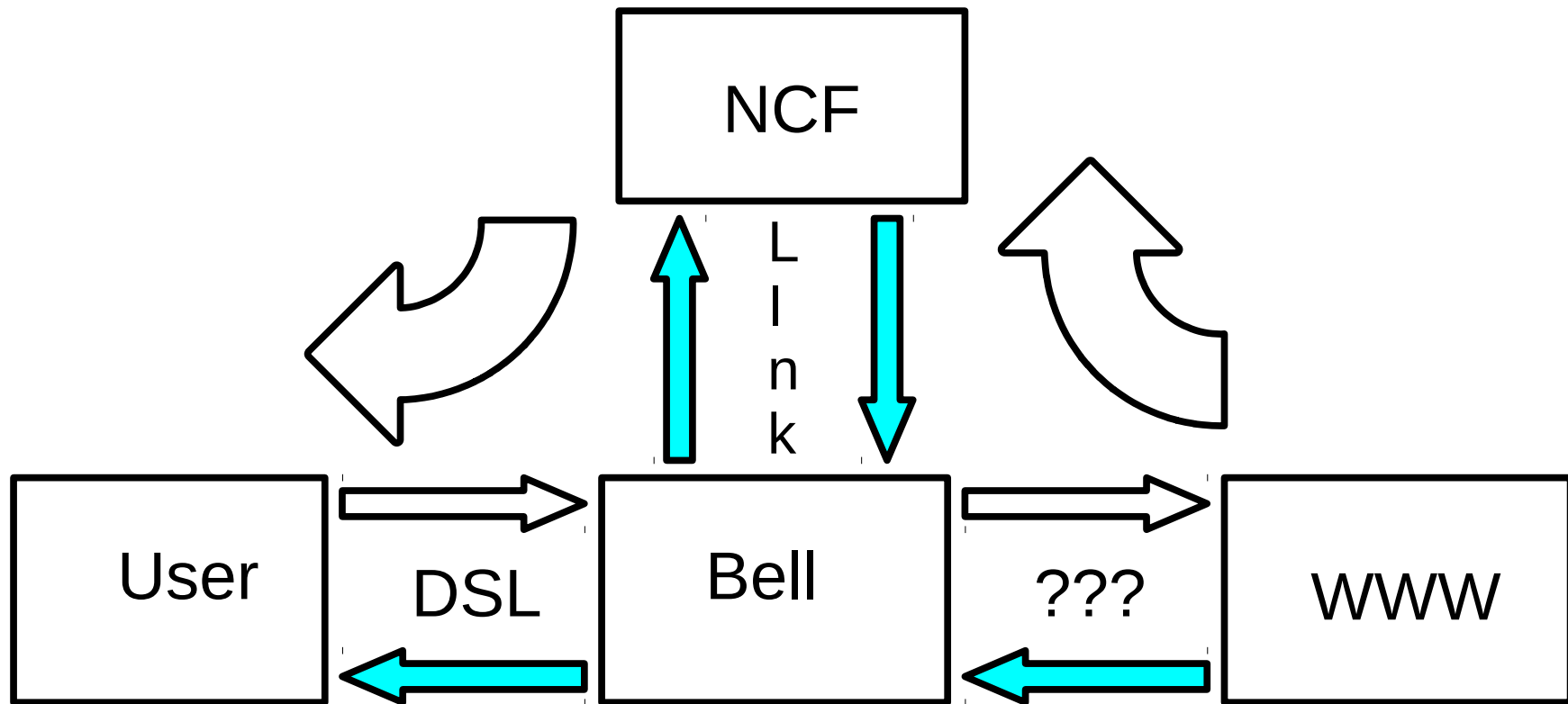
# Scope of Bell DSL Test Data

Bell provides NCF with some very useful diagnostic data for the DSL part of the communication path.



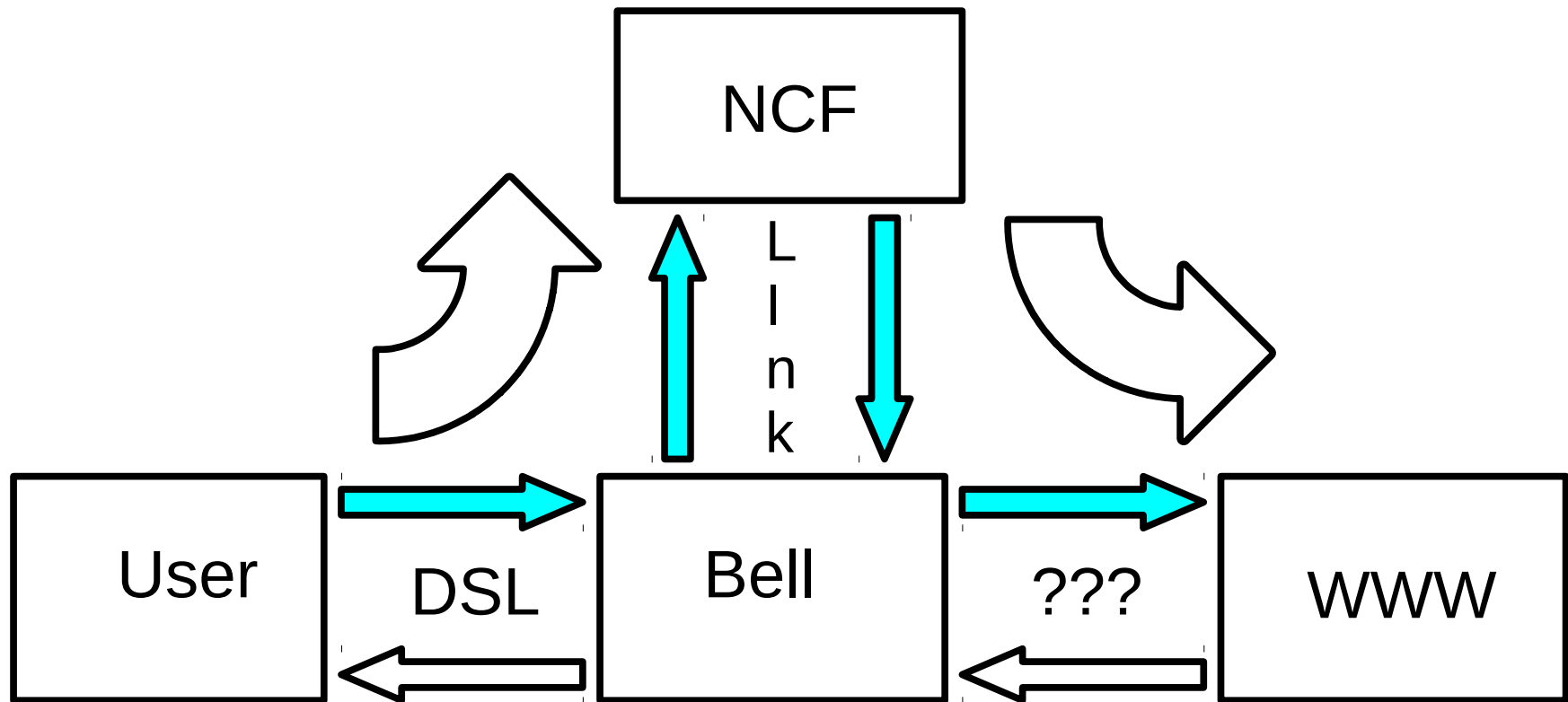
# User Download from WWW

Download comes to Bell, goes to NCF (and NCF user account), back to Bell and then to the user.



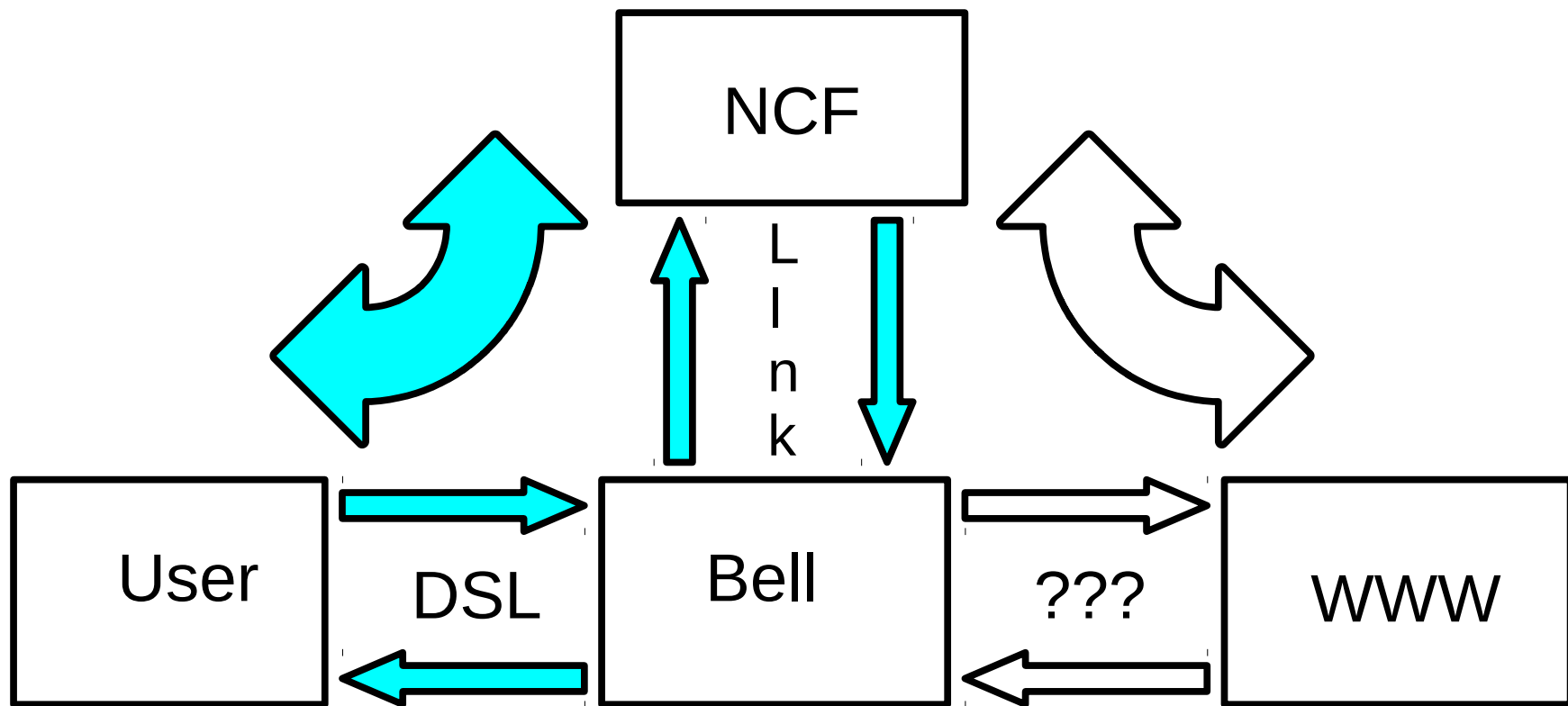
# User Upload to WWW

Upload goes to Bell, then to NCF (and NCF user account), back to Bell and then to the WWW.



# DNS and Protocol

Unidirectional transfers of large amounts of data typically require small transfers the other way.





# A Black Box Solution

- Lend a black box to the user
  - User plugs it in
  - Black box runs tests, perhaps for several days
  - User unplugs and returns black box
- NCF analyses test data
  - Produces a report, with graphs, from the test log
  - Draws conclusions about extent, nature, and possible location of problem

# Black Box Operation

- Test Kit
  - One Raspberry Pi (in a black case!)
    - Test software installed in the Raspberry Pi
  - One 5 volt power block for Raspberry Pi
  - One Ethernet cable
- Testing
  - User plugs black box into router (with Ethernet cable) and wall (with power block), watches the lights go on.
  - When the lights go out, user unplugs the box and sends everything back to NCF
  - NCF runs the Awk and R scripts to produce a report

# Black Box Test Software

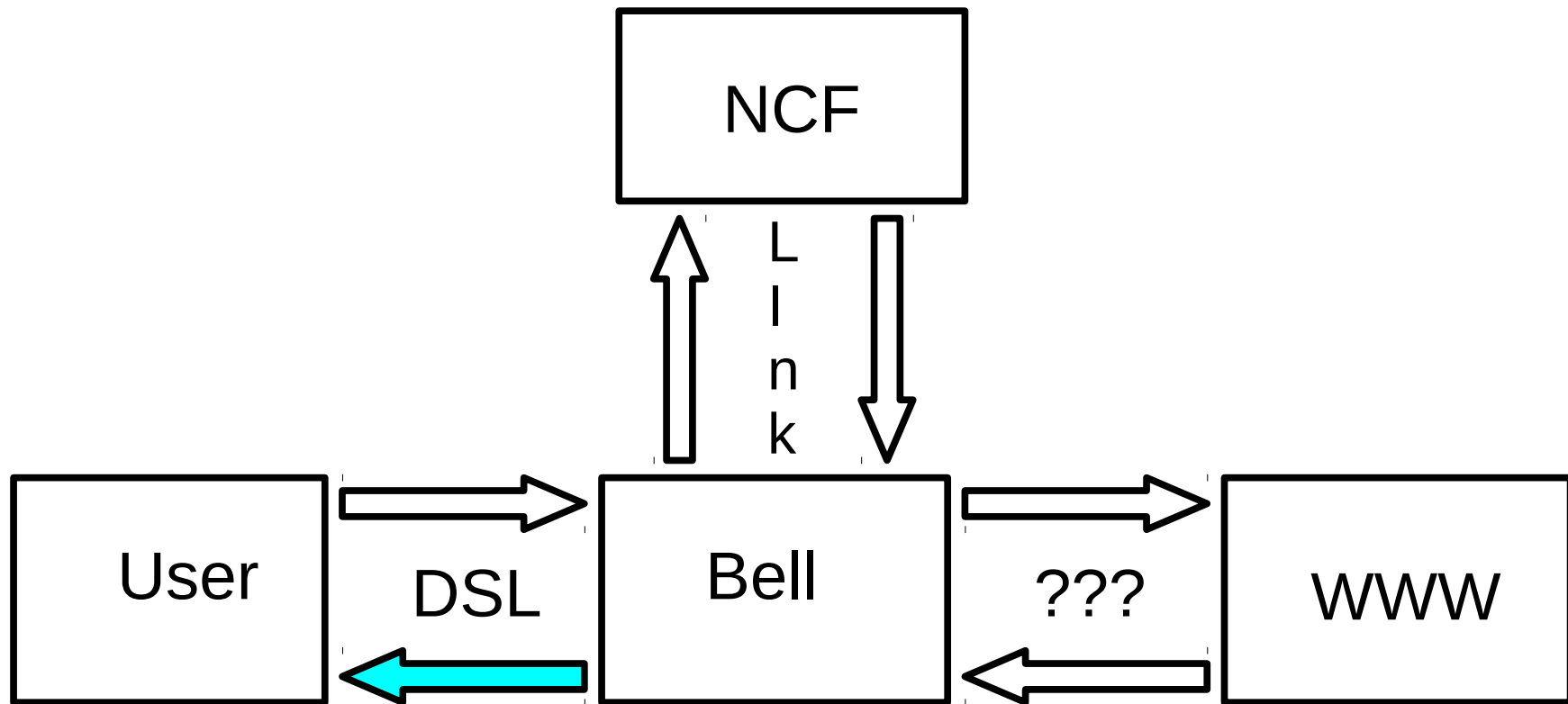
- Test runs
  - Shell script to run and log one test
  - Shell script to repeat the tests
  - Shell script to act as hook for crontab entry
  - Crontab entry
- Processing
  - Awk script to translate log to one line per download
  - R script to produce report
- Setup
  - Python script to generate test files for download

# Progressive Test Strategy

- Link (from Bell data)
- DSL (from Bell data)
- User Equipment + DSL
  - User modem is tested, user takes black box home
  - Black box records downloads from Bell
- User Equipment + DSL + Link + NCF
  - Black box records downloads from NCF
- User Equipment + DSL + Link + NCF + WWW
  - Black box records downloads from WWW

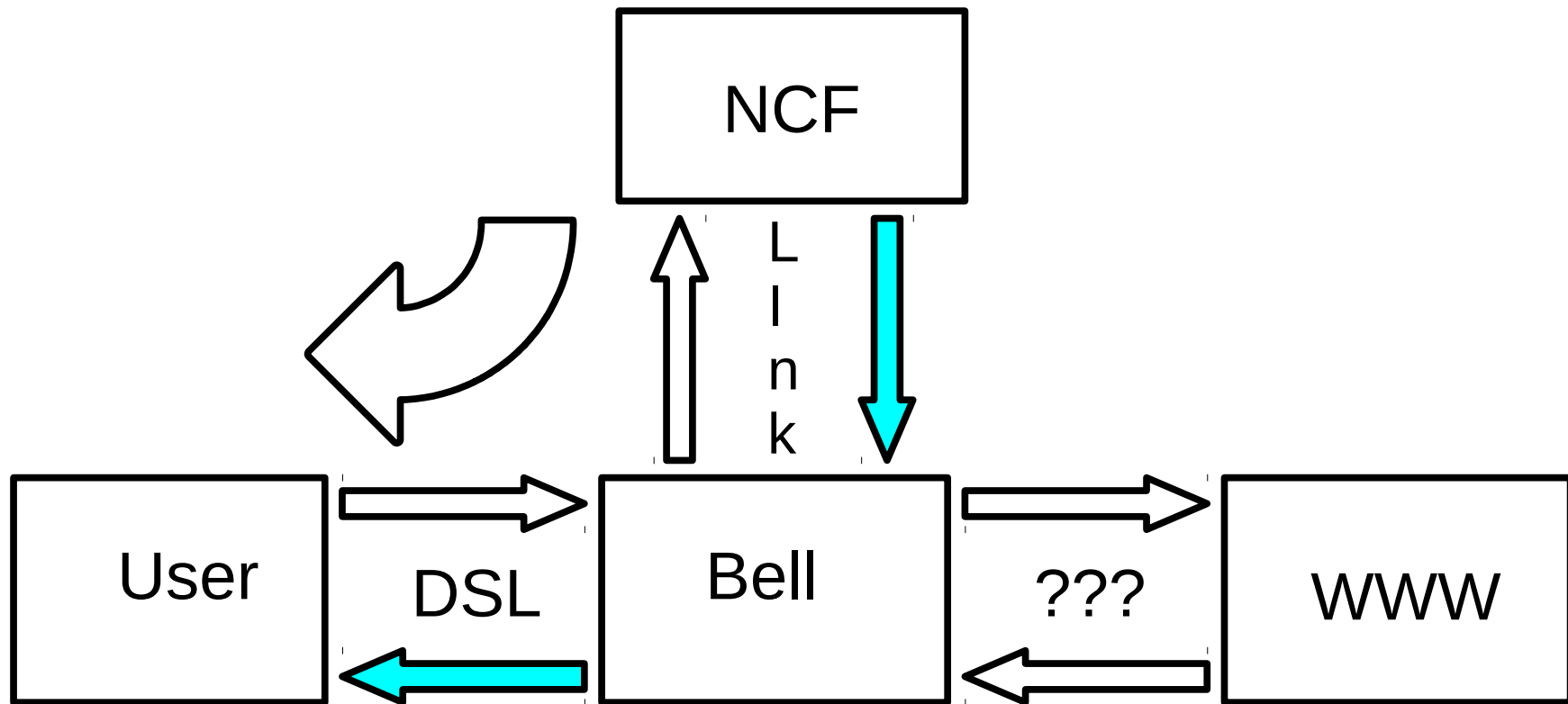
# Download Test from Bell

User equipment and DSL path can be tested by downloading data from the Bell system



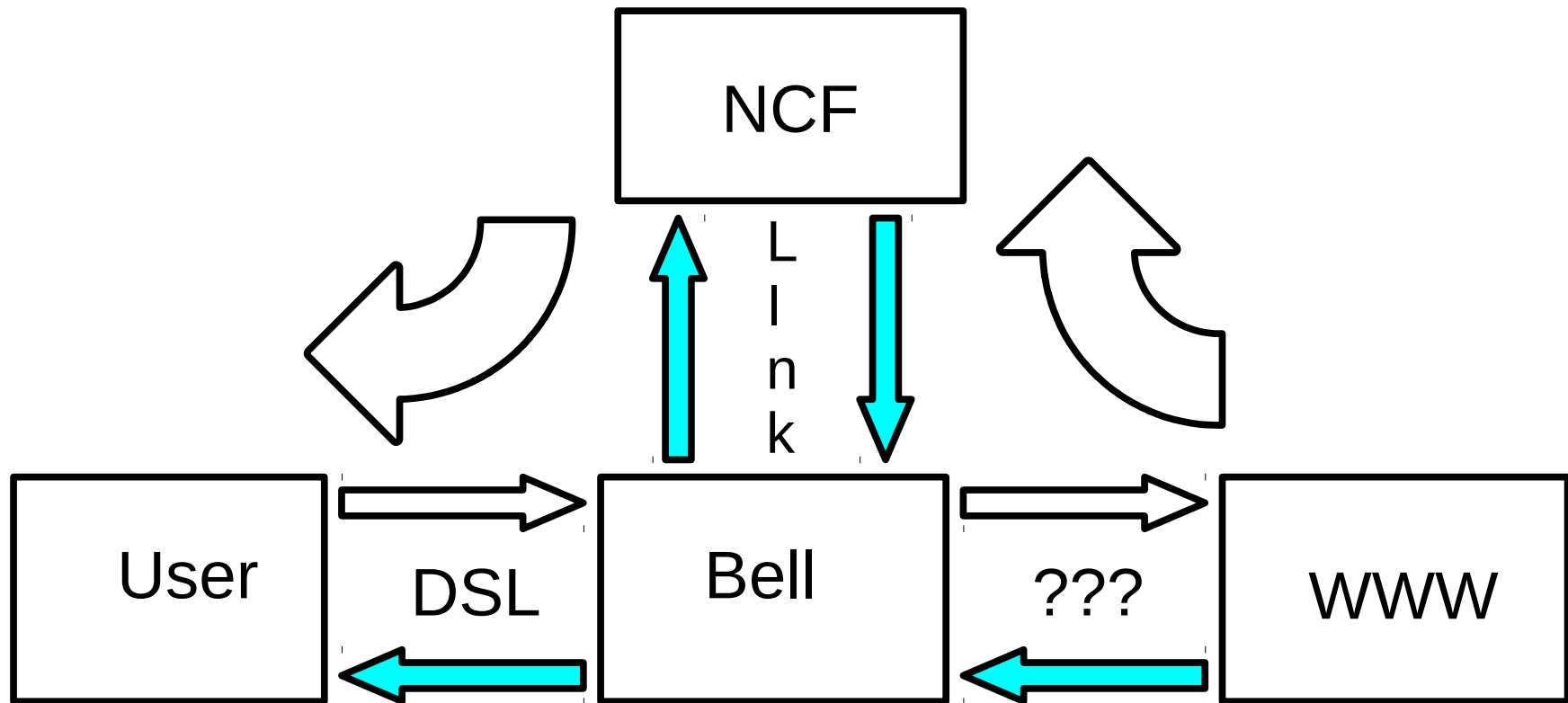
# Download Test from NCF

User equipment, DSL path, and Link path can be tested by downloading data from the NCF system



# Download Test from WWW

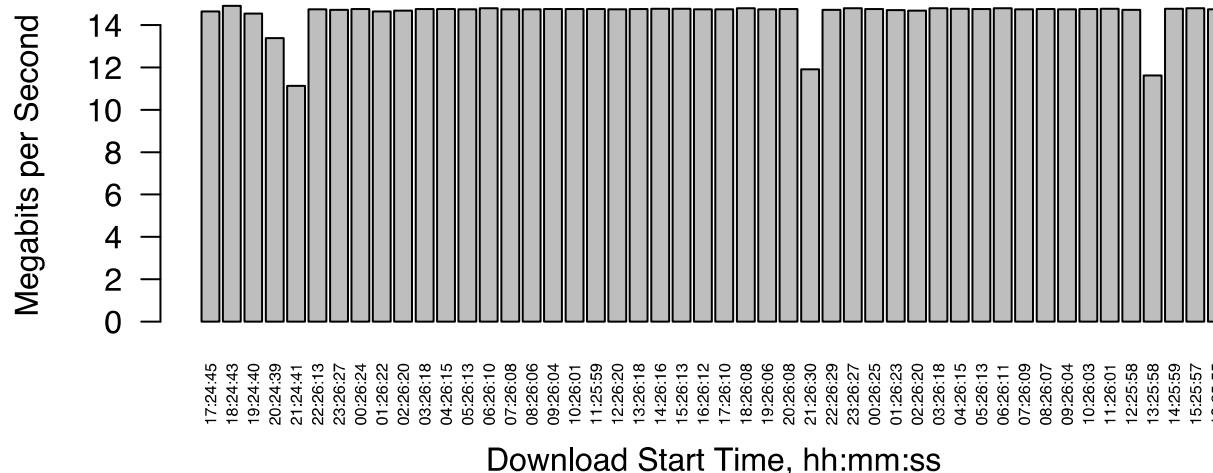
User equipment plus entire path can be tested by downloading data from the WWW



# Bar Chart

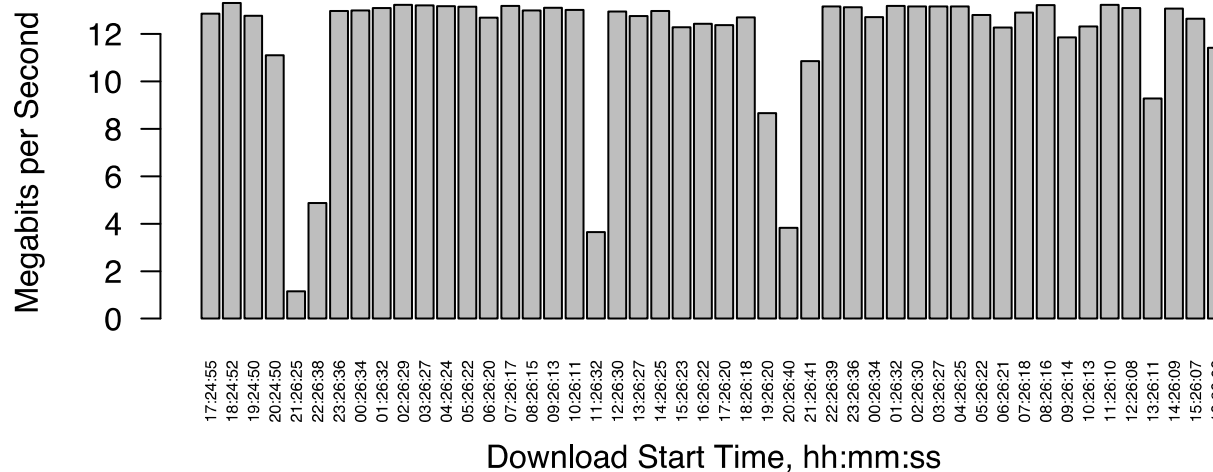
Compare speeds from up to three download sources

### Download 120 Megabits from web.ncf.ca



Ian's Download Test via NCF DSL line 2016-04-07 to 2016-04-09

### Download 120 Megabits from dl.dropboxusercontent.com

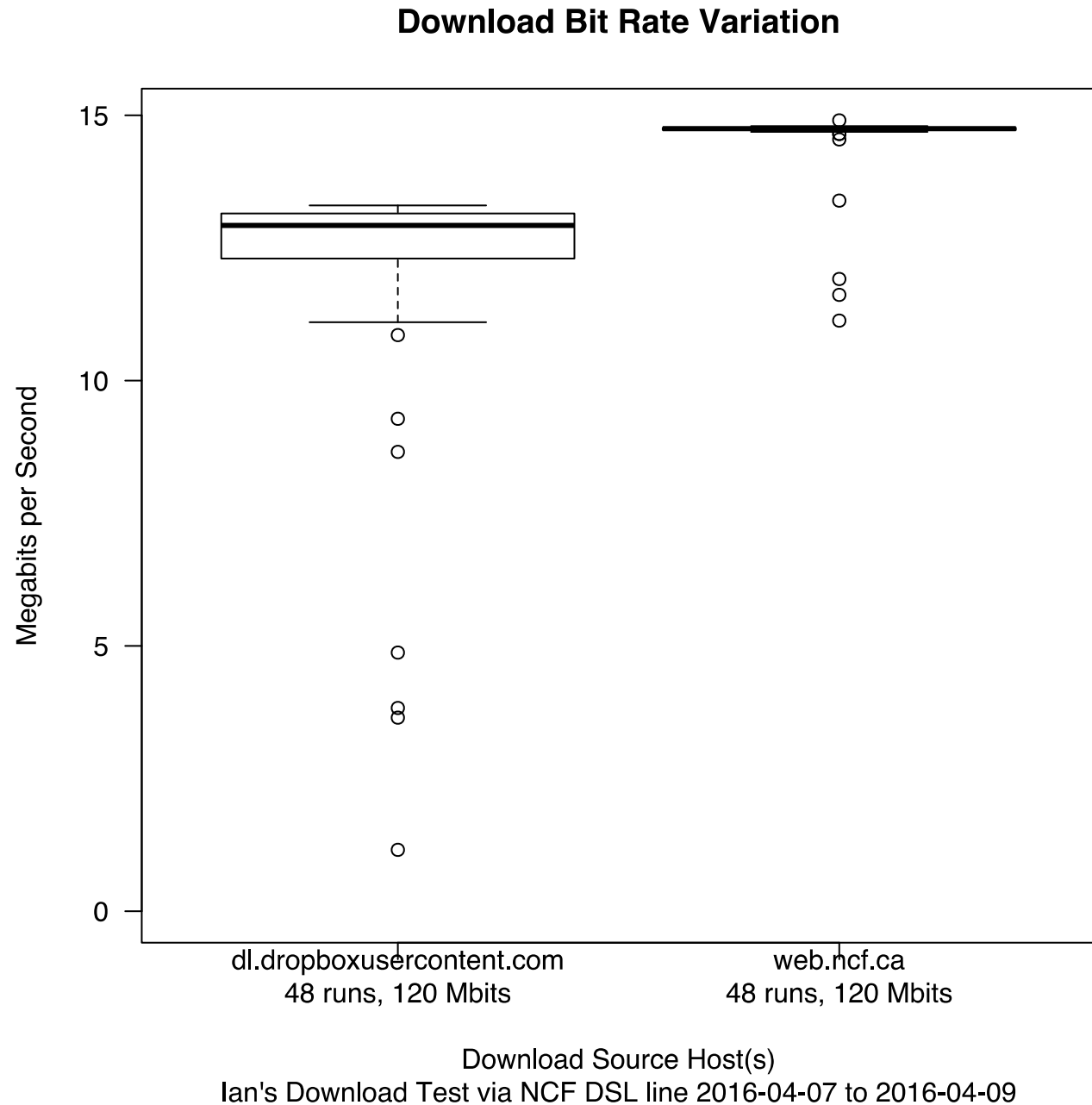


Ian's Download Test via NCF DSL line 2016-04-07 to 2016-04-09



# Scatter Chart

Compare variation from up to three download sources



# Test Software in Raspberry Pi

- User plugs Raspberry Pi in to modem and power, without keyboard or mouse
- Crontab starts a control script in \$HOME (~pi) and redirects output to a file in \$HOME
- Control script takes no parameters but has internal parameters that can be set to run the desired tests
- Control script runs a test script as specified by the internal parameters, to append data to a log file
- Test script script exits to the control script
- Control script shuts the Raspberry Pi down

# Test Analysis with Raspberry Pi

- Technician starts Raspberry Pi with keyboard and mouse, but no network connection
- Technician logs in before test failure shuts Raspberry Pi down, and stops current test run
- Awk program converts test log to report file with one line per download.
- R program produces graphs and a summary from the report file
- Raspberry Pi can be connected to network to transfer graphs and reports

# crontab Entry

```
# crontab entry to run download speed test and then shut  
down  
# scripts require 'bash' and will fail in default Raspbian  
shell  
# see crontab(5) for default shell  
SHELL=/bin/bash  
#  
# redirection must be done within the crontab command  
line, see cron(8)  
# see crontab(5) for comand line format  
@reboot~/speedtest/speedtest.cron.sh >>  
~/speedtest.log 2>&1
```

# Control Script (excerpt 1)

```
# wait for system startup and DHCP to complete  
sleep 120
```

```
# Run the test script with the parameters,  
environment, and termination options
```

```
# created by this script
```

```
"${SCRIPTNAME%/*}"/speedtest.sh "$URL_1"  
"$URL_2" "$URL_3" "$INTERVAL" "$COUNT"
```

# Control Script (excerpt 2)

## Shutdown and error management:

```
# In normal operation, shutdown occurs 2 minutes after other script returns
# Shutdown can be avoided by deleting the file ${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}
#
SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE=~/" .shutdown.after.speedtest"
:>"${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}"
echo "Delete file \"${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}\" to abort shutdown after speed test"
trap 'sleep 120; if [ -f "${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}" ]; then rm -f "${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}"; sudo shutdown now; fi' EXIT

trap 'echo Error "$?" al line ${LINENO} in script ${SCRIPTNAME} ; exit 1' \
ERR

trap 'echo Terminated al line ${LINENO} in script ${SCRIPTNAME} ; exit 2' \
HUP INT ABRT KILL
```

# Test Script (1)

## Main control loop:

```
# execute a sequence of test runs until end or a series of consecutive failures
while [[ "${COUNT}" -gt 0 ]]
do
    # Execute a sequence of downloads until one fails or all succeed
    if download "${URL_1}" && download "${URL_2}" && download "${URL_3}"
    then
        # send any cached data to disk
        sync
        # reset error flag
        ERRORCOUNT=0
    else
        # report download errors
```

# Test Script (2)

Principal part of the download function:

```
else
    # next command is used to provide a timestamp and url in case wget fails
    # wrap the command in a test so that script will not stop on failure
    if echo "TimeStamp $(date '+%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S') URL=$URL"; then
true; fi
    # now get the download
    time -p {
        # keep time stamp, url, download size, but discard progress report
        wget ${WGET_OPTIONS} -nv -O /dev/null ${1}
        WGETCODE=$?
    }
    TIMECODE=$?    # should be same as WGETCODE, see time(1)
sync
```



# Test Script (3)

## Error Management:

```
# Information for figuring out what went wrong (if anything did)
echo "Script \"${SCRIPTNAME}\" running as USER=\"${USER=}\" with
PATH=\"${PATH=}\""
```

```
trap 'echo Error "$?" al line ${LINENO} in script ${SCRIPTNAME} ; exit 1' \
ERR
```

```
trap 'echo Terminated al line ${LINENO} in script ${SCRIPTNAME} ; exit 2' \
HUP INT ABRT KILL
```

# Download File and Report File

Log Entry (5 lines per download - TimeStamp/URL:/real/user/sys)

```
TimeStamp 2016-04-07 17:24:37
URL=http://web.ncf.ca/am125/speedtest/random15megabytes
2016-04-07 17:24:45
URL:http://web.ncf.ca/am125/speedtest/random15megabytes
[15000000/15000000] -> "/dev/null" [1]
real 8.19
user 0.48
sys 1.94
```

Report Input File (one line per download)

```
date    time    source bytes  bits seconds  bps host
2016-04-07 17:24:45
http://web.ncf.ca/am125/speedtest/random15megabytes 15000000
120000000 8.19    1.4652e+07 web.ncf.ca
```

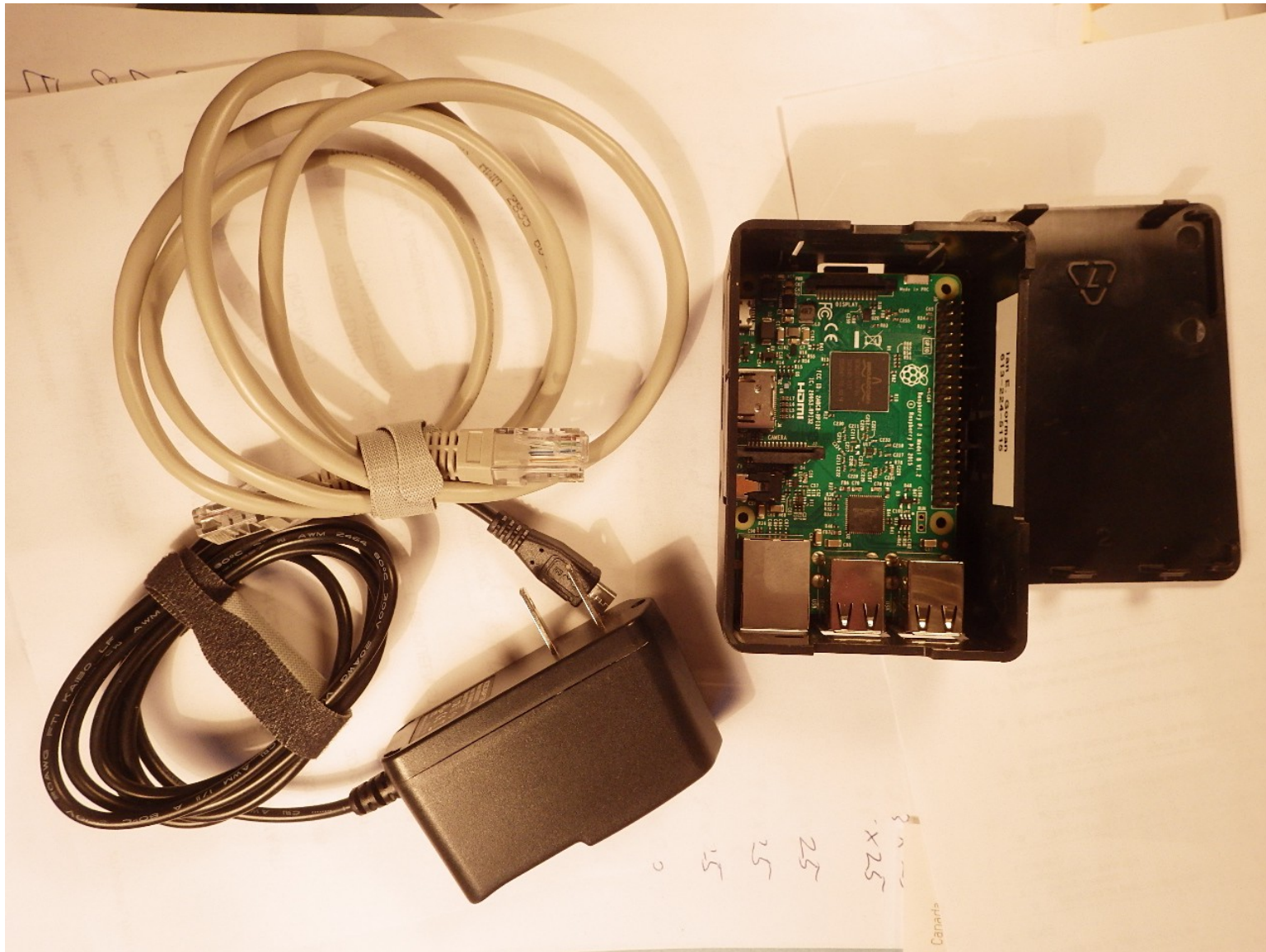
# AWK Program to Convert Log File

```
# timestamp and URL should be given by 'wget'
# Get the secondary timestamp, url and host to be used when wget fails
/^TimeStamp/ {
    stamp_date = $2
    stamp_time = $3
    sub(/^.*URL=/, "")
    stamp_url = $0
    stamp_host = stamp_url
    sub(/^.*:\W/, "", stamp_host) # trim all before hostname
    sub(/\/.*$/, "", stamp_host) # trim all after hostname
}

# get data from the output of 'wget' and clear the previous time report
/^2[0-9]/ { # Pick up the year, but with a Y3K problem ;)
    ...
}

# get data from the following 'time' report and print a one-line test summary
/^ *real/ { # pick up the "wall clock" line from the 'time' report
    ...
}
```

# The Black Box Test Kit



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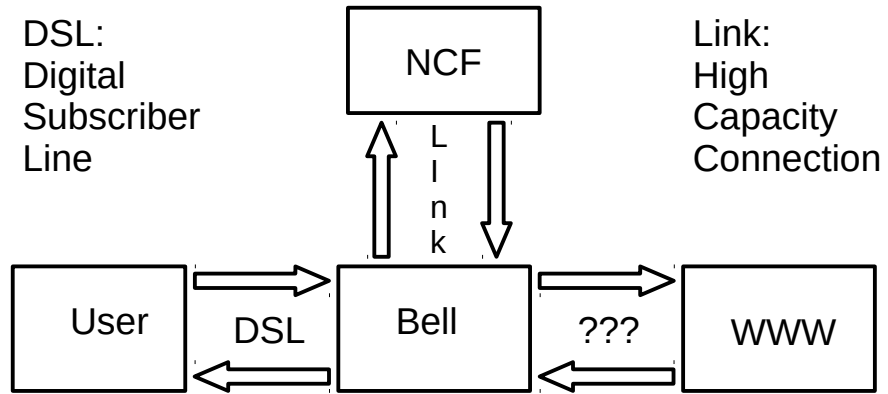
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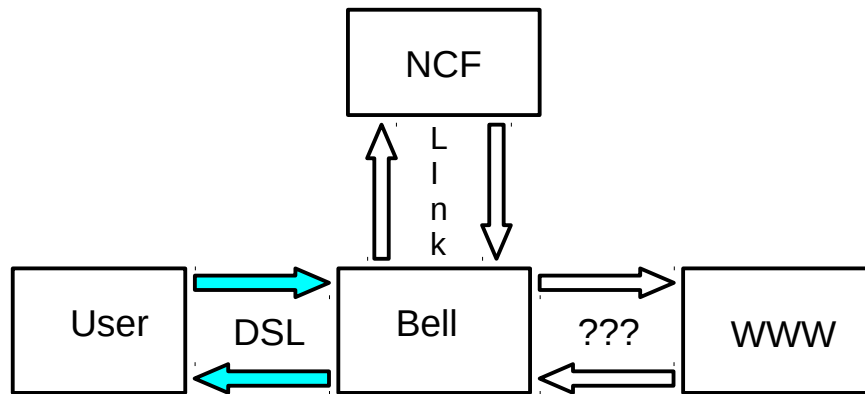
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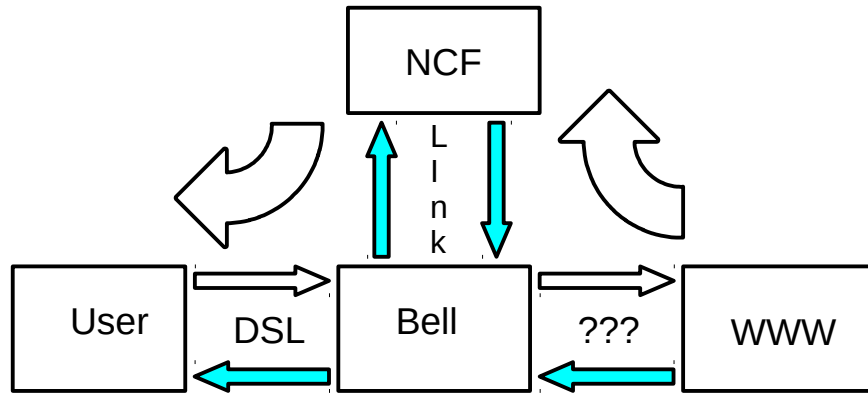
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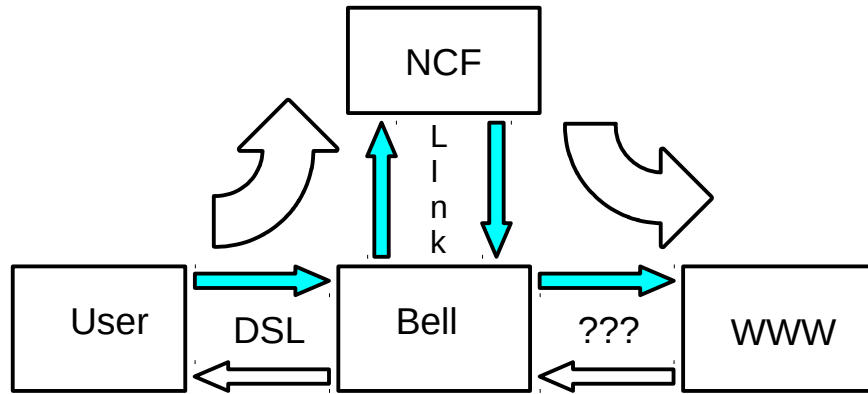
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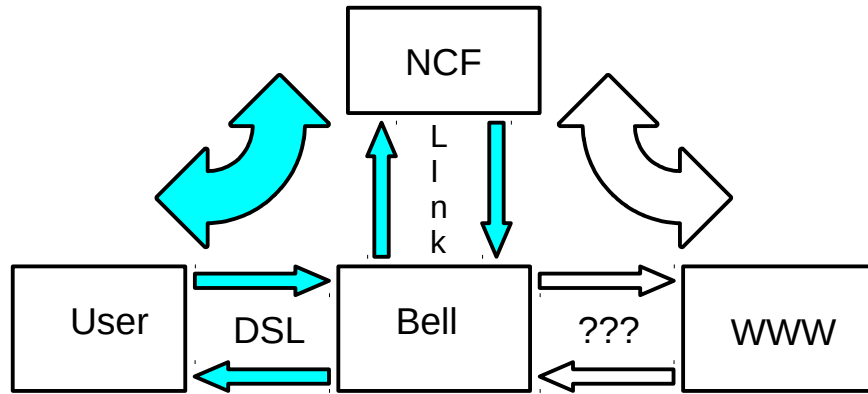
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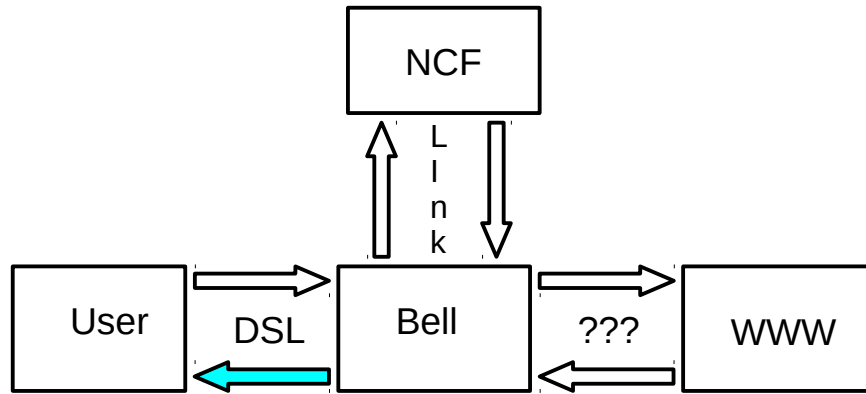
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- DSL (from Bell data)
- User Equipment + DSL
  - User modem is tested, user takes black box home
  - Black box records downloads from Bell
- User Equipment + DSL + Link + NCF
  - Black box records downloads from NCF
- User Equipment + DSL + Link + NCF + WWW
  - Black box records downloads from WWW



## Download Test from Bell

User equipment and DSL path can be tested by downloading data from the Bell system



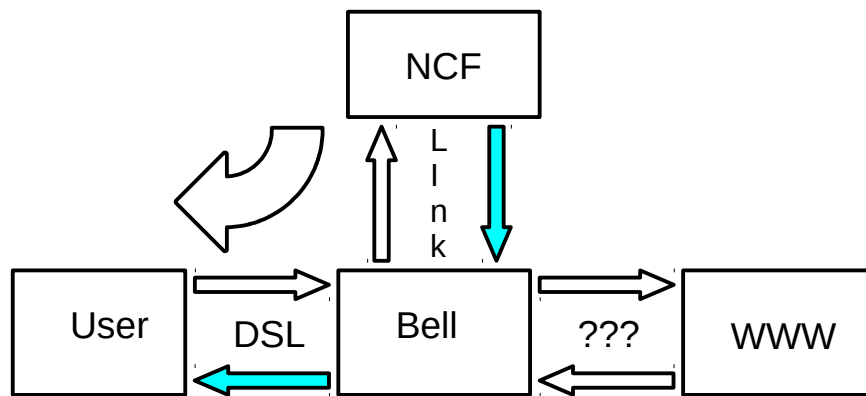
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# Download Test from NCF

User equipment, DSL path, and Link path can be tested by downloading data from the NCF system



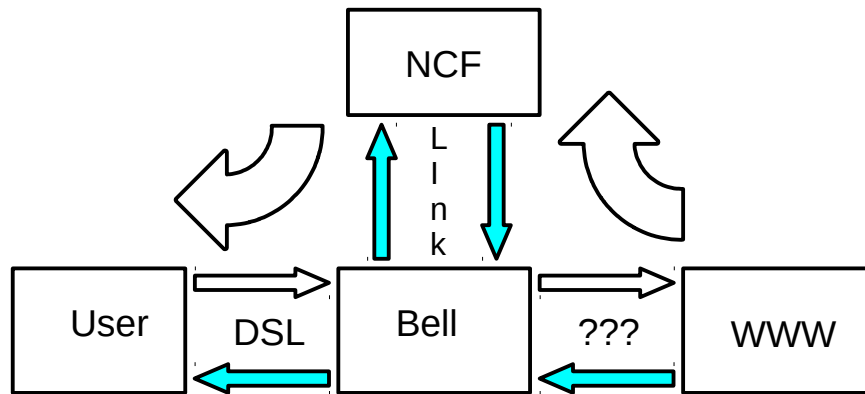
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## Download Test from WWW

User equipment plus entire path can be tested by downloading data from the WWW



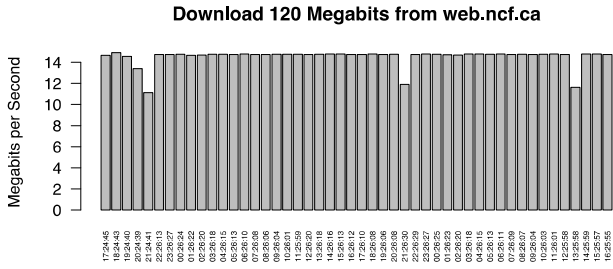
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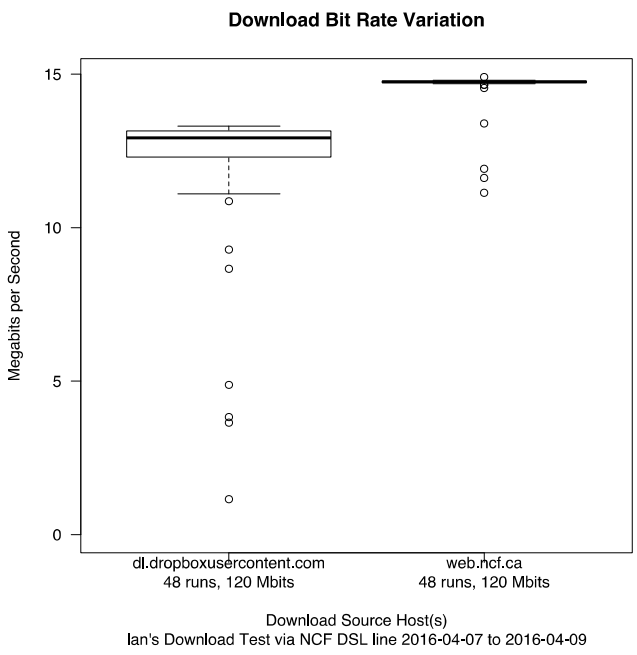
# Bar Chart

Compare speeds from up to three download sources



# Scatter Chart

Compare variation from up to three download sources



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## Test Software in Raspberry Pi

- User plugs Raspberry Pi in to modem and power, without keyboard or mouse
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- Control script runs a test script as specified by the internal parameters, to append data to a log file
- Test script script exits to the control script
- Control script shuts the Raspberry Pi down

## Test Analysis with Raspberry Pi

- Technician starts Raspberry Pi with keyboard and mouse, but no network connection
- Technician logs in before test failure shuts Raspberry Pi down, and stops current test run
- Awk program converts test log to report file with one line per download.
- R program produces graphs and a summary from the report file
- Raspberry Pi can be connected to network to transfer graphs and reports

## crontab Entry

```
# crontab entry to run download speed test and then shut
down
# scripts require 'bash' and will fail in default Raspbian
shell
# see crontab(5) for default shell
SHELL=/bin/bash
#
# redirection must be done within the crontab command
line, see cron(8)
# see crontab(5) for comand line format
@reboot~/speedtest/speedtest.cron.sh >>
~/speedtest.log 2>&1
```

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## Control Script (excerpt 1)

```
# wait for system startup and DHCP to complete  
sleep 120
```

```
# Run the test script with the parameters,  
environment, and termination options
```

```
# created by this script
```

```
"${SCRIPTNAME%/*/}"/speedtest.sh "$URL_1"  
"$URL_2" "$URL_3" "$INTERVAL" "$COUNT"
```

## Control Script (excerpt 2)

### Shutdown and error management:

```
# In normal operation, shutdown occurs 2 minutes after other script returns
# Shutdown can be avoided by deleting the file ${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}
#
SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE=~/.shutdown.after.speedtest"
:> "${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}"
echo "Delete file \"${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}\" to abort shutdown after speed test"
trap 'sleep 120; if [ -f "${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}" ]; then rm -f "${SHUTDOWNFLAGFILE}"; sudo shutdown now; fi' EXIT

trap 'echo Error "$?" al line ${LINENO} in script ${SCRIPTNAME} ; exit 1' \
ERR

trap 'echo Terminated al line ${LINENO} in script ${SCRIPTNAME} ; exit 2' \
HUP INT ABRT KILL
```

## Test Script (1)

### Main control loop:

```
# execute a sequence of test runs until end or a series of consecutive failures
while [[ "${COUNT}" -gt 0 ]]
do
  # Execute a sequence of downloads until one fails or all succeed
  if download "${URL_1}" && download "${URL_2}" && download "${URL_3}"
  then
    # send any cached data to disk
    sync
    # reset error flag
    ERRORCOUNT=0
  else
    # report download errors
```

## Test Script (2)

Principal part of the download function:

```
else
  # next command is used to provide a timestamp and url in case wget fails
  # wrap the command in a test so that script will not stop on failure
  if echo "TimeStamp $(date '+%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S') URL=$URL"; then
true; fi
  # now get the download
  time -p {
    # keep time stamp, url, download size, but discard progress report
    wget ${WGET_OPTIONS} -nv -O /dev/null ${1}
    WGETCODE=$?
  }
  TIMECODE=$? # should be same as WGETCODE, see time(1)
sync
```

## Test Script (3)

### Error Management:

```
# Information for figuring out what went wrong (if anything did)
echo "Script \"${SCRIPTNAME}\" running as USER=\"${USER}\" with
PATH=\"${PATH}\""

trap 'echo Error "$?" al line ${LINENO} in script ${SCRIPTNAME} ; exit 1' \
ERR

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HUP INT ABRT KILL
```

## Download File and Report File

Log Entry (5 lines per download - TimeStamp/URL:/real/user/sys)

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URL=http://web.ncf.ca/am125/speedtest/random15megabytes
2016-04-07 17:24:45
URL:http://web.ncf.ca/am125/speedtest/random15megabytes
[15000000/15000000] -> "/dev/null" [1]
real 8.19
user 0.48
sys 1.94
```

Report Input File (one line per download)

```
date   time   source bytes  bits seconds  bps host
2016-04-07 17:24:45
http://web.ncf.ca/am125/speedtest/random15megabytes 15000000
120000000 8.19 1.4652e+07 web.ncf.ca
```

## AWK Program to Convert Log File

```
# timestamp and URL should be given by 'wget'
# Get the secondary timestamp, url and host to be used when wget fails
/^TimeStamp/ {
    stamp_date = $2
    stamp_time = $3
    sub(/^.*URL=/, "")
    stamp_url = $0
    stamp_host = stamp_url
    sub(/^.*:\/\//, "", stamp_host) # trim all before hostname
    sub(/\/.*$/, "", stamp_host)  # trim all after hostname
}

# get data from the output of 'wget' and clear the previous time report
/^[0-9]/ { # Pick up the year, but with a Y3K problem ;)
    ...
}

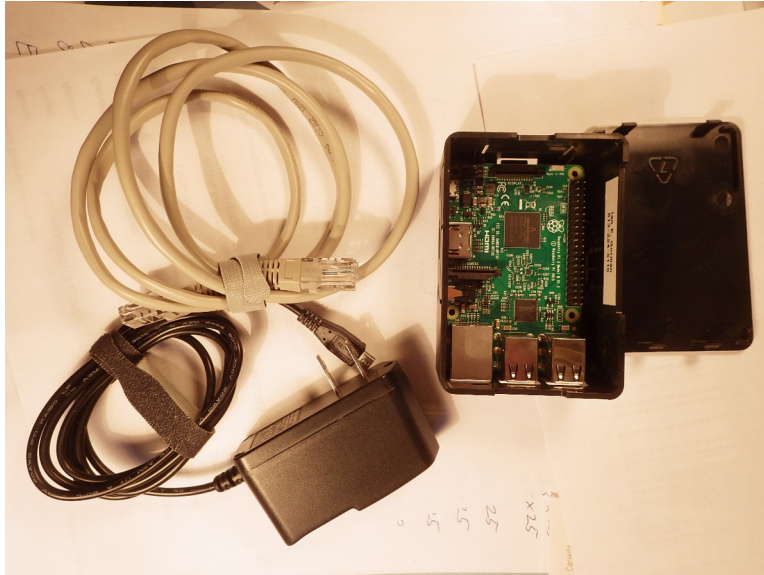
# get data from the following 'time' report and print a one-line test summary
/^[*real]/ { # pick up the "wall clock" line from the 'time' report
    ...
}
```

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## The Black Box Test Kit



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