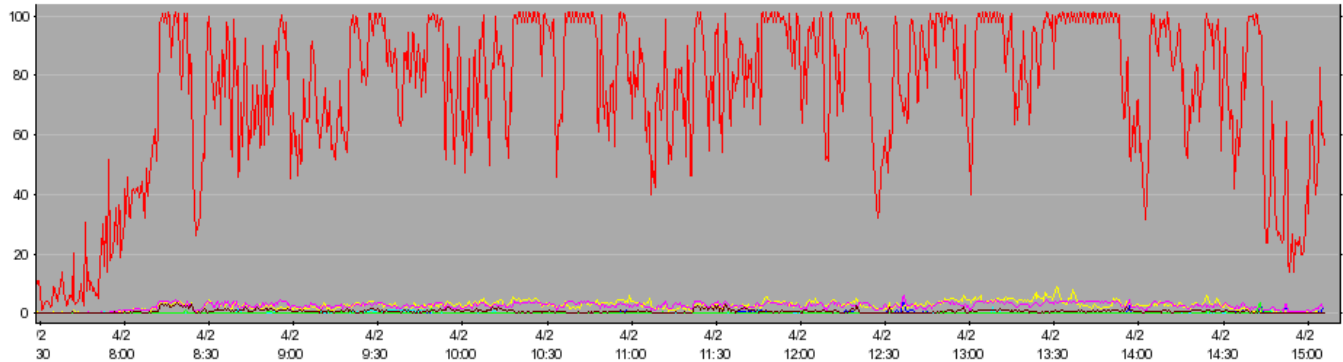


### Looking Back

It was a little over a year ago that we upgraded our network connection to 43Mbps connection. Since that time we've outgrown that connection and are in need of a bigger pipe to the Internet. The K20 networking team is responsible for district network connections and act on our behalf. Below is a graph showing our network utilization during our testing.



You can see that our utilization was running at or near 100% for most of the day. Ideally, at the heaviest load, we'd see our utilization peak at 50%. Obviously we have a suboptimal situation on our hands with this one.

Previously we've struggled with getting a quality Internet connection reportedly due to the lack of bidders for the K20 networking group's LCSD project. While nobody is quite sure what the problem is or was, in the last round of soliciting bids, three different contractors submitted proposals for our connection!

We're very excited about this change - as is the K20 networking team. The K20 project director (Tom Carroll) wants to come down from the Puget Sound area to discuss the project with Mark and me face to face. The project is slated to be completed prior to the opening of the 2015-16 school year. I wish them the best of luck in meeting that deadline.

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### What's Current

As I write, the Smarter Balanced Assessment testing has been largely completed. This was the testing that happens on electronic web-enabled devices; in our case, our testing was completed entirely on Chromebooks.

The process for preparing the network to sustain this high demand use was long and harrowing in many respects. The short version of the story is that we met the challenge that this Internet-based testing system set before us. As with the first time through anything, lessons were learned and changes were made on the fly. The bottom line is that I was extremely pleased with the performance of our system (barring the problems of a swamped Internet connection) and I don't think a much better outcome could have been anticipated.

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### Looking Forward

Hewlett-Packard just purchased Aruba Networks this week. Aruba Networks is a leader in wireless networking products and solutions. The local Aruba sales representative is preparing a proposal for us to transition from our current HP gear over to their new Aruba line of product. Granted this could amount to not much, but I am eager to stay current with whatever HP's current premier wireless solution may be.