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Velocity

CONFERENCE


BUILD RESILIENT SYSTEMS AT SCALE

Rethinking Quality of Service

Percentages are not People

velocityconf.com

#velocityconf

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CIRCONUS

Quality of Service

- Availability

the service must be accessible to your users

- Correctness

the service must perform the function expected

- Performance

the service must satisfy a user's productivity goals

Let's focus on how to measure these things

- Always measure latency in seconds (ms, μ s, ns)
not hours, days or years.
- Always measure throughput in units per second
if the number is very small, annotate per day or per year.

Measure synthetically

- Perform synthetic measurements (automated use) to measure
 - Correctness
 - Availability

Measure passively

- Passively observe real transactions to measure
 - Performance
 - Availability

Tactical differences between synthetic & passive measurement

- Synthetic measurements tend to have highly consistent latency at a fixed arrival rate.
- Passive measurements represent reality and include
 - Highly variable rates
(no fixed period, yet often Poisson distributed arrival rates)
 - Complex and variable distributions of latency

When you have a lot of data, what question should you ask?

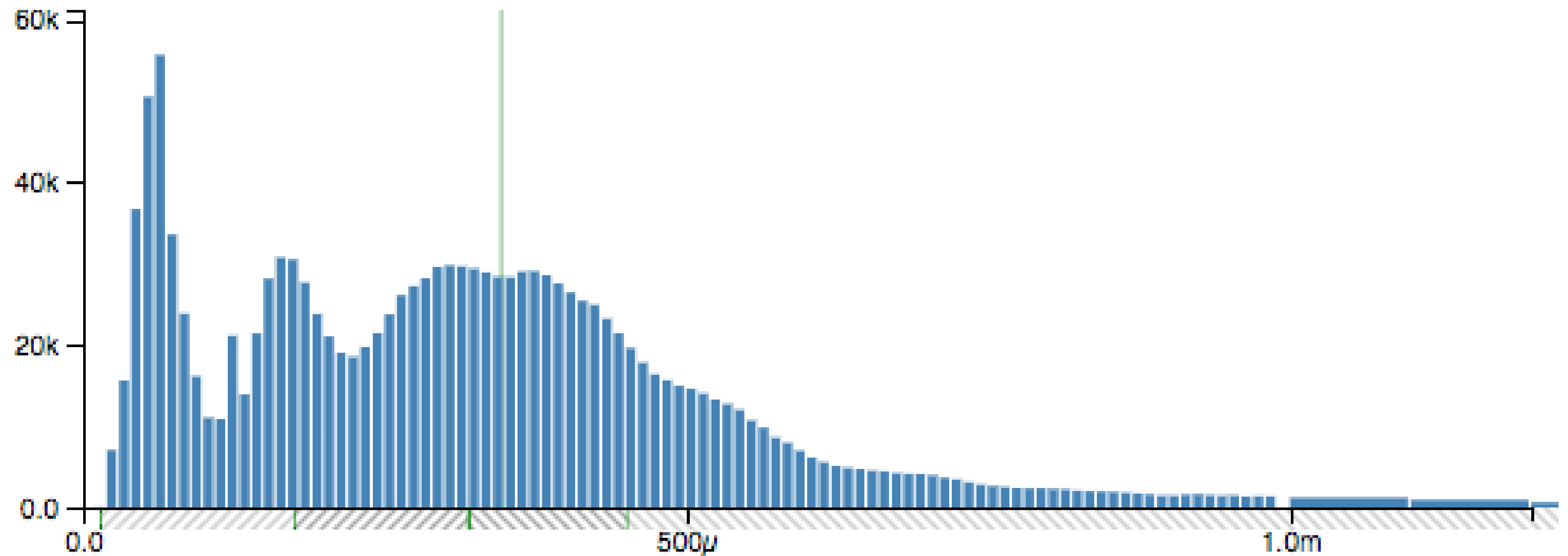
- Assume 10,000 measurements over a minute...
Should you consider:
 - The average?
 - The variance?
 - The median?
 - Minimum? Maximum?
 - 95th Percentile? 99th? 99.9th? 75th? 25th? 99.5th? ...
- Stop... why?

Why do we measure?

- We measure to understand improvement (and degradation)
 - Did we release bad code?
 - Did we fix a latency issue?
 - Are things slower today than yesterday?
- We measure to discern success
 - Are we fast enough?
 - Are our users happy?

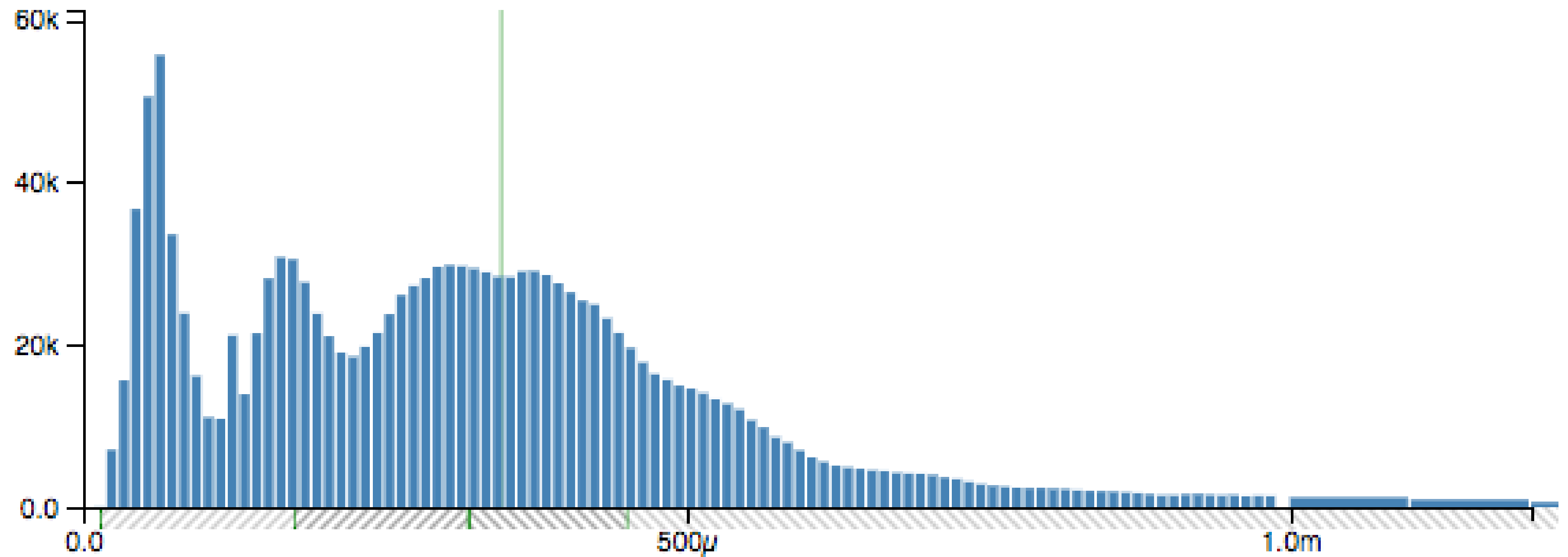
What does observed latency actually look like?

Latency of get` latency



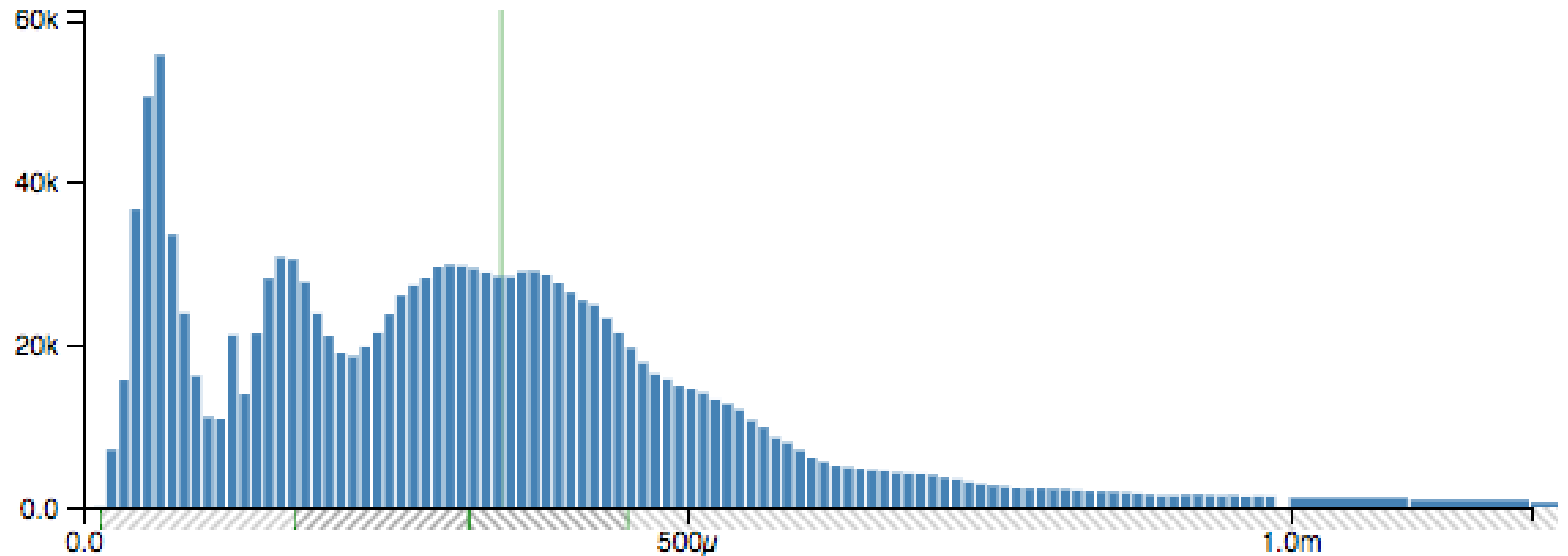
What are all these things?

Latency of get` latency



The “shape” of the histogram indicates a workload

Latency of get` latency



What's a quantile (or percentile)

- $p(99)$ is the same as $q(0.99)$
 - Both short for $q(\text{SAMPLES}, 0.99)$ as q applies to a set
- Given a set of samples N and a desired quantile Q
- $q(N, Q) \rightarrow r$
 - $\geq Q|N|$ samples of N are $< r$ and
 - $\geq (1 - Q)|N|$ samples of N are $> r$
 - any number of samples may be $= r$

We use quantiles

- To describe generalized behavior
- To measure the experience of “most” of our audience.
- To set service level objectives:
 - For N API request latencies, $q(N, 0.99)$ should be less 1ms

The problem

For N API request latencies

$q(N, 0.99)$ should be less 1ms

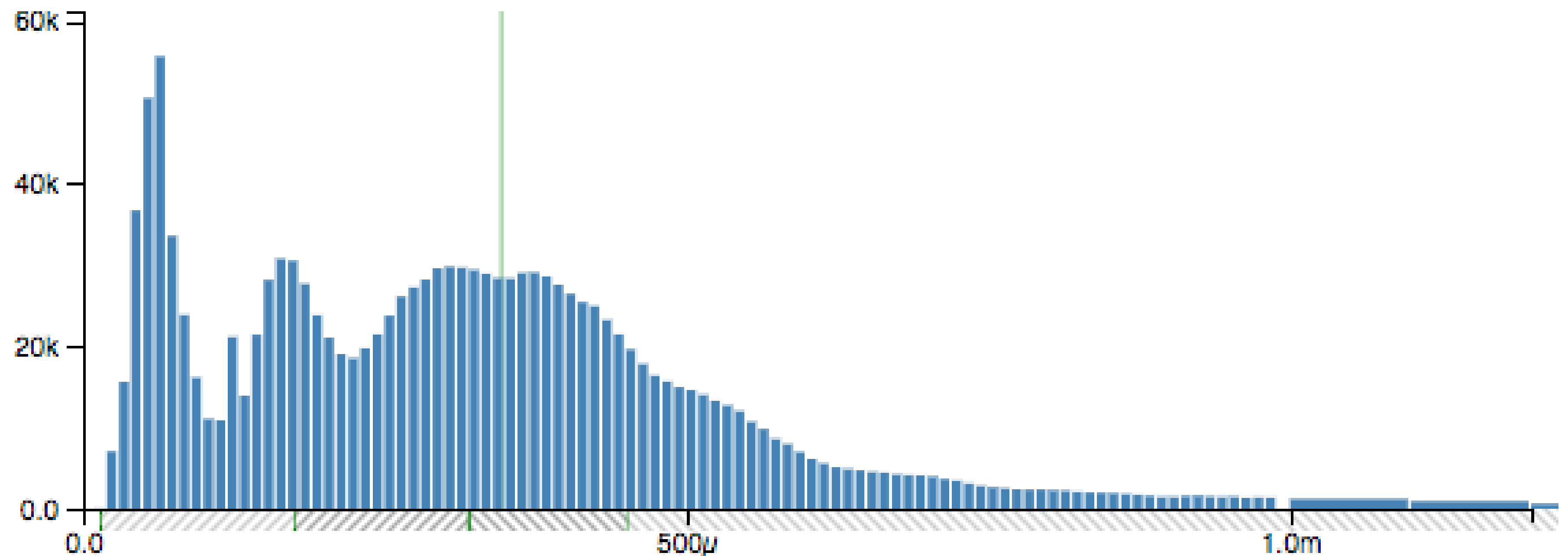
Is our service level objective

- $q(N, 0.99) < 1\text{ms}$
 - The method for selecting N must
 - be consistent and
 - result in a sufficiently sized N
 - (e.g. $N < 100$ would result in some unintuitive results)
 - 0.99 is very different for an N of 10 vs an N of 10,000,000
you might decide a different quantile is more appropriate later
 - 1ms should researched well
you might decide a different threshold is more appropriate later

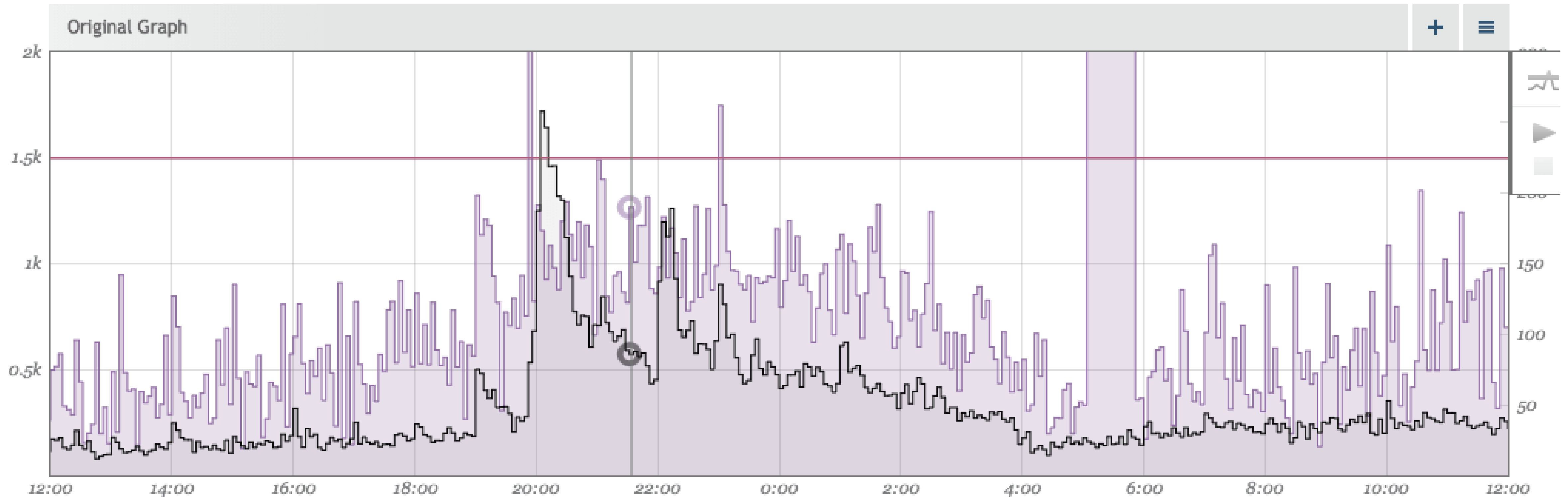
Introducing an inverse quantile

Latency of get` latency

$$q(N, v) = r$$
$$q^{-1}(N, r) = v$$

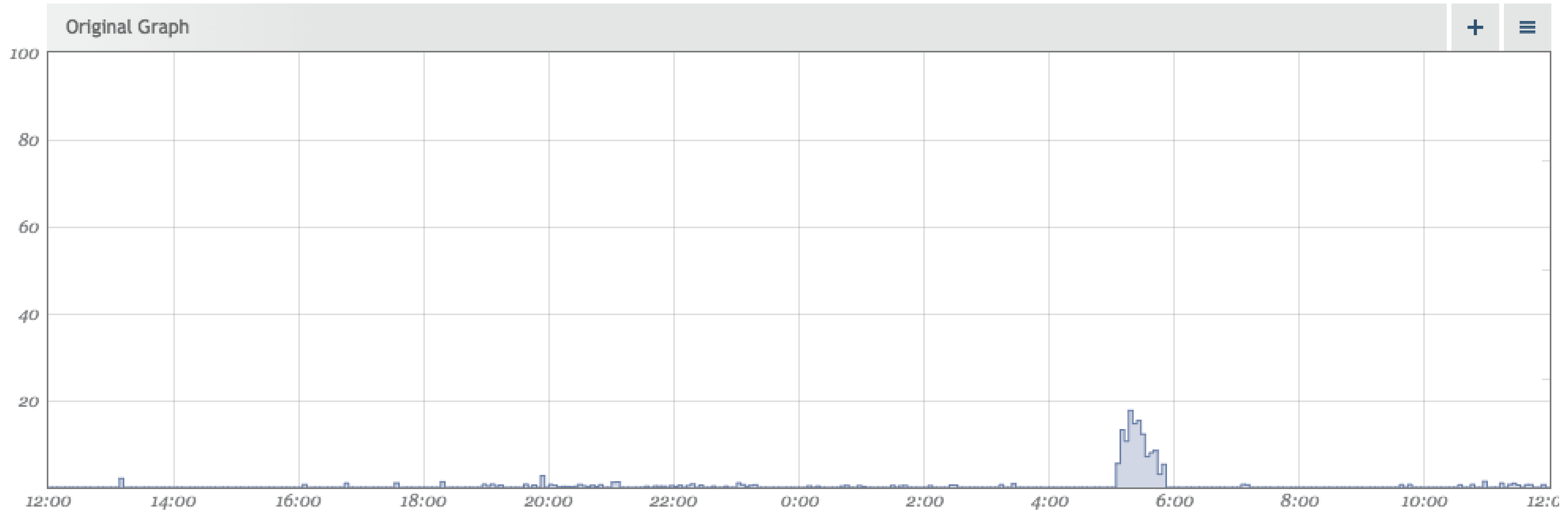


Service Latency q(0.99) vs requests

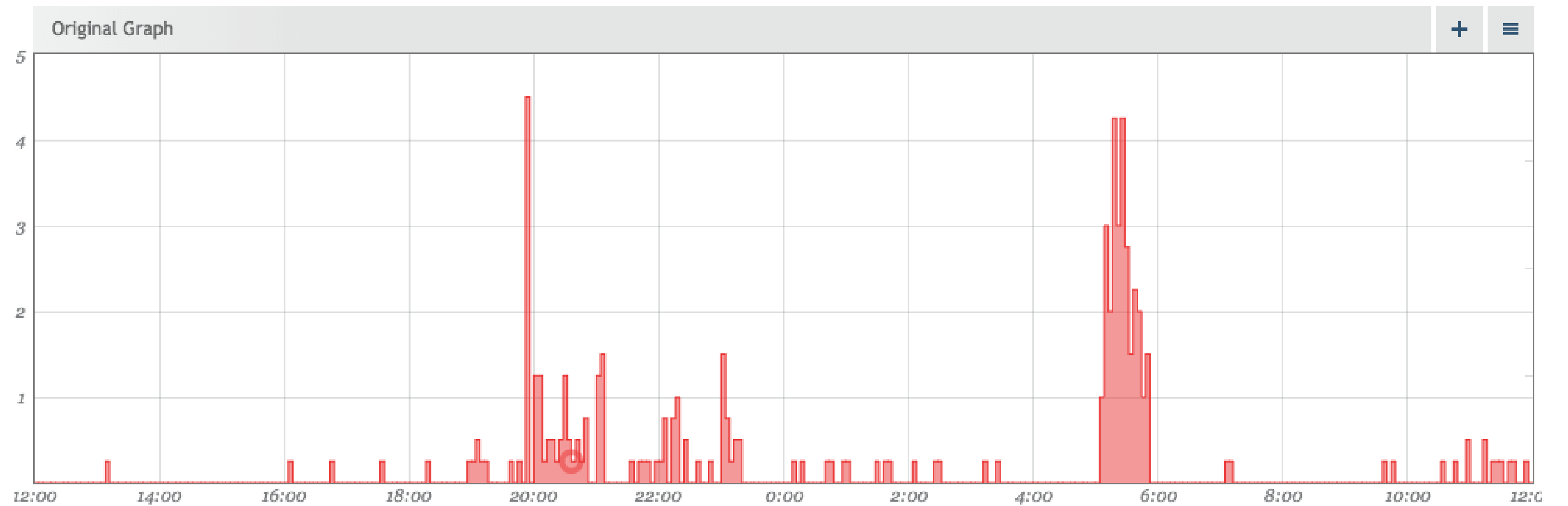
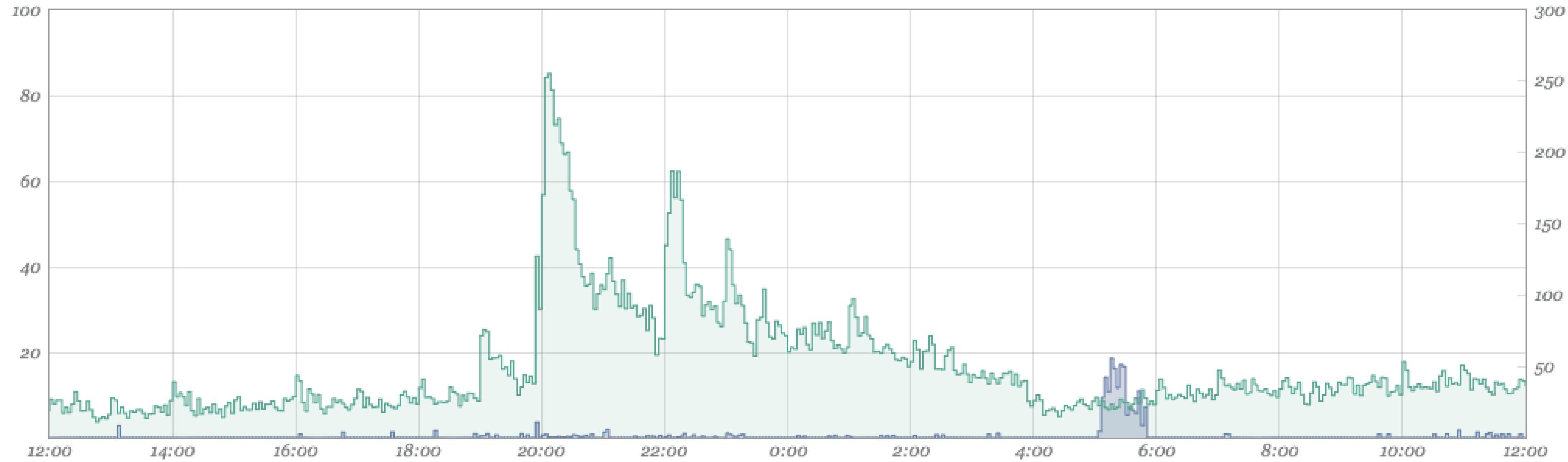


		Jun 17 2016, 21:32 (4M)
L R	99th Percentile	1.26655k
L R	# of users	86
L R	SLA at 1.5s	1.5k

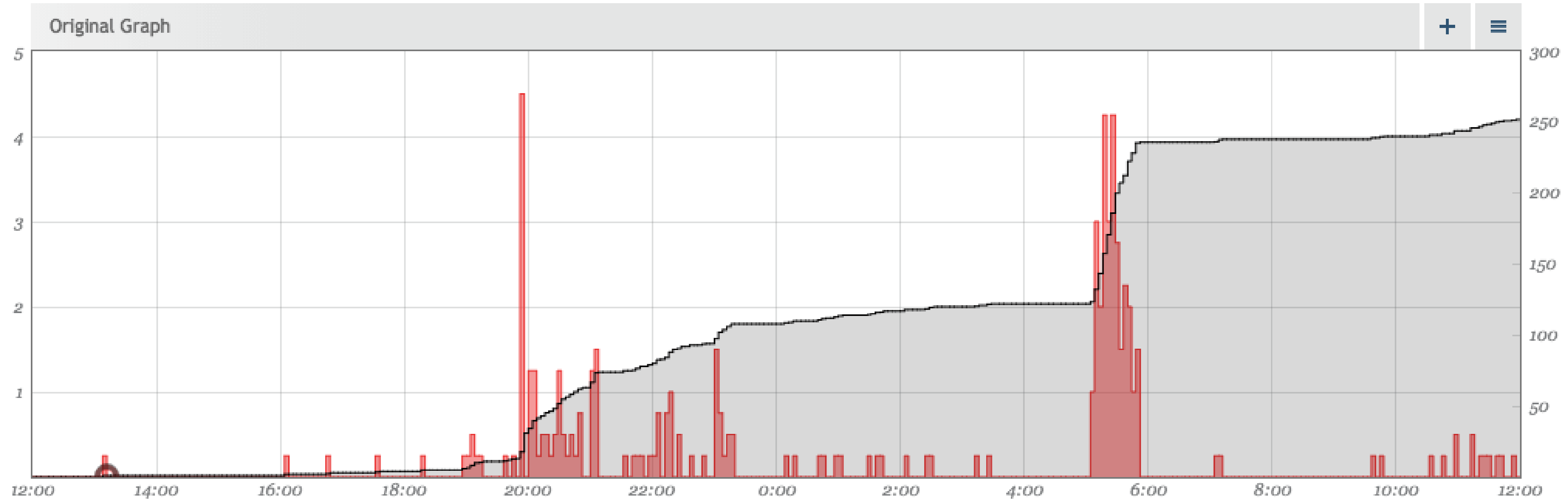
Percentage of violations: $(1 - q^{-1}(1500\text{ms})) * 100$



Percentage to actual (pct * requests)



Actual users effected over time (integral)





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Thank You

Think about

“how many users have a bad experience”

Instead of

“how bad an experience are a few users having”

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