

High and dry

When data can no longer flow

Monday morning in Germany, 7 o'clock. At this time of day, an above-average number of people are jumping out of bed and heading straight for the shower. If their luck is out, they may turn on the tap and not get more than a few drops, or even – in an old hotel for example – find themselves completely high and dry. This annoying problem with water pipes can also occur in the data lines of the company network. An increased volume of data traffic can lead to overloads, data jams or even outages. The result? Noticeable annoyance among the people and significantly reduced productivity.

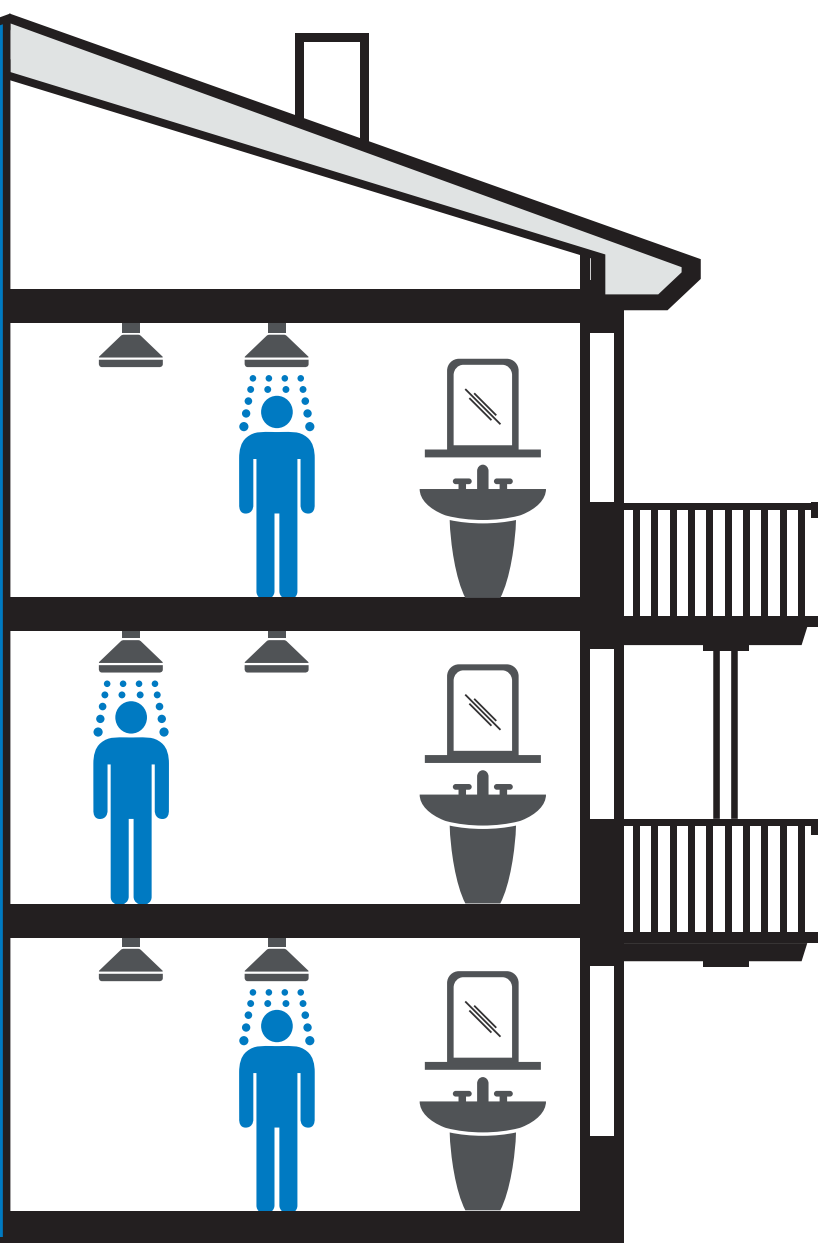
Why do data stop flowing?

As in a system of water pipes, a large number of different users may 'turn on the taps' at the same time in the company network. Various different data streams and applications share capacities and bandwidth. That works perfectly well until the usage exceeds a certain level. Then, the pressure is no longer adequate; the data streams, for example from downloads, operative systems and navigation data get in one another's way and lead to a complete gridlock.

Data flow

The taps are only turned on in some of the showers at the same time.

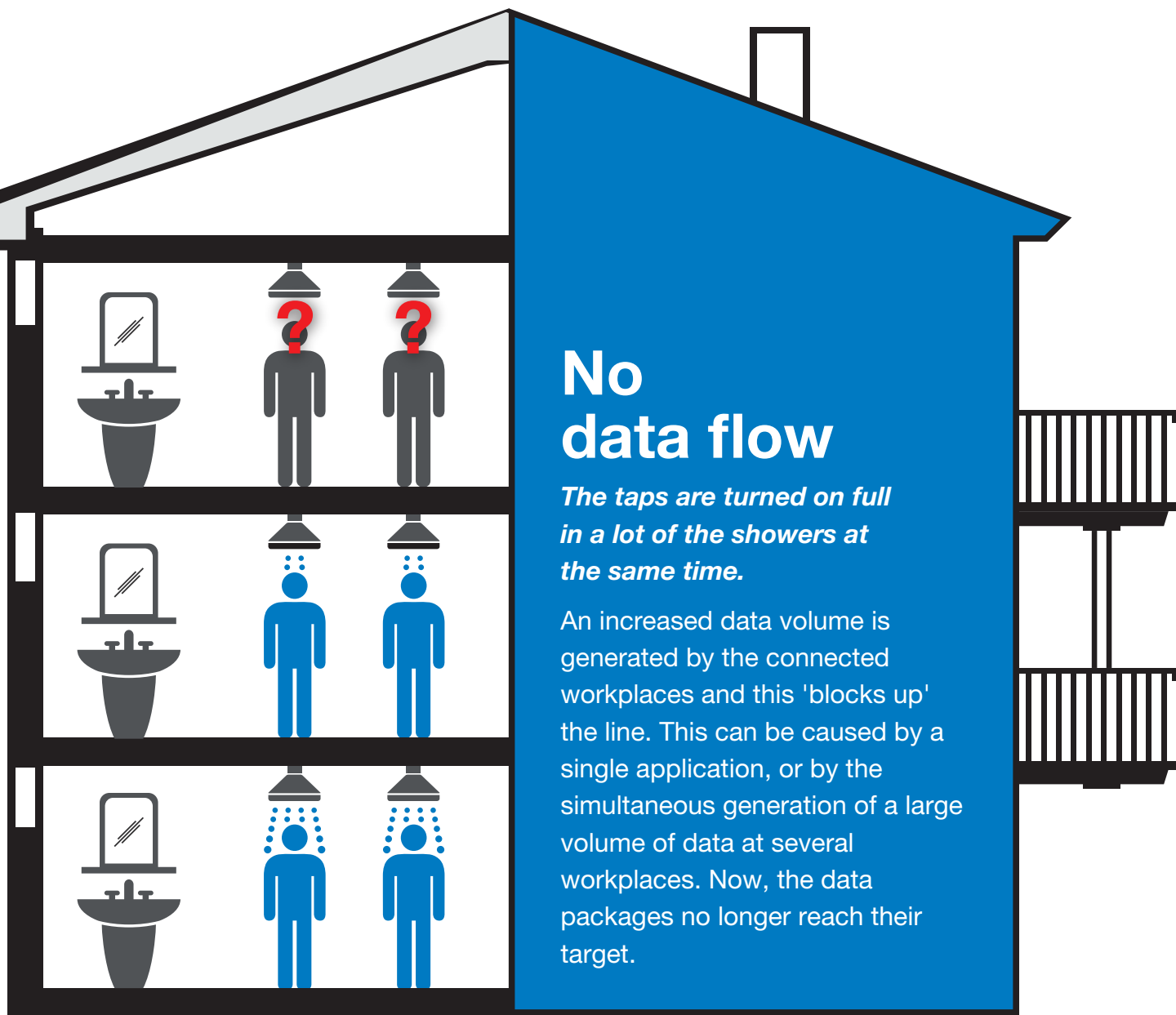
The connected workplaces generate a normal volume of data and thus exploit the bandwidth optimally. All the data packages find their way to their target.



No data flow

The taps are turned on full in a lot of the showers at the same time.

An increased data volume is generated by the connected workplaces and this 'blocks up' the line. This can be caused by a single application, or by the simultaneous generation of a large volume of data at several workplaces. Now, the data packages no longer reach their target.



The best tips for you

1. Assess your data traffic as an important part of your work organisation and manage it just as consciously as you do other issues in everyday office life.
2. Set up a team to discuss which activities are due to be carried out when, thus promoting transparency and sensitivity to possible data jams.
3. Postpone activities with an increased data volume, such as on-line training sessions and large-sized downloads, until the off-peak hours of the working day.