RFC 2544 Applicability Statement: Use on Real-World Networks Considered Harmful

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Summary

- This memo clarifies the scope of [RFC2544], with the goal to provide guidance to the community on its applicability, which is limited to laboratory testing.

- Defines Isolated Test Environment (ITE)
  - contain the test streams to paths within the desired set-up
  - prevent non-test traffic from traversing the test set-up
Explaination and Advisory

- Why RFC 2544 Methods are intended for ITE:
  - Experimental Control, Repeatability, and Accuracy
  - Containment of Implementation Failure Impact
- Methods intended for network devices (not nets)
- Operating test equipment on real-world networks according to the methods in [RFC2544], where overload is a required outcome, would no doubt be harmful to user traffic performance.
- These tests MUST NOT be used on active, live, real-world networks.