

Case Study:

Gigamon Enables Cost-effective Monitoring Solution for Large Diversified Company

Challenge

- Slash the cost and complexity of the network performance management infrastructure

Solution

- GigaVUE data access switch from Gigamon

Benefits

- Increased tool efficiency with immediate return on investment
- Aggregate traffic from multiple TAPs and deliver it to centralized tools
- Ensure secure access and meet privacy compliance
- Connect and disconnect tools at will with out of band network

“Network engineers have never had anything like this before. With the ability to aggregate, filter packets, and replicate customized data streams to any tool, the GigaVUE gives network engineers new power to manage their networks with less cost and fewer disruptions”

-Tom Gallatin
Co-Founder
Gigamon

Headquartered in Canada, this company consists of a growing network of interrelated businesses with more than 1,100 general merchandise and apparel retail stores and gas stations, in addition to a major financial services provider and a federally chartered bank.

Challenge

With a large, nationwide network, efficient performance monitoring and troubleshooting was critical for this diversified company. The Network Department had begun implementing a distributed monitoring solution that included probes and sniffers.

While the distributed probes and TAPs would provide networking staff with the performance data they needed, it was also a very costly monitoring architecture. One probe was needed for every two TAPs. To provide complete coverage, the company would need to invest in a significant number of expensive probes, which would have to be managed by a staff that was already stretched thin.

In addition to probes, the company had also invested in several sniffers for network and application troubleshooting. Again, the tool was effective, but each monitoring session required technicians to unplug the cable from the previously monitored link and reconnect it to the current link being monitored.

The company needed to find a more cost-effective way to deploy its network probes, and a more convenient, secure method of accessing data streams using the sniffer.

Solution

Then the Networking Department discovered the GigaVUE Data Access Switch from Gigamon. GigaVUE simplifies the deployment and use of multiple monitoring tools in networks, providing secure replication, filtering—and most importantly for the company’s technical staff—aggregation of critical network traffic. GigaVUE enabled full network visibility to all categories of passive monitoring tools at a reduced cost.

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Based on initial research, the technical staff conducted a trial of the GigaVUE [2404 high-density] Data Access Switch, which proved a resounding success. The company decided to initially deploy three GigaVUE Data Access Switches—one for a test environment and two for the production network. Additional GigaVUE Data Access Switches are expected to be deployed in the near future.

Benefits

Without Gigamon, one probe was needed for every two TAPs. With Gigamon, each GigaVUE chassis aggregates data from multiple TAPs. This enables each probe to support up to 12 TAPs, reducing the number of probes required by as much as 87 percent. The company estimates a savings of \$120,000—a day one return on investment.

GigaVUE gives networking staff flexibility in connecting and disconnecting probes and sniffers remotely in a production environment without touching a wire or leaving their desks. The solution streamlines network operation by dramatically reducing the need for change management and scheduling maintenance windows.

With financial data traversing the network on a regular basis, unplugging and plugging sniffers into unsecured TAP monitor ports as needed (i.e., “crash cart” troubleshooting) posed a potential security risk as well as a compliance issue. GigaVUE provides a highly secure solution that confines tools to a centralized location with controlled access. Sniffer cables are “always connected” and specific data is selected through the GigaVUE configuration.

GigaVUE has enabled this company to do more with less, reducing the cost and complexity of its network monitoring infrastructure. Simplified management has allowed staff to focus more effort on managing the network and less on managing the tools, which translates into improved network uptime, performance and higher customer satisfaction.

About Gigamon

Gigamon is the inventor and leading provider of Data-Access Switches. Its flagship product, GigaVUE®, can replicate packets from one span or TAP to many tools to solve the span port sharing problem. It also can aggregate and intelligently filter packets from many spans or TAPs to one or multiple tools to solve the problem of monitoring flows across complex mesh topologies and virtual networks. GigaVUE® facilitates unobtrusive parallel tool deployment with network-wide coverage, significantly reducing customers’ capital budgets.

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