

# Beacon Health Options Protects Patient Data with SSL Decryption



## AT A GLANCE

### Customer Benefits

- Able to decrypt inline SSL traffic to meet state regulatory requirements
- Gigamon Visibility Platform serves as network testbed, allowing changes to the network without disrupting operations
- Timely and responsive support helped make swift rollout possible

### Gigamon Solution

- One GigaVUE-HC2 visibility node
- Gigamon Inline Bypass module
- GigaSMART® SSL/TLS Decryption

### Vendors

- FireEye NX
- TippingPoint IPS
- Cisco Nexus 7000
- Check Point Gateway

## Challenges

One of the greatest challenges facing the healthcare industry is keeping patient data private and secure. Packets containing sensitive data must be encrypted as they pass over the open internet or certain parts of an internal network, then decrypted for analysis by appropriate tools and applications. SSL decryption, however, can strain network tools and slow down response times.

Beacon Health Options, a Boston-based behavioral health company, participates in a program run by the State of Maryland that imposed new audit requirements: Beacon Health Options needed to decrypt and inspect traffic going to a set of applications that the program uses, and they needed to implement the technology quickly.

“We considered doing decryption using our load balancer or our intrusion protection system,” says Ralph Nerette, Beacon Health Options’ Manager of Network Services. After some consideration, the team decided they wanted a more centralized approach for decryption rather than doing it at the individual tool, which can be quite expensive. SSL traffic makes up approximately 60 percent of Beacon Health Options network traffic.

At the same time, Beacon Health Options’ network topography made it difficult to test new upgrades on the fly. The company needed to be able to try out changes to the network without disrupting operations.

## Solution

Beacon Health Options was able to leverage a Gigamon GigaVUE-HC2 appliance and deploy it inline to decrypt the traffic on the main network. The Gigamon Visibility Platform now distributes the decrypted traffic to the multiple tools for inspection as mandated by the state audit requirements.

All of Beacon’s network links are 10Gbps, and the HC2 can easily handle the load, leaving room for growth. “Right now, we only have six percent utilization on the tool at any given point,” says Nerette.

## Meeting the State’s Deadline

It was particularly important that Beacon roll out the decryption capabilities in time to meet state audit requirements. “We were able to do this very quickly as we went from inline to SSL deployment in four weeks,” says Nerette. “In my mind, without Gigamon this would never have been possible. I pushed our Gigamon sales engineer a lot on support to make this happen, and we were able to pull it off.”

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## Results

The most important outcome for Beacon is that the Gigamon Visibility Platform is now reliably decrypting SSL traffic as needed, helping the company meet its audit requirements. “Today, everyone refers to Gigamon as the central decryption appliance,” says Nerette. “That’s its primary function.”

Another benefit is the flexibility that the inline Gigamon Visibility Platform now provides for experimentation. “Gigamon allows us to test and make changes to the network without being overly disruptive,” says Nerette. “It’s our network test lab in the data center, and it has really given us a lot of flexibility.”

While Beacon currently decrypts only inbound traffic, Nerette’s team is working on a proof of concept for outbound traffic as well. Beacon has plans to use the Gigamon Visibility Platform more extensively in the future as they learn more about what it can do.

“I attend a lot of Gigamon BrightTALK seminars and think the company is doing the right thing in educating folks,” says Nerette. “We’re still in the infancy of pushing the potential of the appliance. Both my security and networking teams benefit from using this appliance.”

## About Beacon Health Options

Beacon offers superior clinical mental health and substance use disorder management, a comprehensive employee assistance program, work/life support, specialty programs for autism and depression, and insightful analytics to improve the delivery of care. The company offers access to a broad network of behavioral health providers and facilities, encompassing all levels of specialty mental health and addiction services so members can receive the right care at the right intensity and at the right time.

## About Gigamon

Gigamon is the recognized leader in network visibility solutions, delivering the powerful insights needed to see, secure and empower enterprise networks. Our solutions accelerate threat detection and incident response while empowering customers to maximize their infrastructure performance across physical, virtual and cloud networks.

Since 2004 we have cultivated a global customer base, which includes leading service providers and government agencies as well as enterprise NetOps and SecOps teams from more than 80 percent of the Fortune 100. For more information visit [www.gigamon.com](http://www.gigamon.com).