

Public Employees' Retirement System Leverages GigaSECURE® to Streamline Security Costs and Increase Visibility

Customer Benefits

- Helps with financial industry regulation compliance
- Improves visibility, security and network performance
- Enables easier trouble shooting of network issues and spotting of security threats

Gigamon Products

- GigaSECURE Security Delivery Platform
- GigaVUE-HC2 Visibility Node
- GigaSMART® module with 16 10Gb cages
- GigaVUE-TA1 traffic aggregator

Gigamon Partners

- FireEye
- Tealeaf (IBM)

Challenges

When a Public Employees' Retirement System senior network engineering lead helped to design the datacenter that powers its new member site, he knew reliability and security were of the upmost importance. The online portal is used by more than 1.5 million members to keep tabs on their retirement and healthcare benefits. He understood the importance of giving these dedicated civil servants convenient, consistent access to this information and the applications that supply it. One of his key goals was to gain full visibility into the entire network. This was essential for his team to trouble shoot issues that arose after the beta testing stage.

Solution

The customer was familiar with Gigamon from his roles with other organizations and knew the power of what the company could deliver. After careful planning, he chose to install a number of GigaVUE® Visibility Nodes in strategic spots throughout the network to provide full visibility of the network.

"When we compared Gigamon to a competitor during the evaluation phase, one of the key deciding factors was its reliable performance, especially as we migrated our network from 10Gb to 40Gb," he said.

The organization also installed a number of inline bypass TAPs in front of their FireEye appliances. The Gigamon and FireEye solutions work in tandem to help ensure the FireEye solution receive the necessary traffic that they need to thwart advanced cyber threats while the GigaSECURE Security Delivery Platform reduces network complexity, costs, and security appliance contention for traffic. This combined solution also ensures the networking and security teams' goals are being met without overtaxing the network.

"Sometimes data has to traverse through multiple 10Gb connections to find the best path to a security tool, literally traveling down two separate pieces of cable, and GigaSMART's packet slicing enables us to get the proper throughput for this," said the customer.

Case Study: Public Employees' Retirement System Leverages GigaSECURE to Streamline Security Costs and Increase Visibility

Recently he needed to do a head-to-head comparison of several vendor's software appliances. He simply plugged them into his GigaVUE-HC2 node and was able to replicate the exact same conditions—same data, same splice point, same fiber, same hardware. This direct comparison was the fairest way to evaluate multiple vendors and reduced the amount of time required for the evaluation. In the end it helped him to confidently select the best one for the organization's needs.

In addition, by using Gigamon in combination with Tealeaf (IBM), the organization's customer service team is able to reference earlier, recorded web sessions during conversations with clients and explain to them what may have gone wrong. This process leverages Tealeaf and Gigamon's reference architecture and captures all visitor interactions with web-based applications and helps to explain why a given user did or did not complete a transaction successfully. Given the organization already had a GigaVUE-HC2 node in place, the customer simply added another module to support the Tealeaf integration. Finally, it uses Gigamon to feed the relevant information to the proper security tools, ensuring they do not get slowed by unnecessary data flowing through them. This reduces the numbers of span ports required by the networking and security teams, and lowers the organization's overall security tool budget.

Results

"Gigamon is essential for us. We rely on it on a daily basis," he said.

"It provides a great foundation for us to scale our network as its traffic continues to grow."

About Gigamon

Gigamon provides active visibility into physical and virtual network traffic, enabling stronger security and superior performance. Gigamon's Visibility Platform and GigaSECURE®, the industry's first Security Delivery Platform, deliver advanced intelligence so that security, network and application performance management solutions in enterprise, government and service provider networks operate more efficiently and effectively. See more at www.gigamon.com, the [Gigamon Blog](#), or follow Gigamon on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#).