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// Joe Spadafora, Voice Quality Engineer, Gamma

Gamma, one of the fastest-growing businesses in the United Kingdom telecommunications market, is one of the four largest network carriers in terms of voice minutes. Gamma develops communications solutions, including a broad range of voice, mobile and data services, sold through the channel to corporate, non-profit and public sector organizations. Investing heavily in quality, web-based services, automation, and service differentiation, Gamma develops its products with value, simplicity and ease-of-use in mind, enabling its channel partners to grow their businesses.

Keeping Customers Happy

Gamma provides customers with wireless, wire-line and Internet access. In order to ensure optimal network performance, Gamma was monitoring its network traffic through port mirroring, but an increase in traffic soon made it obvious a more efficient method was necessary.

“Public media traffic grew to be too much with thousands of customers—it began oversubscribing our tools. In order to capture and monitor it all, we needed a new solution,” said Joe Spadafora, Voice Quality Engineer for Gamma.

Gamma began looking for an additional network tool to add to its WireShark network protocol analyzer to improve monitoring and troubleshooting. After considering market leading solutions, Gamma selected Gigamon and deployed a half dozen GigaVUE-420 Traffic Visibility Fabric Nodes, a pair at each of its two locations in Manchester and London. The GigaVUE systems give Gamma complete network visibility, enabling aggregation and filtering of incoming data. This end-to-end network visibility is crucial to ensure satisfaction for Gamma’s customers.

Watching the Network

The Gigamon GigaVUE-420 aggregates, filters and replicates traffic flows across multiple monitoring tools, and its modular design allows the exact number of ports necessary to be deployed to fit Gamma’s requirements. The GigaVUE-420 provides out-of-band ports for passive monitoring tools.

Challenge

When Gamma needed a more efficient way to monitor its network to quickly troubleshoot issues to ensure customer satisfaction, the communications provider set out to find a solution that would enhance the capabilities of its monitoring tools and grow to meet its future needs.

Solution

A Gigamon[®] Traffic Visibility Fabric™ solution built on GigaVUE-420 fabric nodes providing aggregation, filtering and replication of traffic flows

Benefits

- Pervasive visibility of network traffic so issues can be addressed quickly and easily
- Gamma’s monitoring tools receive the network information they need to realize their potential
- A scalable solution that can seamlessly grow to address Gamma’s future needs
- Monitoring and security tools can be added without affecting the production network

Tools may be added without affecting the network—at any hour without configuration management review.

The Gigamon stacking architecture allows Gamma to stack multiple GigaVUE-420 fabric nodes for additional scalability and simplified management with the ability to manage the stack centrally. Connecting multiple GigaVUE systems in a cross-box stack means that data arriving at a network port on one GigaVUE can be forwarded to a tool port on another GigaVUE, providing a full network view as well as allowing for centralized tooling for Spadafora and his team.

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The GigaVUE-420 fabric nodes are deployed between Gamma’s switches and connected to the servers, capturing traffic and parsing it out to the Wireshark tools for analysis. The Visibility Fabric unobtrusively provides pervasive and dynamic visibility to Gamma’s network traffic, enabling Spadafora and his team to quickly troubleshoot any issues and make necessary changes.

Easy Flexibility and Scalability

Gamma plans to add additional monitoring devices to its network and with the Visibility Fabric in place, it’s easy to add those tools without any network downtime. In addition, before making those buying decisions, Gamma can take advantage of the Gigamon solution to set up side-by-side comparisons of monitoring products to select the right tools for its needs. Because the GigaVUE-420 fabric node allows Gamma to replicate traffic, the comparison can be arranged in such a way so that each competitive product runs at the same time, receiving the same traffic allowing for various features to be reviewed under the same circumstances. The same can be done when Gamma is ready to test new security appliances. The GigaVUE-420 Traffic Visibility Fabric Node supports 10/100/1000 and 10 Gigabit Ethernet.

“We wanted to monitor everything for troubleshooting, and the Gigamon Visibility Fabric is a scalable solution that can grow with us.”

// Joe Spadafora, Voice Quality Engineer, Gamma

Gamma appreciates the ease of use of the Gigamon solution, according to Spadafora. “The front-end GUI is intuitive and easy to use, which further adds value,” he said.

“Gigamon essentially enhances the value of the tools we have on our network by enabling them to handle the traffic more efficiently. We’ve basically lengthened the life of our existing tools by deploying a Visibility Fabric.”

// Joe Spadafora, Voice Quality Engineer, Gamma

About Gigamon

Gigamon provides an intelligent Traffic Visibility Fabric for enterprises, data centers and service providers around the globe. Our technology empowers infrastructure architects, managers and operators with pervasive visibility and control of traffic across both physical and virtual environments without affecting the performance or stability of the production network. Through patented technologies and centralized management, the Gigamon GigaVUE portfolio of high availability and high density products intelligently delivers the appropriate network traffic to security, monitoring or management systems. With over eight years’ experience designing and building traffic visibility products in the US, Gigamon solutions are deployed globally across vertical markets including over half of the Fortune 100 and many government and federal agencies.

For more information about our Gigamon products visit:

www.gigamon.com