



Joint Solution Brief

Nectar and Gigamon Improve Unified Communications Performance Management and User Experience through Enhanced Network Visibility

The Challenge

When the quality of unified communications – including voice, video and web applications – suffers, so too does the user experience, which can drive down customer adoption rates and productivity.

Integrated Solution

Used together, the Gigamon Visibility Platform™ and the Nectar Unified Communications Management Platform (UCMP) provide customers insight into their unified communications deployments, allowing them to quickly identify, isolate and remediate unified communications performance issues. Utilizing this visibility helps customers control operational costs, maximize return on investment and future-proof converged network environments.

Joint Solution Benefits

- A holistic infrastructure for inventory, monitoring, alarming, diagnosis, root-cause-analysis, capacity and performance management across global IP communication systems.
- Aggregation, filtering and distribution of relevant traffic to the Nectar UCMP accelerates processing throughput and maximizes device efficiency.
- Easy control of which traffic is monitored reduces opex and accelerates deployment into new network connections.
- SSL decryption enables protection from encrypted sessions.

Introduction

Suboptimal unified communications (UC) performance – such as poor audio and video quality – can contribute to poor user experience, a decline in adoption rates and poor network productivity. For this reason, IT departments need performance monitoring and management tools that provide comprehensive network views and workflows for users deploying real-time communication solutions for on-premises, cloud and hybrid environments.

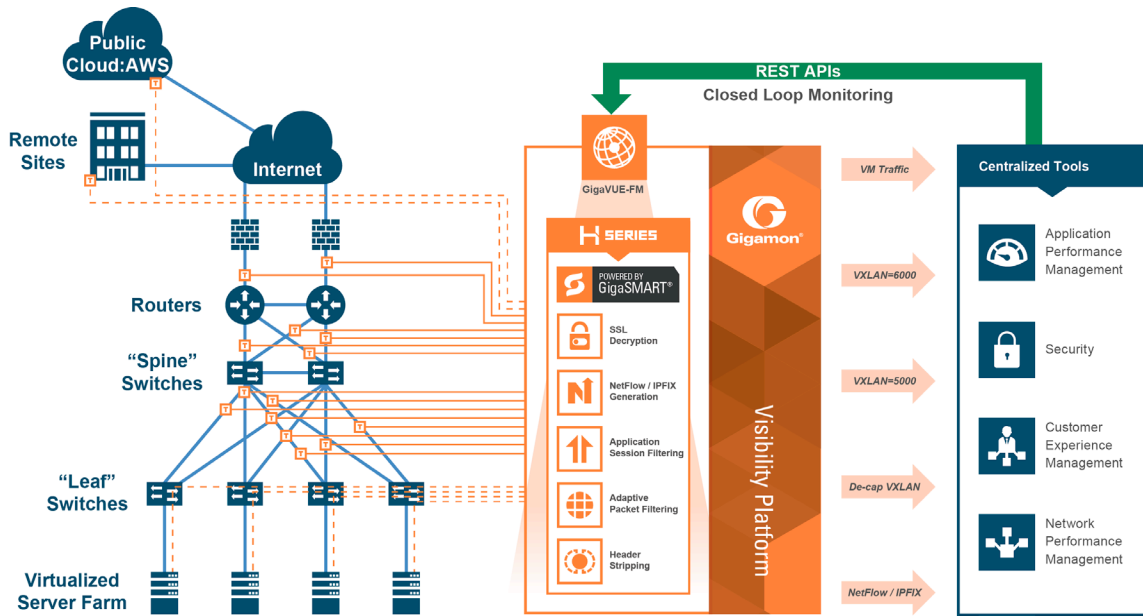
Though many UC health and performance management solutions on the market can tell customers when they have an issue, the Nectar Unified Communications Management Platform (UCMP) stands apart – and above – given its ability to also tell customers what the specific cause of the issue is, in real-time. By providing quick and effective root cause analysis and diagnosis, the Nectar UCMP helps enterprise customers immediately address and resolve issues and return to normal operations, thus maximizing productivity and reducing IT support costs for complex, global UC environments.

The Gigamon and Nectar Joint Solution

Integrated with the Gigamon Visibility Platform, the Nectar UCMP provides complete network performance visibility that enables customers to quickly identify, isolate and remediate UC issues. Built to accommodate diverse business units, the Nectar UCMP architecture is comprised of four components:

- UC Foundation (UCF) – Superior health and performance monitoring and management.
- UC Diagnostics (UCD) – Advanced monitoring, management, reporting and diagnostics.
- Perspective – Easy-to-deploy synthetic testing capabilities.
- Call Analysis – Multi-vendor call detail record (CDR) collection, rating and cost analysis.

Together, these modules enable enhanced IT collaboration while helping to ensure an easy path for future technology needs and business growth. With Nectar UCMP, users can easily and cost effectively integrate and manage new applications and services from multiple vendors while minimizing their organization's total cost of ownership.



By implementing these tools, network managers can introduce new levels of efficiency, gain greater levels of manageability and improve user experience with benefits that include accelerated provisioning, real-time monitoring, advanced reporting and analytics and proactive troubleshooting.

Key Gigamon solution features that augment the value of the Nectar solution include:

Easy access to traffic from physical, virtual and public cloud networks: The Gigamon Visibility Platform allows traffic to be captured and intelligently routed to the Nectar UCMP, efficiently and in the correct format. To monitor east-west data center traffic and public cloud workloads, Gigamon taps virtual traffic and incorporates it into the Gigamon Visibility Platform for delivery to the Nectar UCMP on the physical network. This helps ensure that all traffic is monitored and analyzed together and eliminates blind spots.

Deduplication: Pervasive visibility requires tapping or copying traffic from multiple points in the network, which, in turn, means tools may see the same packet more than once. To avoid unnecessary packet processing overhead on the Nectar UCMP, the Gigamon Visibility Platform offers a highly effective deduplication engine that removes duplicates before they consume resources.

Traffic filtering: The Gigamon Visibility Platform sends specific traffic or sessions to the Nectar UCMP so it does not become overloaded with irrelevant traffic that would only be dropped at a later point. Specific UC traffic formats or ports can be identified for forwarding to the Nectar UCMP – or irrelevant traffic types can be filtered out before sending the remaining traffic to the UCMP.

Aggregation to minimize tool port use: The Gigamon Visibility Platform can aggregate links with low traffic volumes before sending them to the Nectar UCMP to minimize the number of ports required. By tagging the traffic, the Gigamon Visibility Platform allows for the traffic origination point to be identified so route cause analysis and necessary remediation can be calculated if required.

SSL decryption: Real-time SSL decryption integration increases traffic visibility for the Nectar UCMP solution.

Learn More

For more information on Nectar and Gigamon solutions, contact:

