Introduction

Network performance and security are paramount in contributing to the success of any business today. However, with the growing complexity of IT infrastructures has come a growing challenge to streamline troubleshooting of operational and security issues. This is not an ideal situation—especially when considering that even a minor network breach can lead to significant financial loss, reputation damage, or customer churn.

To respond to this challenge and help alleviate complexity, organizations have begun to turn to flow-based (NetFlow/IPFIX) network traffic monitoring. Flow-based monitoring provides detailed information—metadata—on who is communicating with whom, when, for how long, how often, with what protocol, and more. Using this metadata, network administrators can perform real-time monitoring of network utilization and uncover root causes of performance degradation while security engineers are able to detect traffic anomalies and suspicious behavior to help curtail the threat of advanced cyber attacks.

The Gigamon and Flowmon Networks Joint Solution

To help businesses take control over their IT infrastructures, Flowmon Networks provides a comprehensive platform for flow-based (NetFlow/IPFIX) network monitoring and security.

Integrated with the Gigamon Visibility Platform, Flowmon technology provides everything needed for complete network traffic visibility and analysis, including powerful collectors (Flowmon Collectors) that consume and store Gigamon-generated NetFlow/IPFIX metadata, including HTTP response codes and DNS queries, for deeper contextual analysis of network and security events. Additional modules are available for behavior analysis and anomaly detection (Flowmon ADS) and protection against volumetric DDoS attacks (Flowmon DDoS Defender). Dedicated Flowmon Probes, that can be provided access to traffic via GigaSECURE, move the solution beyond flow technology enabling broad L7 visibility, HTTP/HTTPS application performance monitoring (Flowmon APM) and on-demand full packet capture (Flowmon Traffic Recorder).

Key Gigamon Visibility Platform features that augment the value of Flowmon technology include:

**Easy access to traffic from physical and virtual networks:** The Gigamon platform manages and delivers all network traffic to Flowmon solutions, efficiently and in the correct format. To monitor east-west data center traffic, Gigamon taps virtual traffic and incorporates it into the Gigamon platform for delivery to Flowmon as metadata files. This ensures that all traffic is monitored and analyzed together and eliminates blind spots.

**Aggregation to minimize tool port use:** Where links have low traffic volumes, the Gigamon platform can aggregate these together before sending them to the tool in order to minimize the number of ports that need to be used. By tagging the traffic, the Security Delivery Platform ensures that the source of the tagged traffic can be identified.

**Filtering:** The platform can be configured to send only relevant traffic or sessions to Flowmon modules avoiding unnecessary processing.
Masking for security: The Gigamon platform is able to mask sensitive data (e.g., credit card numbers in e-commerce and patient identification in healthcare) within packets before sending them to other tools where operators or other unintended recipients may see them.

Load balancing to spread traffic across multiple devices: When traffic flows are larger than a single Flowmon Collector can cope with, the Gigamon platform can be used to split the flow across devices, while keeping sessions together.

SSL decryption: Real-time SSL decryption integration increases traffic visibility for Flowmon solutions.

Easier control of asymmetric routing to ensure session information is kept together: Most security devices require all the packets in a session to be inspected by the same device as incomplete sessions risk being blocked. The Gigamon Visibility Platform provides an intelligent and efficient way to ensure this inspection happens in most architectures.

For more information on Gigamon and Flowmon, visit:
www.gigamon.com and www.flowmon.com