



Joint Solution Brief

Performance Management with Software-Defined Visibility

The Challenge

Network operations and security teams depend on packet-based analysis to optimize and validate acceptable service assurance in IT and data center environments. Ensuring tools have easy access to the right data can require complex deployment planning.

Integrated Solution

The Observer Performance Management Platform can control Gigamon's Visibility Fabric™ to collect or drop selected traffic whenever it is determined to be useful, thus ensuring sufficient traffic data is available for full analysis and that deployments are not overwhelmed by unnecessary flows.

Joint Solution Benefits

- Detect application anomalies and rapidly locate the source of issues
- Assess the scope of network problems and triage response based on end-user impact
- Achieve quick resolutions by pinpointing failing application, device, or network components
- Maximize the platform effectiveness through visibility into all traffic whether physical or virtual
- Maximize platform efficiency by just analyzing the right amount of traffic – automatically controlled by the solution itself

Introduction

The management of IT resources has changed significantly over the past several years. With the implementation of cloud, unified communications (UC), and Big Data initiatives, locating the source of application or service delivery issues has become increasingly complex. As a result, the network team often functions as a first responder, ensuring the continued and uninterrupted delivery of critical services.

A recent study¹ shows that nearly three-quarters of IT managers cited their top application troubleshooting challenge as determining the root cause of performance problems. These problems take too much time to isolate and repair, and this downtime has a real impact on the bottom line. According to research firm Aberdeen Group, every hour of downtime costs an organization \$163,674².

To effectively turn this tide, IT teams need comprehensive data at their fingertips that incorporates all operational views of the network, from systems to applications in a single view, and they need a network infrastructure that allows them to collect, manage, analyze and distribute this information as as automated and efficient a way as possible.

The Gigamon and Viavi Joint Solution

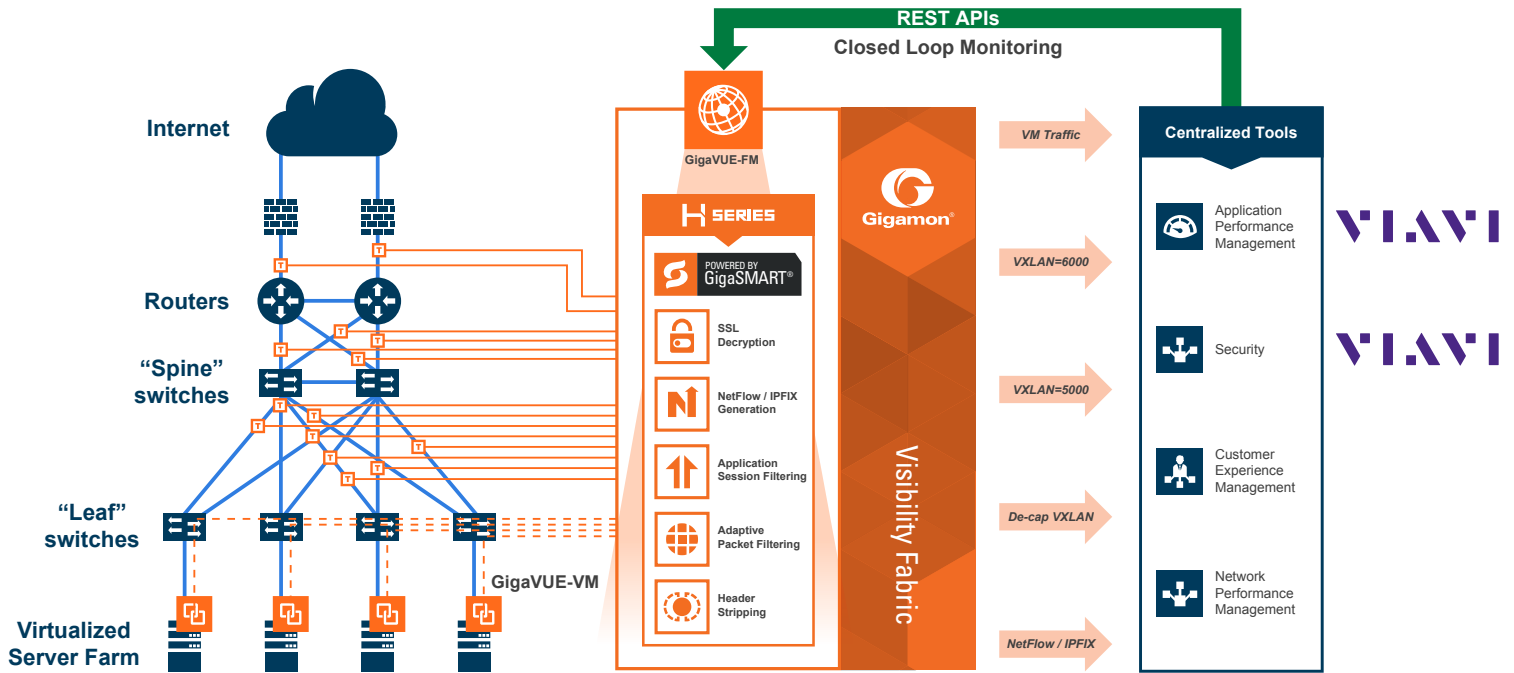
To minimize the 'black holes' created when users roll out or move IT services and resources without the network team's knowledge, the new Observer Platform ties together the provisioning of IT resources with the automatic deployment of monitoring tools via RESTful APIs. The Observer Performance Management Platform provides network managers and engineers a comprehensive, intuitive approach to:

- Proactively pinpoint performance problems and optimize services.
- Integrate monitoring into the deployment of IT initiatives, including cloud, service orchestration and security.
- Easily manage access and share performance data with IT teams and business units.
- Quickly assess and optimize user experience with web services.

Deploying the Observer Platform alongside Gigamon's Unified Visibility Fabric ensures that the platform has access to all the relevant traffic information that it can effectively use. Visibility Fabric nodes provide easy, efficient access to traffic and metadata from across the entire network, both physical and virtual, while also enabling the easy manipulation and distribution of that data. Packets can be deduped, sliced, or masked to hide sensitive data such as personal identifiers, or credit card data before delivery to the Observer Platform.

¹Seventh Annual State of the Network Global Study, 2014.

²Research Report | 8/16/2013, Downtime And Data Loss: How Much Can You Afford?



The traffic is delivered with contextual information about the time and location within the network that it was collected, allowing comparative analysis to be done by the Observer Platform to aid with troubleshooting and determining remediation actions.

Through use of the Gigamon REST APIs the Observer Platform can control the information it receives, analyzes and retains to maximize the efficiency of the deployment. Dynamic Traffic Management means the Observer Platform can choose to drop irrelevant traffic from the flows it receives to reduce processing overhead or it can request increased traffic information where anomalies are detected and further investigation is required.

Learn More

For more information on the Viavi and Gigamon solution, contact:

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Gigamon
www.gigamon.com