Large Diversified Company Enables Cost-Effective Monitoring with Gigamon

> ❝❝ Network engineers have never had anything like this before. With the ability to aggregate, filter packets, and replicate customized traffic streams to any tool, the GigaVUE gives network engineers new power to manage their networks with less cost and fewer disruptions."
>
> **TOM GALLATIN**
> Co-Founder, Gigamon

CHALLENGE

Channel network traffic flexibly and securely to a wide range of monitoring tools

SOLUTION

GigaVUE® Traffic Visibility Node

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

+ Increased tool efficiency with immediate return on investment
+ Aggregated traffic from multiple TAPs and delivered it to centralized tools
+ Ensured secure access and met privacy compliance
+ Connected and disconnected tools at will with out-of-band network

Gigamon®

Headquartered in Canada, this company consists of a growing network of interrelated businesses with more than 1,100 general merchandise and apparel retail stores and gas stations, in addition to a major financial services provider and a federally chartered bank.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

With a large, nationwide network, efficient performance monitoring and troubleshooting was critical for this diversified company. The Network Department had begun implementing a distributed monitoring solution that included probes and sniffers.

While the distributed probes and TAPs would provide networking staff with the performance traffic they needed, it was also a very costly monitoring architecture. One probe was needed for every two TAPs. To provide complete coverage, the company would need to invest in a significant number of expensive probes, which would have to be managed by a staff that was already stretched thin.

In addition to probes, the company had also invested in several sniffers for network and application troubleshooting. Again, the tool was effective, but each monitoring session required technicians to unplug the cable from the previously monitored link and reconnect it to the current link being monitored. The company needed to find a more cost-effective way to deploy its network probes, and a more convenient, secure method of accessing traffic streams using the sniffer.

RESOLUTION

Then the Networking Department discovered the GigaVUE® Traffic Visibility Node from Gigamon. GigaVUE simplifies the deployment and use of multiple monitoring tools in networks, providing secure replication, filtering — and most importantly for the company's technical staff — aggregation of critical network traffic. GigaVUE enabled full network visibility to all categories of passive monitoring tools at a reduced cost. Based on initial research, the technical staff conducted a trial of the GigaVUE-2404 Traffic Visibility Node, which proved a resounding success. The company decided to initially deploy three GigaVUE Traffic Visibility Nodes—one for a test environment and two for the production network. Additional GigaVUE Traffic Visibility Nodes are expected to be deployed in the near future.

BENEFIT

Without Gigamon, one probe was needed for every two TAPs. With Gigamon, each GigaVUE chassis aggregates traffic from multiple TAPs. This enables each probe to support up to 12 TAPs, reducing the number of probes required by as much as 87 percent. The company estimates a savings of $120,000 — a day one return on investment.

GigaVUE gives networking staff flexibility in connecting and disconnecting probes and sniffers remotely in a production environment without touching a wire or leaving their desks. The solution streamlines network operation by dramatically reducing the need for change management and scheduling maintenance windows.

With financial traffic traversing the network on a regular basis, unplugging and plugging sniffers into unsecured TAP monitor ports as needed, i.e., "crash cart" troubleshooting, posed a potential security risk as well as a compliance issue. GigaVUE provides a highly secure solution that confines tools to a centralized location with controlled access. Sniffer cables are "always connected" and specific traffic is selected through the GigaVUE configuration.

GigaVUE has enabled this company to do more with less, reducing the cost and complexity of its network monitoring infrastructure. Simplified management has allowed staff to focus more effort on managing the network and less on managing the tools, which translates into improved network uptime, performance and higher customer satisfaction.

ABOUT GIGAMON

Gigamon is the first company to deliver unified network visibility and analytics on all data-in-transit, from raw packets to apps, across physical, virtual and cloud infrastructure. We aggregate, transform and analyze network traffic to solve for critical performance and security needs, including rapid threat detection and response, freeing your organization to drive digital innovation. In short, we enable you to run fast, stay secure and innovate. Gigamon has been awarded over 75 technology patents and enjoys industry-leading customer satisfaction with more than 3,000 organizations, including 80 percent of the Fortune 100. Headquartered in Silicon Valley, Gigamon operates globally. For the full story on how Gigamon can help you, please visit www.gigamon.com.

Gigamon®

Worldwide Headquarters
3300 Olcott Street, Santa Clara, CA 95054 USA
+1 (408) 831-4000 | www.gigamon.com