Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Improves Visibility Across Virtual and Physical Infrastructure with Gigamon

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>
> MATT PLITNIK
> IT Infrastructure Manager

CHALLENGE

Required visibility in hybrid network environment for critical security and application performance monitoring tools

SOLUTION

+ GigaVUE-FM
+ GigaVUE-VM
+ GigaVUE-HD Series

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

+ Enhanced access and visibility into tool set
+ Improved traffic visibility into virtualized environments
+ Bolstered integration of multiple tools across physical, cloud and virtual environments

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) is a world-class cancer treatment center that unites doctors from Fred Hutch, UW Medicine, and Seattle Children's to lead the world in the prevention and treatment of cancer. They chose Gigamon to gain the visibility needed to protect the critical information and research they retain and to help ensure maximum network performance. This visibility enables them to offer the best tools and systems available to the doctors and administrators of the clinic so they can, in turn, provide the best possible treatment for their patients.

"Not only do we need to monitor the performance of our environment, but in today's world of breaches and hackers targeting patient data and information, it's absolutely necessary to have advanced feature-rich solutions to monitor and secure that information. The question becomes how to feed these solutions and integrate them into a holistic monitoring infrastructure," said Matt Plitnik, IT Infrastructure Manager.

In the healthcare field, there are a variety of systems that need to be monitored for performance and reliability. Hospital and clinic environments have connected various systems to their network like infusion management, electronic health records, patient monitoring, order entry, and medicine administration. This is in addition to the hospital, lab, and financial management systems. Some of these are critical, life saving, or life-sustaining systems to patients of the hospital and performance problems or failures could be disastrous. Each one of these systems has associated applications that need to be monitored for performance, regardless whether they are deployed in a physical or virtual environment.

Seattle Cancer Care Alliance's demanding and sensitive environment requires a variety of tools. This includes SourceFire intrusion detection and prevention systems (IDS/IPS) to secure their network while utilizing the real-time wire data analytics solution, ExtraHop, to monitor and ensure application performance. They also have about 200 virtual machines running in their data center. This includes 50 core applications and approximately another 150 applications running in their virtualized and physical environments with varying degrees of application maturity. They wanted to be able to provide the necessary visibility from these physical and virtual environments to all of the tools in the monitoring infrastructure.

RESOLUTION

The Gigamon Deep Observability Pipeline solution including the GigaVUE-VM, for visibility into virtual workloads, and modular GigaVUE-HD4 and GigaVUE-2404 chassis fabric nodes with patented Flow Mapping® technology to provide intelligent visibility of traffic flows across virtual and physical environments. GigaVUE-FM provides centralized management of the flows and configurations for their deep observability pipeline.

BENEFITS

Seattle Cancer Care Alliance's edge is being upgraded from 100Mb Fast Ethernet to 1Gb and 10Gb data center interconnectivity, while their backbone is all 10Gb. The Gigamon Deep Observability Pipeline was able to provide access to traffic from these links of various speeds. They were able to deploy their SourceFire IPS/IDS to secure their environment from malicious attacks and breaches and leverage it to its full capacity using the intelligent aggregation. At the same time, the deep observability pipeline enabled them to serve up only the relevant data from the virtual and physical environments to their ExtraHop real-time wire data analytics solution.

They managed the creation of map rules and monitoring policies through the GigaVUE-FM fabric manager. "With Gigamon, you get a turnkey solution that can do it all and then scale as you grow adding new tools as needed. It really was measure twice, cut once," said Plitnik. "And setting up the configurations and flows in the fabric manager was super fast and easy."

“Gigamon really helps with the efficiency of our operations, too. The network engineer can touch the network fewer times to monitor, troubleshoot, or look for anomalies. You can tweak and tune things on the fly so you don’t have to interrupt normal business operations to change something to the monitoring infrastructure,” said Adrian Lane, Network Architect.

By implementing the Gigamon Deep Observability Pipeline, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance was able to gain visibility to 100 percent of the traffic for security and performance monitoring and troubleshooting solutions. They could cleanly integrate all of their monitor tools into a holistic monitoring infrastructure while allowing room to grow and add, remove, or change tools and the associated monitoring policies as they need. They gained the visibility they needed to protect sensitive patient information and ensure maximum network and application performance to offer the best possible treatment for their patients.

ABOUT GIGAMON

Gigamon offers a deep observability pipeline that harnesses actionable network-level intelligence to amplify the power of observability tools. This powerful combination enables IT organizations to assure security and compliance governance, speed rootcause analysis of performance bottlenecks, and lower operational overhead associated with managing hybrid and multi-cloud IT infrastructures. The result: Modern enterprises realize the full transformational promise of the cloud. Gigamon serves more than 4,000 customers worldwide, including over 80 percent of Fortune 100 enterprises, nine of the 10 largest mobile network providers, and hundreds of governments and educational organizations worldwide. To learn more, please visit gigamon.com.

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