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Case Study

Cardinal Health Streamlines Costs and Increases Network Security Efficiencies with Gigamon

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Case Study

Cardinal Health Streamlines Costs and Increases Network Security Efficiencies with Gigamon

We have enjoyed cost avoidance with Gigamon. It helps us consolidate expenses in a number of ways. There are increasing security challenges in healthcare and Gigamon allows us to gain visibility to threats while keeping costs contained.

JASON KUSNER
IT Network Principal, Cardinal Health

Challenges

- Comply with HIPAA, HITECH, and other regulations
- Provide robust network security
- Reduce cost and tools
- Scaling for network upgrade

Solution

- Gigamon Deep Observability Pipeline
- GigaVUE TA Series
- GigaSMART®

Customer Benefits

- Streamlined compliance
- Cost savings
- Increased efficiencies
- Faster time to resolution

Challenges

As one of the largest healthcare services and products companies in the world, Cardinal Health takes the management and protection of its corporate and customer data very seriously. With healthcare industry data privacy regulations including HIPAA and HITECH in place, the company must also address outside compliance issues. Cardinal Health recognizes that visibility into all of the data traversing its network is an important part of both protecting its data and maintaining compliance.

Initially, Cardinal used the Gigamon solution to address challenges related to packet analysis, port conflict, and remotely routing traffic to the proper tools. Over time, other groups within the company recognized the potential of the capabilities of Gigamon and asked to leverage their solutions in additional ways. Gigamon products now feed Cardinal Health's application performance monitoring, voice recording, and security tools including a firewall from Palo Alto Networks used for threat analysis. The company also uses Viavi GigaStor for packet capture.

Before Gigamon, if the monitoring team asked for confirmation that specific TAP/SPAN traffic was being delivered to their tools, the network engineering team couldn't provide a lot of detail for them. With Gigamon in place, the team can confirm the traffic in question is being properly routed, and can provide metrics of interest. In addition, the company is overseeing a multi-year migration to a 40Gb data center network, a massive project with a multitude of moving parts, both literal and figurative. Gigamon has been a key partner in this endeavor and is helping Cardinal Health maintain visibility while the company scales its network upwards.

Solution

The original configuration at Cardinal Health involved two GigaVUE-HD4 systems: one for each of their data centers. Over time as their need for visibility from TAPs increased, they added the GigaVUE-TA1 and GigaVUE-TA40 models. The GigaVUE TA Series provided higher port density at a much lower cost when linked to their GigaVUE-HD4 nodes. One challenge for their voice recording project was that call SIP traffic and RTP traffic could be sourced from separate data centers. Cardinal Health added GigaVUE-HB1 nodes and used GigaSMART tunneling between sites to capture the entire call session.

Results

With Gigamon, Cardinal Health has been able to speed up time to resolution for a number of issues, including both network and security-related challenges. The company has also enjoyed lower costs by reducing the number of tools they own and getting better performance out of what they already have in place. Consolidation is key to these savings. Gigamon products are able to feed copies of the same traffic to multiple tools for added efficiency. On the voice recording side, the GigaSMART tunneling feature enables the company to seamlessly transfer the data between data centers as needed while meeting compliance requirements.

About Cardinal Health

Cardinal Health, Inc. (NYSE: CAH) is a global, integrated healthcare services and products company, providing customized solutions for hospital systems, pharmacies, ambulatory surgery centers, clinical laboratories and physician offices worldwide. The company provides clinically-proven medical products and pharmaceuticals and cost-effective solutions that enhance supply chain efficiency from hospital to home. Cardinal Health connects patients, providers, payers, pharmacists and manufacturers for integrated care coordination and better patient management. Backed by nearly 100 years of experience, with more than 37,000 employees in nearly 60 countries, Cardinal Health ranks among the top 25 on the Fortune 500.

About Gigamon

Gigamon offers a deep observability pipeline that harnesses actionable network-derived intelligence to amplify the power of observability tools. This powerful combination helps IT organizations to assure security and compliance governance, speed root-cause 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 ten largest mobile network providers, and hundreds of governments and educational organizations worldwide. To learn more, please visit gigamon.com.