Nominee: Gigamon

Nomination title: The GigaVUE-HC2 – essential visibility for dynamic networks

IT personnel are often challenged to effectively manage, monitor and secure dynamic network environments, using traditional, static, tool arrays. With a multitude of monitoring devices, like application and network performance management, intrusion detection or prevention systems, VoIP monitors and many more, visibility is key to success. However, visibility increasingly requires multiple components such as TAPs, filtering, replication, inline and intelligent packet modifications. Port density and scalability are now considered standard requirements, meaning the future is to do more within each node.

In March 2014, Gigamon announced the availability of GigaVUE-HC2, a hardware networking tool that enables businesses to address this challenge by providing intelligent traffic visibility, through its modular, multi-purpose design. The GigaVUE-HC2 also future-proofs IT with its ability to scale as network needs evolve – thanks to a combined throughput exceeding 1Tb, the node easily accommodates non-blocking port speeds of 1Gb, 10Gb and 40Gb.

The GigaVUE-HC2 provides a higher number of ports and greater functionality than similar solutions through a flexible and modular format that meets the needs of expanding data centres. The solution offers up to 96x10Gb ports in a mid-sized two rack unit (2RU) form factor. The flexible chassis offers an advanced multi-functional design with the ability to accommodate a variety of internal port, network taps, and Gigamon's proprietary GigaSMART modules to address a range of customer requirements. This functionality can be included to extend the intelligence and value of the GigaVUE-HC2 visibility fabric. A range of applications are available to enable the modification, manipulation, transformation, and transport of traffic from the network to the tools that are relied upon for management, monitoring and security.

Whereas competing products have focussed on the basic principles of moving packets from the primary network to the monitoring, analytic and security tools, Gigamon's solution expands the overall capabilities to include its patented 'Flow Mapping' technology for complete aggregation, replication, and filtering capabilities. Flow Mapping allows network owners to create thousands of individual 'map-rules' to determine how traffic arriving on network ports should be sent to tool ports. This approach ensures each tool only sees the

traffic that it needs to see, and nothing else. Such granular customisation can overcome tool port oversubscription when aggregating traffic from multiple network ports and allows network tools to operate more efficiently, with less management – leading to both CAPEX and OPEX savings.

The GigaVUE-HC2 has attracted the industry's attention thanks to its broad applicability across a variety of industry verticals and use cases. The compact fabric node can be widely deployed by organisations with multiple groups sharing TAP/ SPAN ports; organisations with a need to scale their multi-tier security implementations; telecoms operators seeking an operational advantage to meet their customer SLAs; university and research centres with advanced infrastructure dedicated to active and continuous data monitoring; government agencies dealing with national security issues; and many other scenarios.

Essentially, as security, performance and customer experience monitoring rapidly transform – due to the increasing adoption of cloud, the consumerisation of IT, mobility and the evolution of the Internet of Things – the need for sophisticated, stateful and intelligent traffic correlation, as well as the need to accomplish everything at unprecedented speeds has become more apparent. The GigaVUE-HC2 meets these challenges and increases visibility in even the most complex network environments.

Why nominee should win

- The multi-purpose, modular design integrates high-density port, bypass, TAP, and intelligent packet capabilities into a single node, to reduce overall capital and operating expenditures

- Provides essential visibility into complex, changeable networks and future-proofs IT with its ability to scale as network needs evolve

- Its key differentiator is its integrated 'Flow Mapping' technology for complete aggregation, replication, and filtering capabilities

- The solution is the first of its kind, offering up to 96 x 10Gb ports in a mid-sized 2RU form factor running on the same operating system as the rest of the GigaVUE H Series offerings