

Gigamon Teams with the European Broadcasting Union to Strengthen Its Traffic Visibility for Faster Incident Diagnosis and Network Security



The Gigamon Visibility Platform is a perfect match for our information feed and diagnostics needs. We can now analyze 95 percent of our traffic using the Gigamon platform.”

PHILIPPE GÉHIN

Network and Security Engineer, European Broadcasting Union

CHALLENGE

Complex networks running on systems that do not communicate with each other

SOLUTION

- Gigamon Visibility Platform
- + Mirroring of east-west VMware VM traffic
- + Selection of VM traffic
- + Encapsulation of mirrored traffic to centrally visualize on GigaVUE GigaSECURE® Security Delivery Platform
- + Aggregation of SPAN ports

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- + Significant savings in number of monitoring and security tools
- + 95 percent of traffic analyzed compared with 40 percent previously
- + Faster diagnosis of incidents
- + Rapid payback on monitoring

CHALLENGES

Broadcasting organizations, such as the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), often have complex networks running on systems that do not communicate with each other.

Faced with this level of complexity, IT teams are continuously looking for better solutions, including a monitoring system that is capable of supporting more efficient diagnosis of problems within these networks. Many monitoring tools are expensive and do not deliver the high performance needed by broadcasting organizations. Moreover, most monitoring tools only analyze specific traffic flows and only have partial visibility because of direct connections to SPAN ports.

For the EBU, in particular, a global solution was needed that could provide visibility over east-west traffic between VMware virtual machines (VMs) to improve incident diagnostic capabilities. It was also necessary to ensure that the network access control solution in place could access the traffic to apply adequate security policies.

SOLUTION

In order to provide a scalable solution to EBU that would allow traffic to be transferred to the technical teams in charge of all the different systems, Gigamon needed to develop a traffic aggregation tool to filter traffic before forwarding it to the monitoring and security tools where traffic flows could be isolated on demand to support diagnostics.

The Gigamon Visibility Platform was a perfect match for their expectations. So, when the EBU told its long-standing service provider Navixia about its requirements in spring 2015, the latter recommended Gigamon. Although Navixia had only recently started working with Gigamon, the solution had already proven its worth. Navixia initially implemented a test appliance to verify that the tool would be suitable for the needs of the EBU. The network teams then carried out tests on three solutions, including the one from Gigamon.

Following a proof-of-concept (POC) phase lasting around three months, the EBU opted for the Gigamon solution based on its performance, ease of integration and ability to target traffic. "A few days of testing were enough to win the team over thanks to the platform's effectiveness, and the POC confirmed that it could deliver precisely what the teams needed in their daily work," relates Sébastien Perret, senior security architect at Navixia. "The installation went very smoothly and the solution was up and running in less than three hours," continues Sébastien Perret.

RESULTS

"The Gigamon Visibility Platform is a great match for our information feed and diagnostics needs. The tool is reliable and efficient with several interesting technical features. A great product!" declares Philippe Géhin, head of IT.

Deployed during the summer of 2015, the solution produced immediate results. Some of the many capabilities of the visibility platform now enjoyed by the team include: the ability to solve latency problems quickly, the de-duplication of traffic and a reduction in the processing load of the monitoring and security tools. The ease of access to traffic is also appreciated.

"Thanks to Gigamon, we can centralize monitoring capabilities and specifically choose what traffic we want to feed to the analysis tools," explains Géhin. "We can now analyze 95 percent of our traffic using the Gigamon platform. In addition, specific analyses that require network traffic to be captured take just five minutes now instead of two hours. We have greater confidence in the reliability of the traffic we are analyzing enabling us to pinpoint problems that arise."

ABOUT EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION

The European Broadcasting Union (ebu.ch/home) is the world's leading alliance of public service media. Its members operate around 2,000 television and radio channels in 56 countries. They broadcast in more than 120 languages with a potential audience reach of 1.03 billion people.

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 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 10 largest mobile network providers, and hundreds of governments and educational organizations worldwide. To learn more, please visit gigamon.com.

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