Case Study

Government Contractor Thwarts Threats to Its Project with Gigamon

> If you're going into an unknown customer network, and you need something that just works, you take a Gigamon [appliance] with you because you know you can make that work.

GREG
CISSP, Cybersecurity Supervisor at Government Contractor Firm

Challenges

- Achieving visibility into network traffic for network security monitoring
- Preventing and mitigating cyberattacks due to accidental user behavior
- Optimizing traffic flow and tool performance

Solution

- GigaVUE® HC Series
- GigaVUE-OS Flow Mapping®
- GigaVUE-FM fabric manager

Customer Benefits

- Acts as a force multiplier on the ability to monitor network traffic
- Optimizes tools efficiency
- Streamlines the number of security tools needed and the associated carbon footprint

About the Customer

Greg, CISSP, is the cybersecurity supervisor at this government contractor firm. He started his technology career working for a state government entity 22 years ago and has been focused on cybersecurity for the past 7 years. Explaining his role at the government contractor firm, he says he is responsible for the technology side of cybersecurity. His priorities are to ensure the work is performed in accordance with the contract's provisions regarding the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the project's information systems.

Business Challenge

Greg's biggest security concern is threats arising from problematic user behavior. "I'm just worried about the common accidents. Whether it's clicking on a phishing email, plugging in a USB device, sending information to a personal email to work on from home, or sharing information with someone with whom it shouldn't be shared or in a manner that's not appropriate for the kind of information being shared. These are the kinds of things that are most concerning to us in cybersecurity," says Greg. "We do our best with user awareness and education programs and training — there are always policies and procedures in place — but we know how well that goes at times," he remarks.

Resolution

The government contractor firm decided that Gigamon was the right solution to deploy in tandem with an asset discovery tool. Providing enhanced visibility into the network is where Gigamon fits in. "Gigamon is a force multiplier in our ability to monitor network traffic," Greg notes. "We have a single GigaVUE-HC1 that we're using to monitor SPAN ports at the core of our network and then send that traffic to at least four different tools." The asset discovery tool manages multiple assets with a homegrown tool, along with a network detection and response sensor and an intrusion detection system (IDS) for network security monitoring. As Greg puts it, "It's the same data and same SPAN port, but GigaVUE lets us solve four problems at once."

Greg uses the GigaVUE Flow Mapping feature to send only relevant protocols to the asset discovery tool, which helps build an asset list. This optimization capability also improves the efficiency of other tools. "The greatest value in Gigamon is being able to offload impact so we don't have to burden our core routers, switches, and firewalls with unnecessary traffic," says Greg.

Benefit

A long-time user of a "whole variety of Gigamon products" from his work at a state government entity, Greg appreciates how Gigamon solutions enable relevant traffic to be fed into the tools that need it while minimizing the overall number of tools required to bring the government contractor firm's security posture to the highest level. In addition, streamlining the number of tools reduces the level of energy dissipation and the associated carbon footprint of its security technology stack.

Greg is impressed with the reliability of Gigamon solutions. Speaking hypothetically, he asserts, "If you're going into an unknown customer network, and you need something that just works, you take a Gigamon [appliance] with you because you know you can make that work."

As a next step, Greg foresees that the team will switch from directly administering the GigaVUE appliance to using GigaVUE-FM fabric manager. "Initially, we didn't deploy a fabric manager because we only have one Gigamon appliance, so it seemed perhaps unnecessary, but there's value in it," says Greg. He views the solution as a good way to stay current on software releases and patches. "We will be deploying a fabric manager in our environment soon," he adds.

Learn More

See how Gigamon can help you reduce your carbon footprint. Download *Beyond The Physical Plant: Reduce Energy Usage Before It Begins* today.

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.