

Cisco NAC Profiler

Cisco® NAC Profiler enables network administrators to keep a real-time, contextual inventory of all devices in a network. It greatly facilitates the deployment and management of Cisco network admission control (NAC) systems by discovering and tracking the location and type of all LAN-attached endpoints, including those that are not capable of authenticating. It also uses the information about the device to determine the correct policies for NAC to apply.

Product Overview

Cisco NAC Profiler simplifies the deployment of Cisco NAC and eases several administrative tasks in a Cisco NAC-enabled network including adds, moves, and changes; location of non-compliant devices; discovery of unmanaged endpoints; and quick location of endpoints in situations such as helpdesk calls, security events, policy violations, and asset tracking.

Cisco NAC Profiler works by aggregating information from a number of sources including:

- Inference-based discovery
- Network traffic analysis
- Network topology comprehension
- Network infrastructure communication
- NetFlow data analysis

Each network-attached device type is identified, then correlated with the location of the device to provide a complete picture of endpoints. And because the Cisco NAC Profiler is aware of the authentication process, it can also give visibility into the machines and people that have authenticated to the network, their location, and their history of network usage.

With this contextual information about endpoints, Cisco NAC Profiler also helps administrators monitor and manage anomalies related to authentication, such as port swapping, MAC address spoofing, and profile changes.

Features and Benefits

Organizations with the Cisco NAC Profiler as part of a Cisco NAC deployment can enjoy the following benefits:

- **Save deployment and management costs.** Cisco NAC Profiler eliminates the months of work typically required to discover the type and location of all network-attached endpoints as well as the time and effort to input device information into the system.
- **Reduce deployment risk.** Automating a previously manual process increases the chance of a successful, effective deployment by reducing the risk of human error.
- **Enjoy greater change control.** When network endpoints are added, moved, or changed, Cisco NAC Profiler enables real-time discovery and classification of these endpoints, greatly reducing the amount of intervention required.

- **Secure all company-owned endpoints.** A typical enterprise network contains hundreds, often thousands, of network devices unaffiliated with a user. Cisco NAC Profiler permits administrators to secure all company-owned assets.

Device Inventory and Classification

Cisco NAC Profiler generates an automated inventory of all endpoints, including those known to be non-responsive hosts, and automatically populates them into the Filters List of the Cisco NAC Appliance Manager. In addition to the endpoints' MAC addresses, Cisco NAC Profiler also indicates the device type (such as a network printer, IP phone, UPS, HVAC sensor, wireless access point, etc.) which in turn defines the appropriate level of access for that endpoint.

Continuous, Real-Time Endpoint Monitoring

Cisco NAC Profiler performs its function continually, thus maintaining both a real-time and historical database of information about the endpoints in the environment. History is maintained on each endpoint such that the system provides a summary view listing which device types have been recorded for an endpoint, the addresses it has used, and where it has been connected to the network.

Automated Re-Provisioning of Devices

With Cisco NAC Profiler in a Cisco NAC deployment, changes in the endpoint environment are dynamically detected and the appropriate changes are made to the Filters List automatically. For example, if a network printer is moved and connected to a new port, the Filters List will be dynamically updated. This feature also enhances security: for example, if a device is doing something on the network that is inconsistent with its profiled device type, Cisco NAC Profiler will notify the Cisco NAC Appliance to remove the suspect endpoint from the Filters List or re-provision a more appropriate role for that endpoint.

Tight Integration with Cisco NAC Appliance Manager

Cisco NAC Profiler directly presents its data to the Cisco NAC Appliance Manager through the Appliance Manager API. This data can include an endpoint's address, location, behavior, history, etc., giving NAC administrators significantly more insight into the current state of endpoints while substantially reducing the management burden.

Product Architecture

Cisco NAC Profiler has two components: the NAC Profiler Server and the NAC Profiler Collector application. The Profiler Server houses the database, provides access to the administrator's user interface, and liaises with the Cisco NAC Appliance Manager. The NAC Profiler Collector application resides on each NAC Appliance Server.

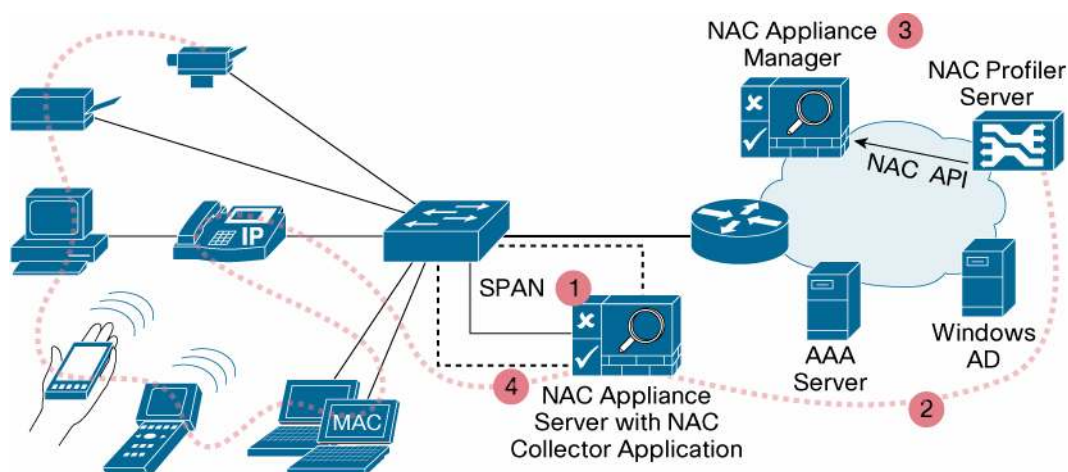
The NAC Profiler Collector application is comprised of the following modules:

- **NetWatch:** NetWatch is the "sniffer" component of the Cisco NAC Profiler system. It aims to collect as much "profilable" information as possible to feed the modeling engine.
- **NetMap:** NetMap consults with every network device through Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) to determine network topology information. As part of the Collector Application, NetMap uses the Cisco NAC Appliance Server's host address to communicate with the network devices.
- **NetInquiry:** NetInquiry is the active profiling component, used to communicate directly with network endpoints to learn information about the end system.

- **NetTrap:** NetTrap is the component of the Cisco NAC Profiler system that collects link-state and new MAC traps from the network access devices to unlock a real-time understanding of endpoints joining and leaving the network.

Figure 1 is a logical diagram of how the Cisco NAC Profiler Server and NAC Profiler Collector application work with a Cisco NAC Appliance deployment.

Figure 1. Cisco NAC Profiler in a Cisco NAC Appliance Deployment



1. The Profiler Collector application collects the relevant data and consolidates the information to send to the Profiler Server.
2. The Profiler Server aggregates all of the information from the Profiler Collectors and maintains a database of all network-attached endpoints (such as phones, printers, badge readers, modalities, etc.).
3. The Profiler Server continuously maintains the Filters List using the NAC API and provisions the appropriate access decisions (allow, deny, check, "role," or ignore).
4. The Profiler Collector application continuously monitors behavior of profiled devices (to prevent spoofing) and updates the Profiler Server.

Product Specifications

Table 1 lists the specifications for the Cisco NAC Profiler Server.

Table 1. Cisco NAC Profiler Server Hardware Specifications

Feature	Specifications
Components	
Processor	Dual-core Intel Xeon 3.0-GHz
Memory	2 GB PC2-5300 (2 x 1 GB)
Memory bus clock	1333-MHz FSB
Controller	Smart Array E200i Controller
Hard disk	2 x 72-GB SFF SAS RAID drives
Removable media	CD/DVD-ROM drive
Network Connectivity	
Ethernet network interface cards (NICs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Integrated Broadcom 10/100/1000 5708 NICs • 2 x Intel e1000 Gigabit NICs (PCI-X)
10BASE-T cable support	Cat 3, 4, or 5 UTP up to 328 ft (100m)

Feature	Specifications
10/100/1000BASE-TX cable support	Cat 5 UTP up to 328 ft (100m)
Interfaces	
Serial ports	1
USB 2.0 ports	4 (one front, one internal, two rear)
Keyboard ports	1
Video ports	1
Mouse ports	1
External SCSI ports	None
System Unit	
Form factor	Rack-mount 1 RU
Weight	35 lb (15.87 kg) fully configured
Dimensions	1.70 x 16.78 x 27.75 in. (4.32 x 42.62 x 70.49 cm)
Power supply	Dual 700W (redundant)
Cooling fans	9; redundant
BTU rating	2910 BTUs per hour (at 120 VAC); 2870 (at 240 VAC)

Service and Support

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http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/prod_warranties_item09186a00805f005b.html.

For More Information

For more information about Cisco NAC Profiler, visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/nac/appliance> or contact your local account representative.



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