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Browser-based NetFlow Tracker uses Cisco IoS software NetFlow to capture data on all conversations passing through suitably -enabled routers and switches, per minute, up to the last minute. NetFlow tracker provides the reporting and long-term storage to drive security forensics, performance monitoring and planning.

"I installed the trial NetFlow Tracker last night and set up one of our core Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series switches to export NetFlow to it. NetFlow Tracker is brilliant. I spent until 4:30 this morning running various reports seeing what was going on on the network. We have never had such a good view of what is happening on the network!"

Kenneth Sinfield, Network Engineer, Network Management, ITS, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

NetFlow Tracker harnesses Cisco IOS Software NetFlow to give users detailed network traffic insight without the use of probes or appliances. Finally, many critical management questions about the network become easy to answer:

- · Exactly what makes up my network traffic?
- · Who are the users?
- · What applications are they using?
- · Who and what are consuming the bandwidth?
- · Are there worms and viruses in my network, where are they, where did they come from, and where are they going?
- – How is quality of service working?
- – Are network usage policies being followed?

Regardless of network design (Frame Relay, Multi-protocol Label Switching, and so on.) NetFlow Tracker captures information on all network conversations passing through the interfaces of the primary routers and switches.

NetFlow Tracker uses the NetFlow data source inherent in most Cisco Systems routers and some switches to generate unique databases that collect, store, and present valuable usage-based network data. In Version 2, that reporting and storage capability has been greatly enhanced with the addition of the Advanced Services Module, which now allows data to be stored for up to four years.

Scenarios of Use

The scenarios in Table 1 show a number of typical report requests and the audiences typically associated with them.

Table 1 Typical Report Requests and Audiences

Scenario	Example Audience
Bandwidth usage and real-time visibility	Operations
Visibility of voice over IP/quality of service	Voice manager
Coverage of conversation awareness, where a link exists between source IP address and source interface	Security
Recording of virus and worm historical presence	Security/operations
ISP visibility of peer and origin AS traffic	ISP/planner
Detailed application visibility	Application manager
Capacity planning	Capacity planner
Secure visibility of usage pattern in a controlled environment	End user
Long-term view for IT and operations management	IT management

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Investigate Your Network

As can be seen in Figure 1, below, every single conversation flow, to the per-minute level, up to the last minute, on every router, on every interface, right across the customer network is collected, stored and presented. NetFlow Tracker provides complete coverage from a data source that has already been paid for - Cisco hardware and Cisco IOS Software NetFlow.

Figure 1 NetFlow Tracker Advanced Services Module - Flow Storage

Changes in the architecture and content of today's network environment mean that it is essential to capture every single record. The primary architecture change is the arrival and spread of MPLS, while the content change is to voice, virus, hacking and peer-to-peer traffic. The growing need to be able to see site-to-site voice traffic requires collection from every router, and the recording of every conversation, large and small; NetFlow Tracker does all of this. NetFlow Tracker makes flow data accessible to a wide range of technical and non-technical audiences and integrates with any existing application that can call its URL. See Figure 2.
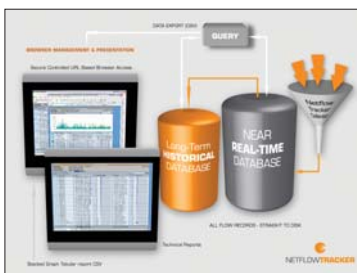

Figure 2 NetFlow Tracker Architecture

Fully-Functioning Software for an Extended Evaluation:

Crannog offers users a fully -functioning evaluation of its software. Turn on Cisco IOS Software NetFlow on the devices of interest and install NetFlow Tracker, and in less than 10 minutes live network traffic can be viewed. Full technical support is provided during the extended evaluation period.

"I demonstrated Tracker to my manager and his superior and they absolutely loved it; they thought it was fantastic. It was the first time we'd actually been able to see what was going over the WAN links, right down to the user level."

Vinny Fidegul, Network Engineer, Next, UK

Primary Features

- Forensics database - every NetFlow record, per minute, up to the last minute - is captured
- Secure integration with any third- party management product, using URLs
- Layered long-term historical reports in multiple time frames and time slices
- Filters for any combination of NetFlow record contents from the long- term or forensic database
- Service of multiple audiences, - for example, real-time operations compared to capacity planning
- NetFlow Tracker is a software-only solution that requires no hardware probes
- Multicast egress support

"All of our eight sites have Tracker installed and working. We purchased two extra for growth. All are running great. We have been monitoring our links and are surprised at the results. In fact, one install alerted us to some unexpected IP addresses communicating across the network. We are currently investigating the originating sources for these addresses."

Mike Sumy, Science Applications International Corporation, USA - Project for a Large Federal Customer

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