

150-Year-Old College Network Graduates to Keysight Network Visibility Platform

Highlights

- Industry: Higher Education
- Customer: A 150 year old New England based research university

Challenges

- Upgrading the campus's network, visibility, and monitoring infrastructures to provide a world-class remote work and online learning experience.

Solutions

- Scalable visibility and ease of use achieved by replacing the existing visibility fabric with Keysight's Vision Network Packet Brokers (NPBs) to speed and simplify configuration and drive scale.

Overview

Like many enterprises and higher education institutions, the university's modernization initiative featured evolving its data center infrastructures to 40 Gbps and 100 Gbps speeds. The plan included interconnecting and capturing data from smaller centers located throughout the campus for centralized monitoring and troubleshooting.

The team had experienced several operational challenges using its previous NPB solution so they reached out to Sayers, a trusted solution provider partner to find a better alternative. Sayers worked with IT leaders to refine goals for the project and brought in Keysight to demonstrate the power, scalability, and ease of use advantages of its network taps and Vision NPBs

The Challenge: Scale and Complexity

While increasing capacity, the college's IT team hoped to also increase simplicity. The migration to higher capacity meant a significant rise in port densities within both the network and monitoring infrastructures that would, in turn, drive greater need to aggregate and filter traffic.

The college's IT administrators had already found the previous NPB solution's GUI unintuitive and difficult to use. That made configuring filters tedious, and far too complicated to handle the new scalability requirements.

Sayers helped the team conduct a thorough demonstration and compare a newer solution from its previous visibility vendor against Keysight's Vision family of NPBs. Vision emerged the clear winner for its ability to streamline configuration and management with its highly intuitive user interface and high-powered packet processing.

The Solution: Taps, NPBs, and Industry-Best Ease of Use

After witnessing the advantages of Vision NPBs firsthand, the college decided to deploy a Vision X packet broker as the foundation of its monitoring infrastructure and several Vision Edge 100s at smaller centers throughout the campus. The solution also leverages Keysight's 40G and 100G network taps to capture and replicate all traffic packets needed for monitoring to the Vision NPBs.

Vision NPBs collect and pre-process traffic for analysis by the university's network, application, and security performance monitoring tools from Corelight, a Keysight Technology Alliance Partner. The Keysight solution removes duplicates, headers, and other unwanted information, adds valuable metadata, and delivers exactly the right traffic to the right analysis tools at the right time.

And while the Keysight GUI overcomes configuration challenges with port and filter configuration, the team decided to go the extra mile. The Vision UI automates initial onboarding of data centers but the Keysight team went 'above and beyond' spending a day onsite to ensure the transition went off without a hitch.

The Future: Visibility Gets an 'A'

Putting a flexible, AI-enabled visibility platform in place establishes a foundation for the customer to expand its modernization effort to additional data centers quickly. The capacity, scale, and support delivered by Keysight and its partners positions the firm to add and leverage new AI-driven monitoring tools and protect data from the next wave of cyber threats.

Increased speeds and simpler, more reliable visibility position the new data center, housed within a former church, to accommodate growth. Actionable insight into what's taking place across its network creates scale and agility as new models of learning evolve and students continue to lead breakthrough research into the future.

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