

Company:

Mobile telecommunications
service provider

Industry: Telecommunications

Key Issues:

- Needed to provide lawful intercept information for regulatory compliance
- Needed QoS monitoring capabilities for network performance analysis
- Needed to control capital expenditure

Solutions:

- NTO 7300 NPB with 10, 40, and 100GE interfaces
- Over 100 Flex Tap ports

Results:

- Implemented load balancing to extend monitoring tool lifespans
- Saved \$200K on tool costs
- Implemented filtering to easily deliver lawful intercept information
- Used NPB filtering to capture relevant data for QoS and NPM tools

COMPANY SAVES \$200K AND DELIVERS REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

SERVICE PROVIDER IMPROVES LAWFUL INTERCEPT AND QOS SOLUTION WHILE LOWERING MONITORING TOOL COSTS

This company is a European service provider for mobile telecommunications. It was looking for a visibility solution to help make its applications stronger, improve customer quality of service (QoS), and enable it to deliver lawful intercept information, as required, for regulatory compliance. A successful implementation of the latter operation would help prevent heavy fines and possible suspension of its telecommunications license.

For the solution to work, it needed to capture and filter data at rates of up to 100GE. In addition, the high speed data needed to be segmented and delivered to existing lower rate 10GE tools. This included lawful intercept tools, as well as NetScout™ and other tools used for network and application performance monitoring. Since the company had just upgraded the core network to 100GE, the capital expenditure (CAPEX) budget was limited.

First, the Ixia® Flex Tap solution was inserted into the network to provide access points to capture data. This included remote and core data links that ran at speeds of 10GE, 40GE, and 100GE. The Flex Tap supported all of the required data rates.

Next, the company inserted the Network Tool Optimizer (NTO) 7300 network packet broker (NPB) into the network to filter collected data. The relevant data was then parsed and sent to

specific tools. The NPB also provided data aggregation and load balancing functions to make the company's monitoring tools much more efficient.

For the lawful intercept use case, network taps fed the core data from the Cisco Catalyst 6500 switch to the NTO 7300. Once the target traffic was identified by IP address, the NTO filtered the appropriate data from the rest of the data and sent the required information out a secure VPN tunnel to the law enforcement agency. This saved the company potential fines of up to \$10,000 per day for non-compliance.

LOAD BALANCING SAVES \$200K

A secondary requirement that the IT Director had been given was to control costs. He had no immediate budget for 100GE tools and only a small budget for 40GE tools. This meant that he needed to reuse as many 10GE tools as possible, even though the average speed in the core network was over 40GE with bursts commonly up to 60GE. The company ended up buying a single 40GE network monitoring tool. Overflow traffic was then pushed to the two existing 10GE network performance tools. With new 40GE tools costing \$100,000 or more, the company immediately saved \$100,000 by purchasing only one new npm tool. Proper tapping, filtering, and load balancing allowed the company to save another \$100,000 for its QoS and APM solution, as well, by reusing these existing tools.

According to the Director of Operations, "The Ixia security fabric satisfied our regulatory compliance needs in a quick and simple way. I was also able to extend the life of my current tools for at least another year. Buying Ixia was an easy purchase decision."

ABOUT IXIA

Ixia provides testing, visibility, and security solutions, strengthening physical and virtual network elements for enterprises, governments, service providers, and network equipment manufacturers.

IXIA WORLDWIDE

26601 W. AGOURA RD.
CALABASAS, CA 91302

(TOLL FREE NORTH AMERICA)
1.877.367.4942

(OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA)
+1.818.871.1800
(FAX) 1.818.871.1805
www.ixiacom.com

IXIA EUROPE

CLARION HOUSE, NORREYS DRIVE
MAIDENHEAD SL6 4FL
UNITED KINGDOM

SALES +44.1628.408750
(FAX) +44.1628.639916

IXIA ASIA PACIFIC

101 THOMSON ROAD,
#29-04/05 UNITED SQUARE,
SINGAPORE 307591

SALES +65.6332.0125
(FAX) +65.6332.0127

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— Director of Operations