

Connecting Security Tools to Critical Links



Major European Leisure Company Bourne Leisure Chooses Network Critical to Economically and Efficiently Connect Security Tools

Summary

Entertainment operators maintain customer data bases that include financial information and other sensitive data that must remain out of reach from malicious attacks. A major leisure park operator had a substantial investment in innovative security tools to predict and identify malware. However, they needed help when it came to deploying the equipment efficiently and effectively. After careful evaluation of the options, Network Critical SmartNA-XL TAPs were chosen to aggregate critical links, convert media, connect and manage their new security tools to further enhance their ROI.

The Challenge

Networks are under constant attack. There are many sophisticated and hard to detect types of malware that are constantly phishing for customer credit card numbers, employee data, security codes and other company confidential information. The good news is that there are equally sophisticated security devices that can predict and identify traffic anomalies and help root out malware before damage is done.

Using third generation Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, organizations can use predictive analysis to identify traffic anomalies that jeopardize network security. While these tools offer the highest level of security, they must be safely connected to live links in order to access and analyze traffic.

The challenge is to economically connect these specialized tools to live network links without impacting reliability or availability. Also,

“We chose the Network Critical equipment because of its flexibility to connect different types of live links to a space saving 1RU system and aggregate multiple links to a single tool.”

Head of Network Architecture.

network link media, such as copper wire or the many types of optical fiber, are not always compatible with the standard ports on security tools.

As an international company, Bourne Leisure has a complex network with many links. Even though they purchase the best security tools available to suit their requirements, they do not have the budget available to deploy these tools directly on each live link. They also have a mix of copper links and optical fiber links that need to be converted to be connected.



Network Critical
The Window to your Network™



“In a service business, the trust of our customers is paramount. We know that our customers are providing us with sensitive financial information every day. It is our responsibility to utilize the best technology available to protect that information from cyber criminals. Network Critical’s solution allows us to connect the best security to our network without impacting reliability or availability of our network.”

Company CISO

Network Critical Solution

Knowing Network Critical to be a global leader in TAP access technology, the CISO called us to consult with our experts. After a review of the network topology and security tools that need to be deployed, a plan was developed utilizing SmartNA-XL intelligent TAPs on the most critical traffic links. These links are a mix of copper, multi-mode fiber and single mode fiber and need to be consolidated into a single access device. The SmartNA-XL using a flexible modular approach is configured with modules that provide connection to 1Gbps copper links, 1Gbps multi-mode optical fiber links and 1Gbps single mode optical fiber links.

Eight live 1Gbps links are connected through the SmartNA-XL to a single security tool capable of processing at 10Gbps. Therefore, the company is able to utilize a single 10Gbps tool to protect eight 1Gbps live links at each data center. Financially, this 8:1 configuration results in a dramatic 8x CAPEX savings on security tool costs. The modularity and flexibility of the SmartNA-XL also allows the company to connect copper, SM fiber and MM fiber links to the same 1RU TAP saving rack space and simplifying power requirements without changing out existing link media.

Using this flexible and cost effective SmartNA-XL TAP solution, the company is able to protect their most critical links from the most sophisticated of malware attacks. As they add tools to other links in the future, the SmartNA PortPlus Packet Broker, also from Network Critical, will be deployed to manage their more complex future requirements.

Solution Benefits

The leisure industry is highly dependent on maintaining the trust of their broad customer base as they collect and utilize customer financial information. Their ongoing marketing and promotional efforts are also focused on key customer demographic information. Being able to collect and utilize that information is dependent on deployment of the highest level of physical and cyber security to keep customer provided data private. The unique flexibility of Network Critical SmartNA-XL TAPs connecting links to state of the art AI security tools provide the foundation for customer trust to keep information flowing and good times rolling.

About Network Critical

Network Critical is an industry leader in network access technology. Our quality 1/10/25/40/100G modular TAP and Packet Broker solutions ensure that our customers have continuous network visibility. Network Critical products eliminate any concerns of downtime and our unique scale-out capabilities enable simple, cost effective expansion, as network and port density requirements grow.

The health of your network is always secure with Network Critical products. Our fully flexible range of TAPs and Packet Brokers are used with IDS, IPS, network traffic monitoring tools, sniffers and many other mission critical appliances, to provide 100% network visibility with zero packet loss.

With over 20 years experience, a number of industry “firsts” and a reputation for excellent customer service, Network Critical’s solutions are widely used in global networks across a wide range of sectors including Finance, Telco, Government, Energy and Healthcare. For more information, visit <http://www.networkcritical.com>.

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