

Network Visibility Assures Video Quality



Major League Baseball Chooses Network Critical and Partners for the Replay Booth

Summary

Our client, a national telecommunications company is providing live video transport for a major sports league. This video originates at the location of the sporting event and must be transported to one of two remote data centers then on to the location of an officiating panel who reviews close or controversial calls at the event. There are three companies working together to provide this service, the telecommunications carrier, a network monitoring equipment company and Network Critical.

The Challenge

With millions of fans watching and millions of advertising revenue dollars at stake, it is critical that the video arrives immediately and in perfect condition so the officials can review the play and either validate or overturn the call. Live video, unlike other data communication such as email or web traffic, is not tolerant of many characteristics of basic internet transport. Standard data protocols can re-transmit missed packets, buffer delay and be squeezed into lower bandwidth channels.

Video review is a growing and popular trend in the business of sports telecasts. Fans are accustomed to seeing instant replays and require that when a call is missed on site that it be corrected. Having a remote set of judges review and either validate or overturn calls is an important feature for ratings success. The telecommunications carrier has a unique challenge of sending critical live video over a packet network that is designed to transmit delay tolerant data communications.

“We chose the Network Critical equipment because of its unique functionality and for the Drag ‘n Vue Graphical Interface which simplifies initial deployment and makes ongoing management fast and easy.”

Sr. Systems Engineer,
Telecommunications Company

When live video is passed over the internet, packets can be successfully transmitted at high bandwidth with very close management supervision provided by specialized monitoring equipment. If, however, the telecommunication carrier installs this monitoring equipment directly on their communications links the possibility of network failure increases if power is lost or if the monitoring equipment is taken off line.



Network Critical
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“We were looking for a safe way to connect our monitoring equipment to provide important analysis and inject management data back into the network to manage these critical video links in real time. Our challenge was to do this in real time without jeopardizing network reliability. Network Critical was the ideal product to meet all of our requirements.”

Director, Business Operations, Telecommunications Company

Network Critical Solution

The video stream needs to be monitored by specialized equipment as it travels through the network. The monitoring equipment needs to be able to see the video traffic in real time, analyze the live stream and inject management data back into the network. SmartNA Bypass TAPs from Network Critical are used to safely connect the monitoring equipment to the network links. Using SmartNA TAPs to connect the monitoring equipment provides several unique benefits to the telecommunications carrier.

SmartNA Bypass TAPs will keep the network traffic flowing even if the monitoring equipment goes off line. This allows the carrier to maintain their high service assurance level committed to the sports league. The Network Critical TAP's also provide other important features such as injecting management packets back into the network to support consistent and orderly packet transfer through the network.

Live video traffic must also be sent at high bandwidth to avoid pixelation, jitter and other delay characteristics that would distort the final picture. Management traffic, however,

does not require the same bandwidth. The Network Critical TAPs provide both high speed connections for video traffic and lower speed links for management injection traffic. Beyond speeds, the SmartNA TAPs also provide media conversion so fiber and copper equipment can easily be connected where necessary. Finally, using the innovative Drag 'n Vu Graphical User Interface, the carrier is able to quickly and easily configure, deploy and manage the equipment.

Solution Benefits

The sports league is able to provide innovative services to their fan base that will increase product retention and loyalty. The telecommunications carrier is able to use a unique set of equipment to provide a valuable service to the sports league retaining a valuable and visible customer. The unique set of features on Network Critical Bypass TAPs provide the foundation for network availability, service assurance and reliability that make providing this live video replay service possible.

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
www.networkcritical.com



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