

NetFlow Tracker

Real-time monitoring of Netflow and IPFIX data providing network managers detailed traffic information.

NetFlow Tracker provides information on all network conversations passing through the interfaces of supported routers and switches, regardless of network design. NetFlow Tracker can generate unique databases that collect, store, and present valuable usage-based network data reports. This reporting and storage capability allow data to be stored for up to 999 years in 1 minute granularity.



Figure 1 - NetFlow Tracker Flow Storage

NetFlow Tracker harnesses flow information from Cisco IOS NetFlow, and flow standards from several other vendors, 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?

Investigate your network

As can be seen in Figure 1, left, every single conversation flow, to the per-minute level, up to the last two minutes, on every router, on every interface, right across the customer network, is collected, stored and presented. NetFlow Tracker provides complete coverage leveraging an existing data source already embedded within the network and usually already paid for (Cisco Hardware and Cisco IOS software or other NetFlow and IPFIX enabled networking devices from world leading manufacturers).

Changes in the architecture and content of today's network environments mean that it is essential to report on every single conversation. The primary architectural change is the continued growth of QoS enabled networks – both within the campus

LAN and data center and MPLS based WAN infrastructures, while content change is to latency sensitive traffic such as voice and video coupled. This is all coupled with the exponential growth of malicious virus and hacking attacks as well as peer-to-peer and file sharing data. 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 a URL.

NetFlow Tracker can archive aged real-time data. This data can then be off-loaded onto another storage medium (e.g., SAN or NAS system). When the information is required again, Tracker simply allows the user to remount the archived data and (using the filter editor) report on any of the original conversations.

Primary features

- Traffic identification – utilizing deep packet inspection facilities on most Cisco routers or Packeteer devices NetFlow Tracker can record and display the “real” traffic information which may be embedded or hidden within other application types (e.g., HTTP/Port 80 traffic).
- Executive summaries – customized, multi-item reports that can be tailored to the intended audience.
- Pie and bar charts – rich graphical views complementing the more granular text based reports, offering easy navigation and more freedom through interactive context-sensitive menus.



- Customizable home page – in conjunction with executive summaries, each user can be assigned a default start page with meaningful specific data relevant to that person or team.
- Archiving– expired real-time data can be archived to another storage system and can be remounted for reporting purposes.
- Full coverage – every flow record, per minute, up to the last two minutes – is captured.
- Safe integration with any third-party management product, using secured URLs.
- Layered long-term historical reports in multiple time frames and time slices.
- Powerful filters for any combination of flow record contents from the long-term or real-time databases.
- Report relevance to multiple audiences – for example, real-time operations compared to capacity planning or application manager.
- NetFlow Tracker is a software-only solution that requires no hardware probes.
- Multicast egress support.
- IP Port/Application grouping.
- MPLS VPN/Vrf aware – saving considerable administration time for creating reports on dynamic MPLS based network infrastructures.
- Bidirectional reporting showing a complete picture of traffic flows in both directions across the network.

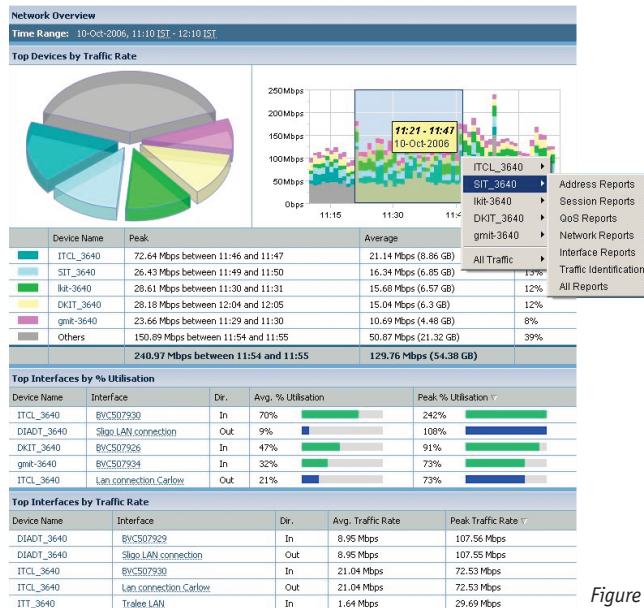


Figure 2 - Network overview

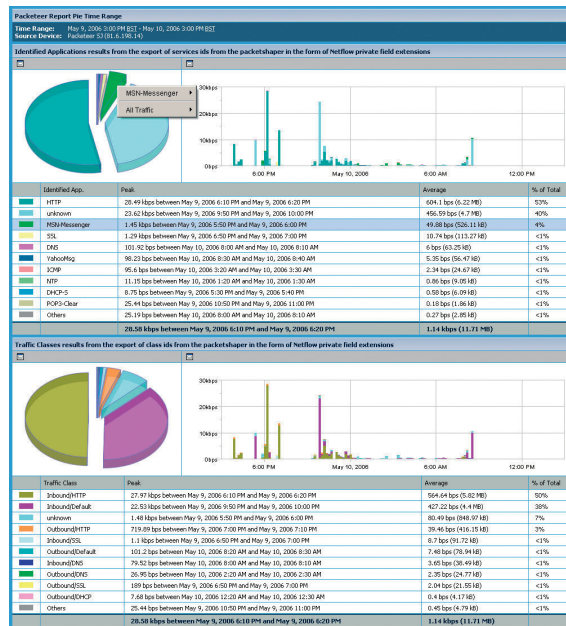


Figure 3 - Executive Summary Executive report of Packeteer with service and class id.

Component	Minimum specification (for trial installations)	Recommended specification (production environments)
RAM	1024 Mb	4 GB
Disks	40 Gb IDE or SATA	Multiple SAS (10k+ RPM) or SCSI (15k+ RPM) disks in a RAID 5 or RAID 10 (preferred) configuration to suit required storage volume
Processor	1.5 Ghz+	Intel CPU - Dual Core 2.6 Ghz +
Operating system	Windows 2000/Linux	Windows 2003 Server/Linux

Table 1 – More information to help you optimise your NetFlow Tracker installation can be found in the performance and scalability document downloadable from the NetFlow Tracker product page on our website.



Executive summaries

NetFlow Tracker provides reporting and summary information in formats to suit both business and technical audiences. These are customizable multi-item reports that provide a higher level view. The reports are based on URLs and can be built from any number of report items available elsewhere in the application and are interactive.

For example, Figure 2 includes a network overview showing a pie chart and stacked bar graph of top devices over the past 24 hours by packet rate, together with the top interfaces by utilization and packet rate – all on one page.

Figure 3 shows as a pie chart and a list, the top applications and traffic classes, this information is exported from Packeteer as service and class IDs.

Executive reports can be scheduled for distribution via email or can be made available as users' default homepages when they log in.

Network device requirements

- Cisco IOS NetFlow enabled Routers (full range) and LAN switches (Catalyst 65xx and 45xx may require hardware upgrades), Juniper JUNOS cflowd/Jflow enabled routers, Nortel IPFIX enabled Passport 86xx and 55xx series LAN switches.
- Any device capable of exporting NetFlow or IPFIX. For the software to function properly with a device, the exports must contain correct ifIndex information and have otherwise well-formed NetFlow or IPFIX export packets.
- Any device without inherent NetFlow or IPFIX capability may also be fully supported through the use of the nProbe NetFlow generator.

- NetFlow export versions 1, 5, 7 and 9 are supported, in addition to the emerging IPFIX standard (IP Flow Information eXport).

Scenarios of use

The scenarios in Table 2 show a number of typical report requests and the audiences likely to be associated with them.

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

Table 2 – Typical report request and audiences

Vendor and technology support

Native support: Cisco, Enterasys, Expand, Huawei, Juniper, Nortel, Packeteer, Peribit, Riverbed and other NetFlow/IPFIX enabled vendors equipment.

Support via flow conversion or flow creation tools: 3Com, Extreme, Foundry, HP and most other leading brands.

Free trial

Download a free, no - obligation trial copy of NetFlow Tracker for 7 days and discover the flow information and network traffic insight that help you answer critical management questions about your network. Go to www.flukenetworks.com/netflowtracker for your trial copy.



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