

MetaPoint uncovers network traffic patterns for Tier 1 Carrier using NetFlow

THE CUSTOMER CHALLENGE

A global service provider contracts with 3rd party CSP's to deliver IP services to customers located in various regions around the world. When multiple 3rd party providers are used within a region, varying performance and operating procedures present a challenge to delivering consistent Quality of Service (QoS) across providers.

Disruptions with one provider may require strategic redirection of customer traffic to another contracted provider within a region to optimize the network performance and ensure customer satisfaction. Knowing precisely what traffic is flowing over each 3rd party provider circuit and understanding where changes can be made without disrupting customers is key to the success of such remedies.

THE SOLUTION

NetFlow, IPFIX, sFlow, JFlow, etc. are protocols created by the network equipment vendors for collecting IP traffic information and monitoring network traffic. They can provide information such as source and destination IP addresses and ports, number of packets, packet sizes, flow time stamps, TCP flags and routing information. The detailed information captured helps to identify top hosts, top applications and changes in network flow behavior and offers network administrators insight into IP/MPLS network performance.

Cirries MetaPoint software uses these protocols and data to provide the detailed information that enables network engineers to optimize the customer QoS and experience.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provides large scale aggregation of NetFlow and other flow records directly from routers, switches and other generating sources
- Easily integrates with existing network support tools and analytics applications
- Enables detailed insight into customer-specific traffic flows

ADVANTAGES

- Flexibility to adapt to the operator's network
- High performance and scalable to keep up with core IP network traffic
- Support multiple protocols for additional capabilities

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Greater network efficiency.
- Reduced capital and operating expenditures

MetaPoint incorporates a flow collector, a network topology parser, and a traffic analyzer to produce the detailed network traffic statistics indicating which circuits are supporting which customers and applications.

MetaPoint is designed to extract network topology from router configuration files. Correlating topology with flows collected between Edge and Core Routers allows mapping of traffic through the network. Further enhancement with information from MPLS forwarding tables and BGP VPN tables produces a detailed Edge to Edge Router traffic report listing customer names and aggregated traffic for every customer and Edge to Edge Router pair. This visibility into the flow of traffic allows network engineers to precisely rearrange traffic flows around disruptions when they occur and to make the network changes necessary to improve customer experience.

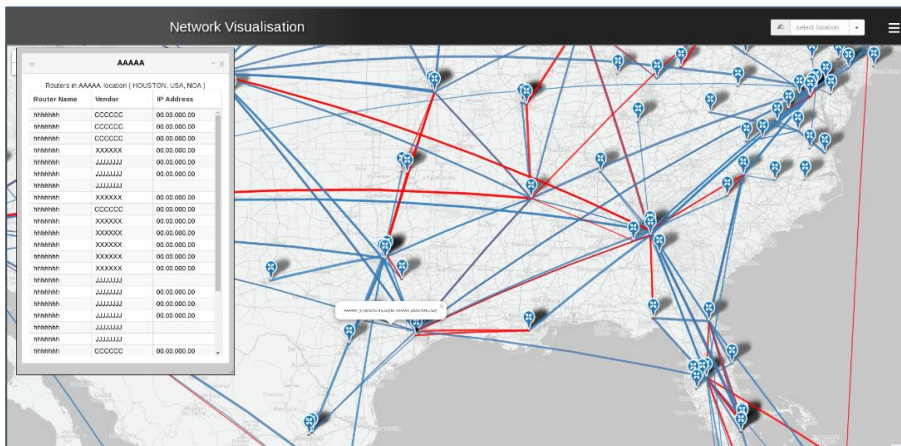
Additionally, traffic reports and data collected are stored and made accessible to 3rd party analysis tools for capacity planning and trending analytics, enabling the network operator to identify ongoing opportunities to improve network performance.

80% of the network visibility necessary to effectively monitor and manage networks today, and in the future, is provided by NetFlow and similar flow-based technologies. – Gartner Group

THE METAPOINT ANSWER

High performance, scalability and reliability distinguish the Cirries MetaPoint platform, enabling it to operate in the most rigorous network environments. It offers a scalable multi-tier architecture and supports a choice of options for deployment in a global network. The MetaPoint software operates on dedicated server hardware, virtual blade environments and in containers.

All reports are delivered through a Web interface. A graphical user interface (GUI) incorporates prepackaged dashboards with intuitive features, interactive reports and contextual navigation.



Through standard and open interfaces MetaPoint easily integrates with existing network monitoring tools and third-party analytics applications that support planning, engineering, operations and marketing.

ABOUT CIRRIES

Cirries Technologies software empowers network operators and companies in the network visibility, fault isolation, performance and security industries. Cirries' products can digest data from multiple sources and reduce it to the right format for real-time notification, storage or application use to reveal real-time performance and security of any network. Cirries' software is highly scalable and easily deployed on COTS hardware, virtual machines or in the cloud.