

Challenge

Large enterprise customers with distributed network architectures often face the challenge of monitoring network traffic across multiple remote locations. This visibility is essential for maintaining a strong security posture, ensuring optimal performance, and meeting compliance requirements. However, traditional SPAN (Switch Port Analyzer) methods are limited by physical constraints, making it difficult to capture traffic from remote or virtualized environments.

Garland Technology recently addressed this issue by allowing the monitoring of ERSPAN (Encapsulated Remote SPAN) traffic. This approach enabled the customer to mirror traffic from various remote locations and aggregate it to a centralized IDS sensor for continuous monitoring and threat detection.

■The TAP to Tool™ Solution

- 1. In this deployment, network switches are used to mirror and encapsulate traffic from remote sites and virtual environments. Using ERSPAN, the mirrored packets are encapsulated and transmitted over the network to a centralized location for analysis.
- 2. The encapsulated traffic was sent to designated ports on a Garland Technology Network Packet Broker. Once received, the packet broker de-encapsulates the traffic by stripping off the ERSPAN headers, restoring the network packets to their original raw format. The raw packets are then sent to an IDS sensor, where they can be analyzed for potential threats and performance issues.
- 3. This integration allows customers to gain real-time visibility into their critical infrastructure without the need for deploying a physical TAP or sensor at every remote site. The deployment was specifically engineered to be both simple and cost-effective, leveraging existing infrastructure and Garland's packet broker capabilities.

Benefits

- Remote Visibility without deploying TAPs or Sensors at every location
- Perpetual access to Packet Broker with no subscription fees
- Scalable: easily scale across multiple locations
- Centralized security and performance analytics



