Making Remote Network Visibility Affordable for the Distributed Enterprise

It’s not uncommon today for an enterprise network to extend to hundreds or even thousands of remote locations. Every distributed business needs an equally distributed monitoring and troubleshooting solution capable of keeping IT costs down while ensuring that enterprise productivity remains a priority.
Finding this balance poses a unique challenge for organizations needing to maintain security and peak performance with minimal downtime, without a heavy burden on the IT budget.

Savvius Insight™ provides a viable solution. This compact network monitoring device is tailored to the requirements of remote locations, yet benefits from all of the rich visibility features of Savvius’ larger data center appliances. At a fraction of the size and cost, Insight is an affordable option for deployment at any location where network uptime and performance are critical. Furthermore, Savvius Insight integrates seamlessly with Savvius Omnipliance solutions in the data center to provide multi-segment analysis (MSA) and other end-to-end views of the network.

Deploying Insight at Scale

With hundreds, or even thousands of remote locations, organizations are faced with the challenge of monitoring and troubleshooting each of these network segments individually. Insight provides the same level of enterprise-caliber visibility expected in the data center, but extends that to the very edges of the network.

Plug-and-Play

When deploying devices in volume, simple installation is a vital consideration. Savvius Insight makes it easy by shipping with zero config. Tapping directly into the network between the cable modem and router, and using Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), Insight automatically selects an available address. With even limited training, personnel at a remote site are able to install an Insight appliance by simply plugging it in.

Remote monitoring made easy, from anywhere

Insight can be placed in any remote location or other remote location to provide unprecedented visibility into every network segment. Boasting easy-to-navigate browser-based dashboards and analytics, Insight allows users to monitor and troubleshoot the network from any location.

Network monitoring from mobile devices

Insight’s built in ELK dashboards make it possible to monitor the network from virtually anywhere with an internet connection. Users can customize their dashboards with the ability to monitor performance right from their phones, making it incredibly easy to notify someone at that location to take a look at anything that doesn’t seem right, no matter what time of the day or night.

Network-Wide Operational Intelligence

The integration of Savvius Insight with ELK gives enterprises a powerful solution for correlating network activity with other IT and business functions. It’s a solution that offers new data and invaluable insights to enterprises, enabling them to optimize efficiency, security, service, and the networks that their operations depend upon. The Savvius-ELK integration is a data analytics solution that takes full advantage of our hyper-connected world to empower business success.
ELK helps organizations achieve an unprecedented, real-time view of their operations:

**Baselining and Monitoring** — graph statistics and manually generated reports create a baseline view of network activity. Creating baselines becomes easier with ELK as the platform aggregates statistics over long periods of time and can leverage cloud storage to amass terabytes of historical data. Users can create ELK dashboards to view custom collections of statistics and evaluate fluctuations in these statistics over time. These dashboard views can be recreated manually or generated automatically on a pre-ordained schedule.

**Centralized Alerting** — real-time analysis of network traffic and automatic identification of many different types of network, application, and security issues. Every time these issues are identified, events are generated and sent as syslog information to a central ELK server. Users can establish automatic notifications via email or RSS, generate tickets on a service desk, or execute containment actions. These alerts can be triggered based on a variety of thresholds, trend-based conditions, and complex searches.

**Application Performance Monitoring (APM)** — identify the applications — including specific web applications — associated with communication streams and other network events. Easily identify not just generic web traffic, but the web traffic associated with particular applications. This application data can now be incorporated into ELK’s analysis of machine data for application performance monitoring. Business operations that depend on certain applications, servers, or protocols can be analyzed within the context of these IT resources.
Multi-Segment Analysis

Multi-segment analysis is a valuable tool for accelerating the mean time to resolution (MTTR) of application-level issues. By automating the process of gathering network data from multiple network segments and/or multi-tiered applications, the troubleshooting process becomes much simpler; and when Savvius products are used together for multi-segment analysis, a whole new level of network insight can be achieved.

Multi-segment analysis improves with each additional measurement point. With Savvius Insight, it is possible to introduce a measurement point at each remote network, providing valuable and until now unachievable, measurements of network latency between remote networks and the data center(s).

Savvius multi-segment analysis is passive rather than active. Instead of generating network traffic, Savvius multi-segment analysis monitors and measures the real traffic that is actually exhibiting the problem, not test traffic that is used to measure latency along the same path. And because Savvius Insight can economically be placed in the network path, it works in conjunction with larger appliances in the data center to pinpoint precisely where the latency is occurring. And finally, because Savvius Insight captures actual network traffic, it can be used to drill down to the actual packets, using all of the analysis capabilities found in Savvius Omnipeek to troubleshoot and solve problems, enabling the fastest MTTR possible.
POS Terminal Monitoring: Removing Vulnerabilities

In the retail environment, Insight’s ability to visualize, detect, and diagnose network issues at the edge of the network, where Point of Sale (POS) systems live, gives IT teams the power to understand POS issues at their source. This visibility into POS traffic provides a critical advantage for retailers, helping them quickly determine whether they are experiencing malicious activity or merely a network or application issue causing a terminal to perform poorly.

Placed in-line with an Internet connection, Savvius Insight is effectively plug-and-play, automatically collecting network statistics and trend data as soon as it’s turned on. This gives users instant access to all of Insight’s real-time views and long-term reporting features.

Conclusion

Every business requires reliable, secure and trouble-free access to its data and applications. Whether that business has 100 or even 1,000 remote locations, the performance and speed of its network contribute directly to its success and reputation. Managing the performance of a geographically distributed network from a centrally-located data center is possible, but it provides a limited view of network health. By deploying low-cost, plug-and-play appliances such as Insight at every location, IT teams not only get a more accurate and complete view of the network, they also ensure that trouble-spots can be identified and rectified before the business is adversely affected.