

Global Financial Corporation Upgrades Network and Security Monitoring

Reduces monitoring costs and improves security tool performance

Summary

Customer: Fortune 500 financial services

Challenge:

- Overloaded security, NPM, APM tools
- Eliminate duplicate packets
- Efficiency and cost effectiveness
- No virtual network traffic monitoring
- Scalable network monitoring

Solution:

- IntellaFlex XR Monitoring Solution
- TitanXR Management Software

Benefits:

- Reduced network monitoring costs
- Eliminated duplicate packets
- Increased security and network monitoring tool efficiency
- Expanded network visibility
- Improved scalability and reliability
- Integrated physical and virtual traffic monitoring

THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REMAINS A TARGET for cyber threats with the potential rewards being high for persistent attackers.

With cyber threats top of mind, one global financial services organization selected APCON's network visibility solutions to update its existing architecture to meet the needs of today's demanding networks.

The Customer

The customer is an American worldwide banking and financial services corporation that operates in 35 countries with over 50,000 employees. With investments of high-net-worth individuals at stake, the IT department needed to make sure its network security was up to date. After a thorough network assessment and solution comparison of other network monitoring vendors which included SDN solutions, this existing customer turned to APCON to update and add additional network monitoring capability to improve network visibility and security performance.



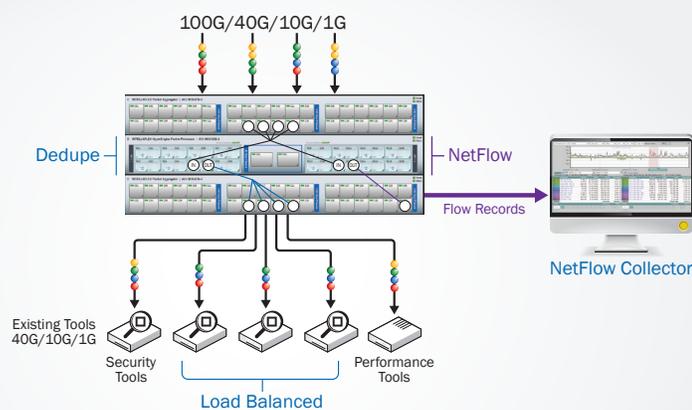
Scalable Environment

With significant growth in data center traffic due to e-commerce, streaming media, and IoT connected devices, the bank needed the latest generation of network monitoring equipment with scalability and high-port density to solve today's needs and for future growth. The IT team opted to deploy APCON's 14RU and multiple 4RU IntellaFlex XR monitoring systems with Multi-Function and HyperEngine blades. With this combination, the solution's unmatched scalability, enterprise-class design, and advanced features fulfilled the banking and financial services corporation's network and security monitoring requirements.

The IntellaFlex XR intelligent network monitoring system is the latest generation of APCON's traffic visibility technology. It is designed for scalable, high-capacity, reliable data aggregation and filtering, which increases tool efficiency and lowers enterprise monitoring costs.

When combined with APCON's Multi-Function blade, the monitoring solution provides high-port density and flexibility – offering 36 ports of 1G/10G Ethernet per blade with packet deduplication, protocol stripping, packet slicing and time stamping available and selectable on every port.

The IT team also implemented APCON's HyperEngine blade, which adds up to 200 Gbps of high-performance packet processing features to IntellaFlex XR monitoring systems. With the HyperEngine blade, they can easily select any 16 traffic sources, including aggregated and filtered traffic, within IntellaFlex XR for advanced processing such as deduplication, NetFlow generation, tunnel termination or GRE endpoint for virtual network monitoring.



Process packets from multiple ports to remove duplicates, directing traffic of interest to security and performance tools.

Since implementation, the IntellaFlex XR solution's high-port density and processing features has enabled the company to connect more network monitoring and security devices, protecting traffic flowing through the data center and providing 100 percent network visibility.

Seeing Only What is Necessary

The IT team saw a major benefit in implementing APCON's deduplication feature on both the Multi-Function and HyperEngine blades. The monitoring tools were struggling to analyze all packets efficiently due to duplicate packets from their network's high-volume of traffic. The most pervasive issue was the network's data records, which were becoming loaded with duplicates and affecting their lookback time window. The overload caused skewed reports and eventually led to unnecessary purchases of expensive redundant tools.

With the deduplication feature, traffic entering any port in the system can be processed and each succeeding packet is then compared to prior packets received. If a packet is deemed to be a duplicate, it is discarded. By eliminating these unnecessary packets, the IT team was able to optimize the monitoring tools and troubleshoot problems faster, increasing network application efficiency and performance.

Virtualization Monitoring

Another concern for the IT team was gaining visibility into virtual network traffic. The client had a 100% virtualized environment and being able to selectively look at east-west VM traffic on demand was required. By activating the high-performance HyperEngine GRE and tunnel termination features, the company is able to terminate tunneled traffic from their VM environment, de-encapsulate the traffic and apply proper filters before passing traffic to the network and security tools.

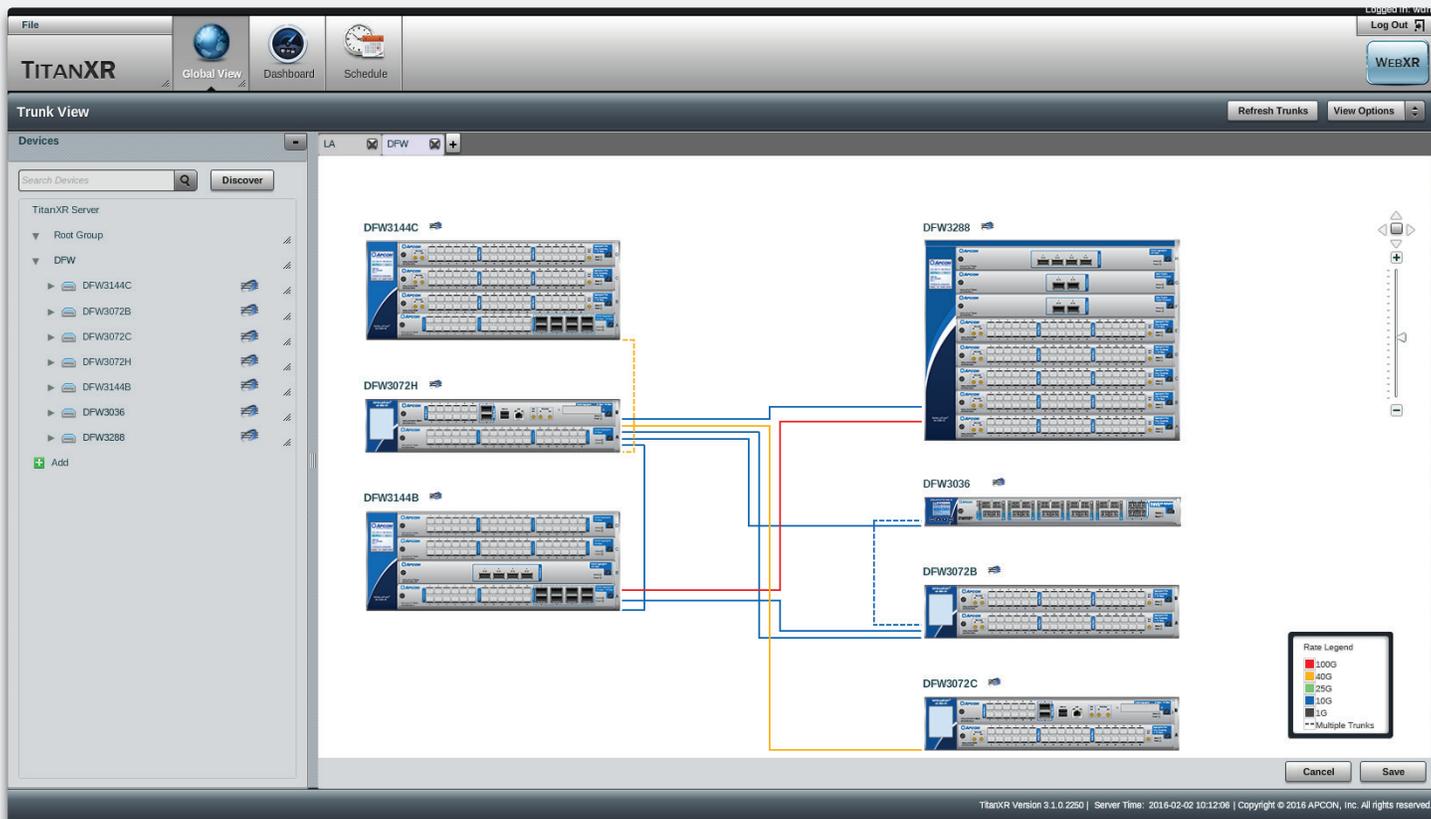
Centralized Network Monitoring

With the large port count and high density of network monitoring systems, the IT team needed a user friendly graphical interface. They found APCON's intuitive and easy-to-use graphical interface, WebXR, met their requirements. The IT team also implemented TitanXR, APCON's multi-system management software with the same GUI as WebXR. It provides management capability that simplifies the day-to-day operations of an IntellaFlex visibility solution.

TitanXR allows IT teams to remotely manage their entire monitoring infrastructure from a single screen with point-and-click access to all APCON systems from a central console. It provides custom dashboards, giving a graphical summary of a system's performance and network statistics.

In addition, the trunking capabilities of TitanXR allows users to view and create trunk links in multi-system environments and view trunk utilization and over-subscription levels. An IT team can use these configurations to aggregate traffic across a single trunk that interconnects systems.

With APCON's network monitoring solution in place, the corporation's engineers are already saving time with a comprehensive view of what is occurring on their network.



TitanXR's Trunk View allows users to represent diagrams of APCON multi-system environments, view trunk utilization and over-subscription levels. Aggregate traffic across trunks on interconnected IntellaFlex XR systems.

Reducing Network Monitoring Costs

Security of customer data was a critical component to this banking and financial services corporation's network monitoring architecture, but so were controlling costs. They needed a solution that accomplished both requirements. After conducting an in-depth cost analysis and comparing multiple monitoring solutions, APCON's network monitoring solution proved to have the industry's lowest 5-year cost of ownership. APCON also had the most advanced monitoring features that allowed the IT team to meet today's requirements and plan for tomorrow all while reducing deployment costs.

Looking Ahead

As technology advances so do company networks. This was the case for this world-renowned banking and financial services corporation. They needed a network monitoring upgrade and fast.

With APCON's scalable, high-density and interoperable solution, the corporation was able to implement a more resilient network monitoring architecture for their security and monitoring tools. The IT team now has better control and knowledge of what is traveling through their network since adding the necessary and valuable layer to the network security posture.

Although the financial industry has a challenging network landscape, this customer is confident that APCON has provided the right network monitoring solution to secure their customers' assets presently and in the future.

If you are thinking about updating your data center, contact the APCON sales team at sales@apcon.com to learn how our solutions can improve your network visibility and security.