

Software Vendor Chooses APCON to Expand Worldwide Data Centers to Support Web Analytics



Case Study

A major Silicon Valley software company launched a web analytics service. To implement this new service, the company is opening 16 data centers located around the globe. To connect these data centers in a single network monitoring system, the company turned to APCON's intelligent data traffic management solutions.



- **APCON's fault-tolerant and highly available aggregation and filtering switches enable complete network visibility at every layer**
- **Five-nines uptime requires end-to-end monitoring with a variety of tools**
- **Enterprise-grade network monitoring solution required for this scale of project**

Challenge

Like most enterprise-level data center operations, the company has a standard of five-9s of uptime that must be maintained to assure customer satisfaction. Five-9s uptime translates to a little more than 5 minutes of downtime per year. This company was interested in complete end-to-end monitoring, intrusion detection and application performance monitoring.

Each data center included a variety of tools to support. Cisco products supporting firewall and IPS are the most common, along with F5 Networks Firepass hardware supporting VPN, CA Application Delivery Analysis, and a variety of packet sniffers, recorders, and IDS devices.

To implement a comprehensive monitoring strategy based on SPAN and TAP port aggregation and filtering, the company estimated that each data center might require over 150 ports of network monitoring switch capacity.

The APCON Solution

The overriding consideration for this installation is a highly available, fault tolerant and scalable architecture: a truly enterprise-grade network monitoring switch. To adequately monitor these data centers from end to end, the following features were required:

Enterprise-Grade Network Monitoring

Enterprise-grade network monitoring switches feature redundant data controller cards that automatically fail-over to provide uninterrupted data to the monitoring and security tools and appliances. In the unlikely event that both the primary and redundant controllers both failed, data would continue to pass on the existing connections. The switch continues to pass data on the existing configured connections until a new controller is installed. APCON enterprise-grade switches use separate data and control planes, port blades and controller cards, which are hot-swappable without affecting production data links. Finally, multiple redundant power supplies are required to maintain uptime.

Packet Aggregation and Filtering

Enterprise-grade data center monitoring switches must also be able to filter both individual and aggregated data streams using both drop filtering where the network engineer must specify what packets are to be excluded from the egress stream, and pass filtering where engineers may specify only those packets that are to be sent on.



ABOUT APCON

APCON develops innovative, scalable technology solutions to enhance network monitoring, support IT traffic analysis, and streamline IT network management and security. APCON is the industry leader for state-of-the-art IT data aggregation, filtering, and network switching products, as well as leading-edge management-software support. Organizations in over 50 countries depend on APCON network infrastructure solutions. Customers include Global Fortune 500 companies, banks and financial services institutions, telecommunication service providers, government and military, and computer equipment manufacturers.

Contact Us

Please email sales@apcon.com or call 503-682-4050 if you have any questions

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Results

When a company opens a large new online business, a reliable data center is more than a Six Sigma project. Effective implementation and operation is critical to the success of the business. This company chose APCON for the following reasons:

- Fault tolerance
- High availability
- Advanced feature set

APCON's port aggregation and filtering allowed this company to fully utilize each monitoring appliance, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars across all 16 data centers. As a scalable solution with a unified family of INTELLAPATCH® and INTELLAFLEX products, APCON was a safe and smart choice with room to grow in the future.

APCON's INTELLAPATCH and INTELLAFLEX suite of solutions met this company's standards for enterprise-grade features and reliability. With common components such as controllers, power supplies, and blades compatible across the entire chassis family, APCON's intelligent data traffic management solution was the right choice.

The company was also impressed with APCON's selection of web-based graphical configuration tools and the availability of TITAN EP to provide a single point of control for all APCON switches at the various network locations.