Array NETWORKS

SSL Decryption & Network Critical

Array's Intelligent SSL Decryption/Encryption and Network Critical's Packet Broker Provide Visibility into Encrypted Network Traffic

Background

To bolster the security of networks and resources, enterprises and other organizations are increasingly turning to SSL/TLS encryption of network traffic. This best practice can be a double-edged sword, however. While overall security is much improved for data in transit, encryption can also be used by hackers and cyber-criminals to infiltrate networks, distribute malware, and perform other malicious activities. This 'cloaked' traffic circumvents most inspection and security devices, leaving network resources vulnerable.

Lack of visibility is further compounded by the variety of network inspection, security and monitoring solutions deployed in an enterprise network. Routing traffic through each of them in sequence, regardless of need, can introduce unacceptable latency and dropped packets. In addition, these solutions typically require a Test Access Point (TAP) to deliver traffic to them.

Array Networks has partnered with Network Critical, a manufacturer of network packet broker and intelligent TAP solutions that provide granular visibility into network activity, to provide a solution for visibility into SSL encrypted traffic and to deliver the right traffic to the relevant device as needed, with zero packet loss.

Integrated Solution Overview

Array's APV Series application delivery controllers are high-performance platforms that provide SSL decryption and reencryption for traffic flows filtered by the Network Critical Smart-NA-X. The traffic is then routed as needed by the Smart-NA-X packet broker to intrusion protection/detection systems (IDS/IPS), deep packet inspection and other security, monitoring and inspection devices.

The Network Critical packet broker provides high availability by bypassing an APV Series during scheduled maintenance or any unplanned outages.

Key Benefits

- The combined solution delivers unencrypted SSL traffic to security and monitoring devices, eliminating the need for decryption at the tool level while improving overall security and monitoring performance

- Unencrypted network traffic data can now be aggregated & filtered at line rate resulting in delivery of traffic to specific security and monitoring devices

- Centralized decryption reduces latency, improves performance and lowers overall costs associated with security and monitoring systems

- Advanced HTTP header inspection and security to protect against SSL/TLS vulnerabilities and exploits

- Layer 4 TLS negotiation supports non-HTTP traffic such as FTPS and WebSocket/HTML5

- Advanced load sharing to multiple APV appliances ensures all network traffic will be visible to security and monitoring tools

- Fail-safe network availability and connectivity; scalable, reliable, and high performance

- Supports a wide variety of environments, from enterprise to data center to service provider

- Multiple deployment models: in-line mode, one-arm mode, and bridging for reencryption

Summary

By combining Array Networks APV Series' advanced SSL decryption with Network Critical's Smart-NA-X TAP and packet brokering platform, enterprises, service providers and others can optimize the full functionality of network monitoring and inspection without impacting security, latency or network availability.
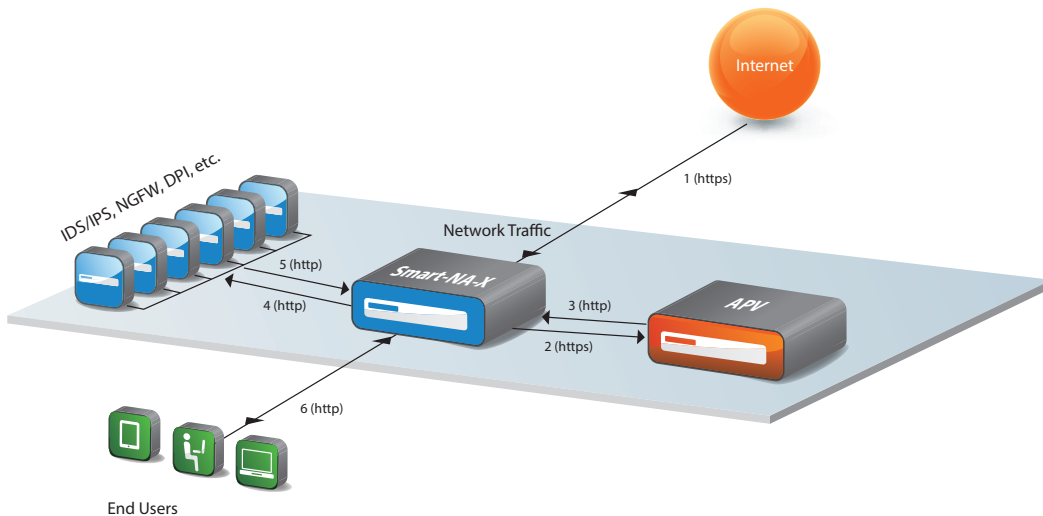
APV Series Benefits

- Intelligently decrypt network traffic to allow full inspection and monitoring by security devices

- Up to 140 Gbps throughput

- Lowest-cost L4 connections per second, lowest-cost SSL transactions per second, and lowest-cost SSL Mbps

- Proven 6 month average time period to achieve ROI for enterprise, service provider and public sector organizations

Network Critical Benefits

- Patented Drag-n-Vu interface for fully configurable filtering, port mapping and improved monitoring flexibility

- Packet brokering and load balancing across multiple security devices

- Hot-swappable modules for continuous monitoring

- Bypasses APV Series during outage or maintenance, and fail-safe ports permit data flow even after a failture

Figure 1: Array APV Series ADC deployed in in-line mode with Network Critical Smart-NA-X

For more information about Network Critical packet brokers and TAPs, visit www.networkcritical.com or send us an email at: sales-us@networkcritical.com. For more information about how Array Networks can help you secure HTTPS and other encrypted traffic, visit us at arraynetworks.com or send us an email at sales-info@arraynetworks.com.

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