APCON
Solutions for Networks

Magnified Visibility for VMware Environments

Overcoming virtualized network blind spots, empowering security and maintaining uptime

SOLUTION BRIEF

BRIDGING THE VISIBILITY GAP

between physical and virtual data centers

Today, with most servers deployed as virtual machines (VMs) and many enterprises moving towards software defined data centers, the amount of virtual network traffic between VMs has increased exponentially. In an Accenture enterprise survey of 363 companies, 95% of small, medium, and large enterprises believe network services will be virtualized. As more networks become virtualized, a visibility gap occurs. Much of the East-West traffic (or traffic between VMs) never actually leaves the virtual environment, and more importantly, never traverses the physical network where traditional monitoring technologies are deployed.

Now more than ever there is a need for a reliable and holistic view of the network, traffic flows, and problem points. If not managed correctly, moving to a virtualized data center can lead to significant blind spots and vulnerabilities throughout the network.

An example of not having visibility over East–West traffic is the traffic transmitted between the application and web service tiers running on the same host. Professionals deploying basic port mirroring offered by VMware ESXi often encounter multiple technical issues.

Network and Security Team HEADACHES

- Not having visibility of intra-VM traffic can create a number of security issues and vulnerabilities.
- Leveraging natively available port-mirroring options within VMware' ESXi can cause unnecessary strain on your production network due to the sheer amount of unfiltered traffic.
- Security and network tools can become overwhelmed due to oversubscription.
- Enforcing security policies in a highly dynamic environment requires continuous access to application data of interest.
- vMotion mobility can lead to a lack of network visibility due to the dynamic motion of virtual networks and machines moving locations.

Often network professionals want to expand beyond basic native port mirroring by implementing an end-to-end visibility architecture that includes a network packet broker (NPBs) to bolster security, simplify management/ configuration, and improve the efficiency of its monitoring tools.

However, deploying these tools can pose a number of challenges. Automation, scalability and configuration are all considerations, and deploying and configuring vTaps manually can result in downtime and prolonged deployments/setups within a virtual network.

The APCON **SOLUTION**

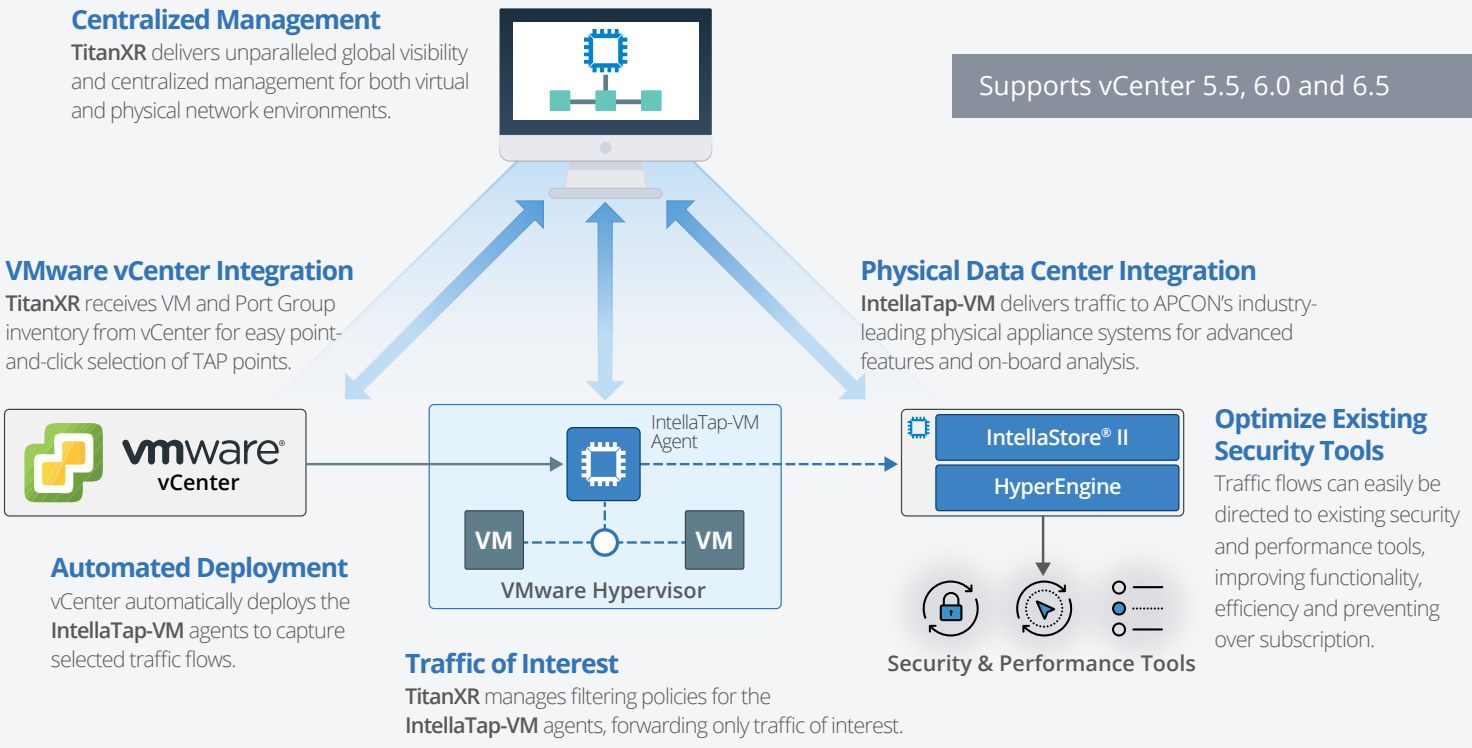
IntellaTap-VM is an advanced feature within APCON's TitanXR software application that provides virtual network visibility and easy-to-use point-and-click filtering of East-West virtual machine traffic flows.

Centralized Management
TitanXR delivers unparalleled global visibility and centralized management for both virtual and physical network environments.

Supports vCenter 5.5, 6.0 and 6.5

VMware vCenter Integration
TitanXR receives VM and Port Group inventory from vCenter for easy point-and-click selection of TAP points.

Physical Data Center Integration
IntellaTap-VM delivers traffic to APCON's industry-leading physical appliance systems for advanced features and on-board analysis.



Optimize Existing Security Tools
Traffic flows can easily be directed to existing security and performance tools, improving functionality, efficiency and preventing over subscription.

Automated Deployment
vCenter automatically deploys the **IntellaTap-VM** agents to capture selected traffic flows.

Traffic of Interest
TitanXR manages filtering policies for the **IntellaTap-VM** agents, forwarding only traffic of interest.

The solution includes:

Centralized Management
TitanXR provides administration for the IntellaTap-VM virtual network visibility solution. TitanXR communicates with VMware vCenter to identify and activate tap points within the virtual network. It sets traffic filters, alerts you of migration events and allows you to forward traffic through GRE tunnels.

Virtual Agent
IntellaTap-VM is a virtual monitoring solution that filters, encapsulates and forwards virtual traffic. It takes the optimized packets and delivers it to your security monitoring tools.

Physical Network Integration
IntellaStore Security Visibility Platform combines APCON's world-class packet aggregation and filtering technology with advanced features such as integrated traffic capture, storage, and onboard analysis tools. Network engineers can monitor networks in real time allowing for earlier security threat detection, investigation and response.

APCON's HyperEngine high-performance network visibility solution aggregates traffic sources to execute advanced processing including deduplication, NetFlow generation, protocol header stripping, deep packet inspection and tunnel termination for virtual network monitoring.

Benefits and Capabilities

- 100% visibility of VM traffic
- Automatically deploy VMs through vCenter
- Mirror traffic by port groups
- Tunneling capabilities
- Optimize existing security tools
- Bandwidth reduction on production networks
- Little to no impact installations
- vMotion support, constant visibility of VM movements

The APCON Difference

APCON leverages its proprietary IP and deep expertise to provide flexible, focused solutions across the government, healthcare, financial services, manufacturing, telecommunications and education sectors. APCON solutions provide the flexibility and means to gain visibility to their data more efficiently, resulting in savings across the board – including time, resources and maintenance.

Service and Support

APCON's professional services team of certified engineers have years of experience optimizing network visibility strategies for businesses across the globe. In addition to providing installation assistance of existing analysis tools, this team proudly provides around the clock troubleshooting services and support.

About APCON

APCON is headquartered near Portland, Oregon, where it has operated since 1993. APCON's in-house staff manages product design and development, manufacturing, quality assurance and final testing, customer training and long-term servicing of its solutions – whether for a system with a single switch or a global installation that spans across multiple geographical locations.

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APCON, Inc. ▪ 9255 SW Pioneer Court, Wilsonville, Oregon 97070 ▪ +1 503-682-4050 ▪ 1-800-624-6808 ▪ **apcon.com**

 @APCON ▪ company/APCON

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