Joint Solution Brief

Gigamon Enhances Operational Efficiency and High Availability of Palo Alto Networks Next Generation Firewalls

The Challenge

These days, next generation firewalls are an integral part of most network security systems and, as their value and functionality increases, continual, efficient operation is essential. Ensuring traffic visibility for these devices regardless of the network type or topology and secure network connectivity, even in the event of device failure, is increasingly essential.

Integrated Solution

Palo Alto Networks next generation firewalls prevent threats, and safely enable applications, across a versatile set of high-performance use cases (e.g., Internet Gateway, DC, and SP environments). Gigamon provides high-availability design options, the ability to deploy easily in asymmetrically routed networks and easily change the deployment mode of your firewalls without time-consuming physical re-cabling and change orders.

Joint Solution Benefits

- Ensure controllable network connectivity even in the event of device failure

- Manage asymmetric traffic flows to ensure efficient performance of the organization's firewall

- Deploy firewalls out of band with full functionality to test performance and then move inline at the touch of a button

- Aggregate or load balance traffic flows to optimize device performance

- Filter selected traffic to avoid unnecessary processing

- Generate NetFlow/IPFix from any traffic flow to avoid unnecessary processing

Introduction

Today's networks are highly complex and mission critical to the businesses that operate them so neither downtime or security breaches are acceptable. Tools like next generation firewalls, purchased to protect the network, must be both highly capable and deployed in such a way as to maximize their effectiveness and minimize their operational overhead. These firewalls need to accurately identify and control applications regardless of port, protocol, evasive tactic or SSL encryption – and scan content to stop threats and prevent data leaks. In order to do all of this, these devices must have efficient access to the traffic they need to monitor, operate seamlessly, even in unwelcoming routing schemes, and not introduce a single point of failure into the network.

## The Gigamon and Palo Alto Networks Joint Solution

Palo Alto Networks next generation firewalls are widely regarded as the market leaders in offering the required form and function to provide the protection enterprises are looking for. Gigamon's GigaSECURE® Security Delivery Platform helps network owners get the most from their investment in Palo Alto Networks technology. Key features for Palo Alto Networks deployments include:

Bypass Protection: Deploy Palo Alto Networks devices in virtual wire mode and use the GigaSECURE functionality to provide physical bypass traffic protection in the event of power loss and logical bypass traffic protection in the event of an inline tool failure.

Manage Asymmetric Routing: most security devices, including those from Palo Alto Networks, require inspection of all the packets in a session to be inspected by the same device. GigaSECURE provides an intelligent and efficient way to ensure this happens.

Traffic Distribution: Improve the scalability of inline security by distributing the traffic across multiple security devices, allowing them to share the load and inspect more traffic or aggregating multiple traffic flows into a single flow for efficient port utilization on the firewall.

Traffic Filtering: Send specific traffic to your Palo Alto Networks devices based on Layer 2 to Layer 4 rules so that applications and services are protected while known safe traffic can bypass inspection.
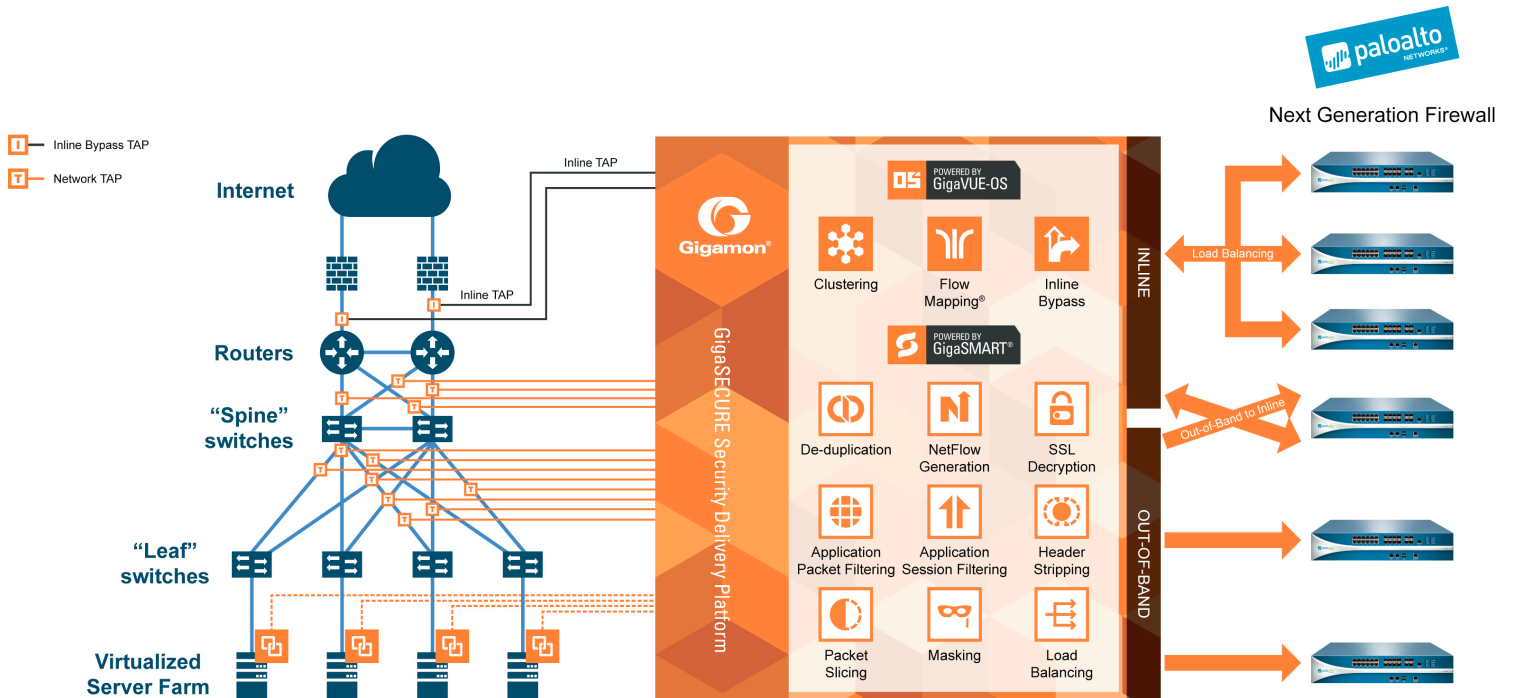
Agile Deployment: Add, remove, and/or upgrade firewalls without disrupting network traffic; convert tools from out-of-band monitoring to inline inspection on the fly without rewiring.

NetFlow Generation: If desired, processing intensive tasks can be offloaded from the Palo Alto Networks devices by using GigaSECURE's functionality for generating unsampled, enhanced metadata in NetFlow or IP/FIX format from any selected traffic stream.

Learn More

For more information on the Palo Alto Networks and Gigamon solution, contact:

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