Bogdan Soltoianu

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Enterprise Network Management

We are all familiar with internet networking giants such as Cisco Systems, Juniper Networks, Barracuda or Nortel. We may be familiar with most of their wide selection of networking products such as routers, switches, hubs, firewalls or servers. But there are more companies, with less popular names and unique devices that offer entire new ways of analyzing network traffic and data streams. eTelemetry, for example, developed enterprise network equipment that ties people (their names) to IP addresses on the network. They also have equipment that tracks bandwidth usage on the network, or keeps track of secure sessions initiated by employees that can be used to transmit unwanted data. Netcordia is another company that provides specialized network equipment. They offer the ability to record, analyze and generate diagnostic charts of VoIP data in order to quickly troubleshoot network problems and better prioritize traffic. Other companies such as Allot Communications or Qovia also provide VoIP analysis hardware and software. The overall trend however is towards increased capacity, security and data prioritization.

It is important to observe how network devices are not limited to the familiar hardware that we usually read about, but they also cover different aspects of the enterprise network. High speed data analysis, deep packet inspection, data recording and charting are very helpful in troubleshooting and securing of networks. This can be very helpful in figuring out the necessary network capacity, the return on investment and quick troubleshooting when problems occur.

When it comes to network design, adding these extra features and capabilities can save money in the long term, but this all depends on the size of the network and its needs.

What is important to take away from this article is being able to identify the exact needs of the network, identify the main vendors and the third party vendors that have the necessary expertise in the exact areas that are needed. Equipment is different than management tools and they are not needed in the same manner.