THINK
Network Visibility

Managing an enterprise network to maintain predictable and reliable performance and security is a challenging task, always evolving thanks to federal initiatives and mandates such as cloud computing, virtualization and consolidation.

Few agencies have mastered the technology necessary to understand fully what is going on within their networks to prevent security and performance problems. After-the-fact analysis can be useful, but to maintain mission integrity, you've got to prevent occurrences of data loss, network intrusions, bottlenecks, application problems and other infrastructure anomalies, not just react to them. Occurrences can lead to productivity loss and erosion of trust, or they can result in privacy breaches and financial losses.

CIOs and network managers can choose from plenty of tools that monitor various functions on the network. And that's the problem. A tool for this, a tool for that, and pretty soon you've introduced layers of cost and complexity. Ideally, you'd be able to deploy a solution that can provide visibility into application and network behaviors throughout the enterprise and also drill into the content of packets for comprehensive awareness. Coupled with a powerful database, proactive behavioral analytics, and state-of-the-art continuous monitoring and reporting tools, such a detailed view would help you head off problems before they became apparent to users. Moreover, such a solution would flag cyber intrusions and insider threats before damage is done. This game-changing solution exists: Riverbed® Cascade® application-aware network performance management. Delivered by LTI DataComm, an experienced federal network integrator, Cascade leapfrogs other technologies by combining multiple capabilities simultaneously. It captures network flow data across the enterprise, giving administrators full visibility into performance, bandwidth and service levels. Plus, it collects and analyzes information within packets to yield visibility into applications, user behaviors, and the presence of malware.

High-performance monitoring solutions don't install themselves. Agencies acquiring commercial products best leverage their investment by using value-added consultants such as LTI who maintains deep technology knowledge and an understanding of the particular challenges faced by the Federal Government.

The Cascade solution provides actionable, real-time information into network and application performance, enabling smarter decision-making and faster, easier problem diagnosis. It automates the analysis of key performance metrics to provide early warning of unexpected changes in behavior, and displays alerts in an easy-to-use dashboard that provides at a-glance views into the end-to-end health of the application's performance.

Top-down workflows streamline troubleshooting by enabling IT to quickly and seamlessly drill down from the dashboards to transaction- and packet-level details on Cascade® Shark appliances – secure, hardened continuous packet capture and storage devices that enable the kind of analysis needed for total situational awareness and troubleshooting.

Federal agencies are under pressure to show immediate payback from IT investments. Cascade, delivered by LTI DataComm – a woman-owned small business – accelerates network problem resolution by as much as 83% and reduces downtime incidents by 34% per month. With such end-to-end visibility, you can proactively manage your complex enterprise communications.

Cascade is the solution

- As agencies move from the compliance mode of FISMA to continuous monitoring, they need network data and, more importantly, analysis of what the data is saying. By storing data from a defined period and applying behavioral analytics, Cascade can reveal anomalies pointing to exfiltration, prohibited practices, and the presence of rogue software. What's more, it can be configured to provide alarms to out-of-band conditions.

- Cascade leverages network-based analytics to identify security threats including those from credentialed insiders that are often overlooked by signature-based security offerings, and it recognizes changes in network or application behavior, resource usage, server modificantions, or policy violations.

- Data center consolidation, virtualization and cloud computing initiatives, all require a complete understanding of the IT environment to ensure success. With Cascade, agencies can make changes with confidence. They can discover and map dependencies faster and more efficiently and troubleshoot failed cutovers sooner to complete projects more quickly.