The challenge

You cannot manage what you cannot see.
Traditionally, the network has been invisible. Thus an organization cannot tell if traffic is productive or inappropriate, if security threats are spreading or the network is being attacked, how efficiently the network is meeting business requirements, or who is using the network the most.

Enterprises face multiple challenges when managing their networks. Measuring real-time networking performance for a critical application is important. Being able to understand if network resources are being misused is critical. Having the ability to identify who was connected where and when is necessary to help address security threats. Threats often materialize from inside the network as well as from outside as a result of mobile computing, and firewalls and intrusion detection systems do not provide protection once a threat is inside the perimeter.
To plan for future growth, you must understand current usage of the network, where additional bandwidth might be best deployed, and which applications are driving growth the most.

How HP ProCurve and InMon help you meet the challenge

ProCurve ONE provides an open-standards networking platform that ensures only tested and certified applications are able to run on your network with the security you need. ProCurve ONE delivers a choice of applications—so you get the most business value from your network.

Managing a network in today's business environment is challenging. You face both continuous focus on cost reduction and the need to manage and contain security threats. The HP ProCurve ONE Services zI Module has sFlow capability, and InMon's Traffic Sentinel makes use of this advanced technology to give you extensive insight into your network traffic. In addition to providing immediate, real-time visibility in to network problems, Traffic Sentinel also allows you to review historical usage. The availability of Traffic Sentinel on a ProCurve ONE Services zI Module integrates the measurement system directly into the network, giving network engineers the critical information required.

The integration of Traffic Sentinel into a ProCurve ONE Services zI Module provides a solution that is simple, easy-to-use and manage, and optimizes network efficiency. By using a central sFlow collector and analyzer, such as InMon's Traffic Sentinel, customers can take full advantage of this capability. Enabling sFlow on every port in the network allows full visibility of network traffic.

InMon's traffic management applications allow you to:

- Perform sophisticated reporting, data extraction, and filtering
- Automatically track usage quotas and rate limiting of traffic from users who exceed their quotas
- Automate reports and perform analysis to address security threats as they unfold
- Maintain network usage records
- Analyze trends in network performance
- Integrates with legacy infrastructure—without losing a comprehensive view of network performance

Traffic Sentinel provides enterprise-wide performance management and surveillance of complex, multi-layer switched and routed networks—enabling the rapid identification and resolution of performance issues or threats to the network. A threat may be a visible security attack or more subtle misuse, such as peer-to-peer downloading, corporate espionage, or data leakage. Network performance can be optimized around business requirements and future capacity growth, planned on the basis of demonstrated need. Designed as a highly scalable solution, Traffic Sentinel can monitor the entire network from one location in the network. Complete network visibility allows you to:

- Optimize network performance
- Ensure quality of service
- Enforce security policies
- Identify suspicious behavior
- Quickly respond to security threats
- Account for network usage

Fully understanding how the network is being used changes the paradigm of network management.

Solution features

- **Network visibility:** Traffic Sentinel is designed to monitor all ports across an entire network. The scalability of sFlow allows this universal monitoring to give complete visibility into network activity.
- **Scalable:** In addition to supporting sFlow, Traffic Sentinel can also integrate data from legacy network devices.
- **Extensive historical data collection capability**
- **Powerful reporting, querying, and scripting:** Traffic Sentinel offers a flexible and powerful querying, reporting, and scripting capability for creating custom reports.
Establish usage quotas: Traffic Sentinel allows controls to be implemented that rate and limit traffic from users who exceed their quotas, providing fair access to network resources and reserving bandwidth for business-critical applications.

Ease of manageability: As a ProCurve ONE application, Traffic Sentinel is fully integrated into the network infrastructure and can be managed directly by the network engineering staff. Also, access control ensures that only certain staff has authorization to view the data.

Solution benefits

- Gain visibility into all the network traffic, from core to the edge, wired and wireless.
- Manage the usage of the network, limiting inappropriate usage such as peer-to-peer, multimedia, or file sharing and reserve bandwidth for business-critical applications.
- Retain historical data to allow analysis of who was doing what, when and where, at any point in time.
- Security analysis is performed by identifying unusual patterns of network activity and looking for suspicious signatures in packets across the multisite enterprise network.
- Use flexible and powerful custom queries to integrate results with third-party applications. Results of queries and reports can be integrated automatically into other applications, such as ProCurve Manager Plus, or reporting packages.
- Sophisticated thresholds and alerts allow you to focus on the problem areas and quickly determine root cause.
- Traffic Sentinel also monitors traffic data from other vendors—including NetFlow and IPFIX—to give a unified view of your entire network.

Solution components

- InMon Traffic Sentinel is sold as a software application that is run on an HP ProCurve ONE Services zl Module. Traffic Sentinel is licensed, based on the number of switches monitored. For more than 20 switches, an unlimited license is offered.
- Annual maintenance agreements are available for product support, plus unlimited updates as new software revisions are released. The InMon customer portal hosts customer forums, support, and software downloads.
- Traffic Sentinel is managed through its own Web interface, including upgrading the software to new versions.
Training and consulting is available. Often, customers find this most useful after a period of approximately six months—after the solution is fully integrated into the network, some experience has been gained with it, and further customization or advanced scripting is required.

Why HP ProCurve and InMon?

HP ProCurve is the Network of Choice for best-in-class solutions, products, and services for wired and wireless networks. ProCurve’s Adaptive Networks vision offers the flexibility to deliver secure, standards-based solutions—helping to optimize the business value of networks by fortifying security, reducing complexity, and increasing productivity. Through the ProCurve Open Network Ecosystem (ONE), ProCurve delivers a choice of standards-based solutions.

InMon, as the inventors of sFlow and the developers of Traffic Sentinel, integrates easily with an HP ProCurve network. HP ProCurve Manager, the management platform, along with Traffic Sentinel provides distinct capabilities in optimizing the network. ProCurve Manager provides device management, configuration management, device discovery, and other management functions. Traffic Sentinel brings complementary capabilities for capacity management, historical trend analysis, and performance optimization.

The combination of InMon and HP ProCurve provides extensive visibility of network traffic.

What is HP ProCurve ONE?

Businesses are constantly seeking ways to improve competitiveness and manage costs. You need to enable new applications to support the business, while addressing cost and network complexity. Today, you’re forced to choose between integrating multiple appliances through open standards or being limited to a sub-optimal end-to-end solution from a single vendor.

HP ProCurve’s Open Network Ecosystem (ProCurve ONE) allows you to choose from a selection of market-leading applications and to integrate them with your network, having the confidence that the solution has already been pre-tested. Should you run into an unforeseen problem, ProCurve’s support team can provide fault-isolation assistance, and in the case of complex interactions will work closely with our alliance partner to isolate the cause of an issue and propose a resolution plan.

To find out more about the InMon Traffic Sentinel solution, visit www.procurve.com/one

For more information

To learn more about HP ProCurve Networking, please visit ProCurve.com
To learn more about InMon Corporation, please visit www.inmon.com

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