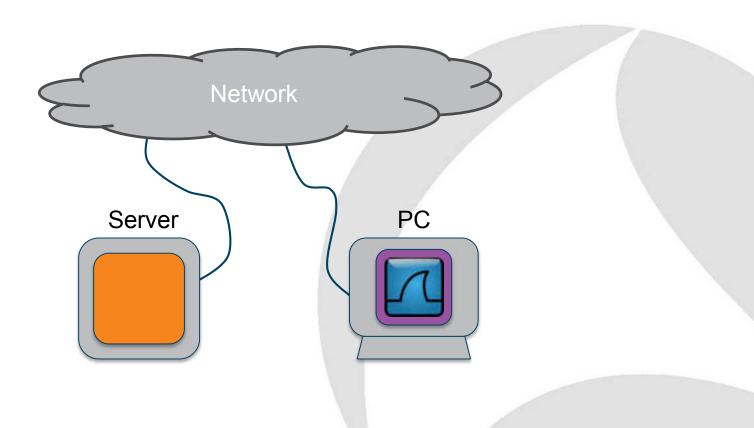


Packet Capture Techniques Paul Offord, Advance7

Groups of capture techniques

- Directly from the user PC or on a server
- Based on switch capabilities
- Via purpose-built devices
- In a virtual environment

On The Client: Topology



Wireshark executables

Start Wireshark

☐ (a) iexplore.exe	0.03	33,896 K	36,776 K	11664 Internet Explorer	Microsoft Corporation
(a) iexplore exe	2.70	626,424 K	588,384 K	16260 Internet Explorer	Microsoft Corporation
irefox exe	5.14	654,512 K	648,940 K	14964 Firefox	Mozilla Corporation
OUTLOOK EXE	0.51	137,504 K	203,964 K	6036 Microsoft Outlook	Microsoft Corporation
W WINWORD EXE	0.05	60,784 K	56,312 K	2352 Microsoft Word	Microsoft Corporation
P. POWERPNT.EXE	0.04	149,784 K	178,268 K	3288 Microsoft PowerPoint	Microsoft Corporation
☐ Drocexp.exe		3,040 K	8,776 K	17256 Sysinternals Process Explorer	Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
/ Wireshark.exe	0.01	70,732 K	75,820 K	15680 Wireshark	The Wireshark developer community,
AnniFy ava	0.36	2 968 K	1 372 K	RRRR Alne Pointing-device Driver f	Alne Flactric Co. Ltd.

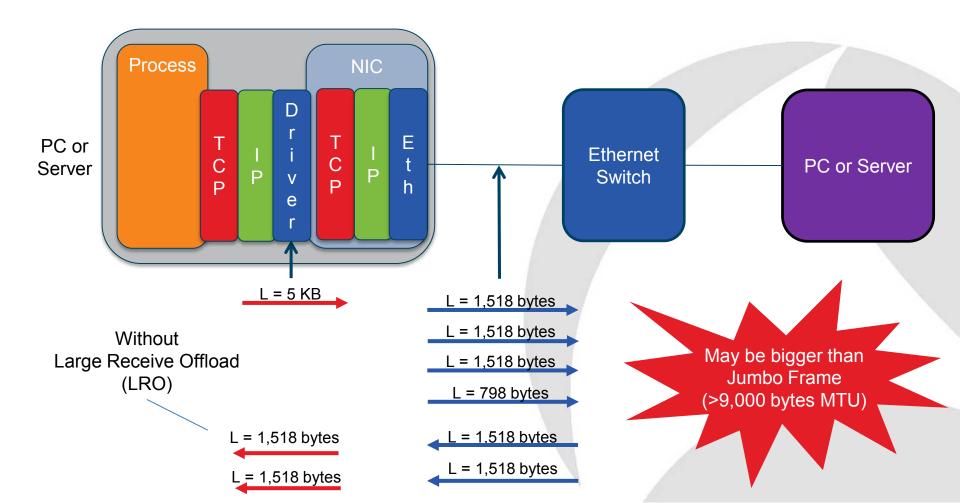
Start a capture

— (2) (explore exe	0.03	33,820 K	36,784 K	11664 Internet Explorer	Microsoft Corporation
explore exe	1.23	626,328 K	588,448 K	16260 Internet Explorer	Microsoft Corporation
∰ firefox.exe	2.35	658,132 K	652,612 K	14964 Firefox	Mozilla Corporation
□ OUTLOOK EXE	0.55	137,496 K	203,952 K	6036 Microsoft Outlook	Microsoft Corporation
W WINWORD.EXE	< 0.01	60,784 K	58,052 K	2352 Microsoft Word	Microsoft Corporation
P POWERPNT.EXE	0.02	150,512 K	179,052 K	3288 Microsoft PowerPoint	Microsoft Corporation
T procexp.exe		3,040 K	8,776 K	17256 Sysinternals Process Explorer	Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
☐	0.44	86,508 K	78,840 K	15680 Wireshark	The Wireshark developer community,
dumpcap.exe	0.01	4,660 K	7,804 K	9392 Dumpcap	The Wireshark developer community
SnippingTool.exe	0.27	5,060 K	14,472 K	16796 Snipping Tool	Microsoft Corporation
AnntEv ava	0.06	2.068 K	1 372 K	E668 Alne Dainting-davies Driverf	Alne Flactric Co. Ltd.

Very Large Frames

Filter					Expression Clear Apply Save						
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	14:25:08.44		0.000000	10.160.58.121	10.60.25.175	TLSV1	53861				
	14:25:08.44					TLSV1	53861		176 Application		
	14:25:08.44				10.160.58.121	TA TOTAL	443				Seq=4049927787 Ack=2437570878 W1n=512 Len=0
	14:25:08.62			The state of the s	10.160.58.121		443	7,0000	507 Application		
	14:25:08.61		THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE		203 SKIII DE 1	TCP	53861				Seq=2437570878 Ack=4049928240 Win=16368 Len=0
	14:25:09.12					TLSV1	53861		S90 Application		
-	14:25:09.12	100000			10.60.25.175		53861	- 1			
	14:25:09:12	7577	The second second		10,160,58,121		443		the same of the sa		Seq=4049928240 Ack=2437571658 Win=512 Len=0
	14:25:09.12	-	COLUMN TO STREET		10.160.58.121		443				reassembled MDU]
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W. 151	14:25:09.12				10.160.58.121		443				reassembled POU]
	14:25:09.12					TCP	53861				Seq=2437571688 Ack=4049938424 Win=16482 Len=0
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	14:25:09.12				10.160.58.121	57.73	443				reassembled POU]
	14:25:09.12			10.160.58.121		TCP	13861				Seq-2437571688 ACK-#049944856 W1n-16482 Len-0
	14:25:09.12				10,160,58,121		443				reassembled FDU]
	14:25:09,12		0.000711	10.160.58.121	10.60.25,175	TCP	53861				Seq=2437571688 Ack=4049950216 W1n=16482 Len+0
45.5	14:25:09.12	8245	0.000002	10.160.58.121	10.60.25.175	TCP	53861	443			Seq=2437571688 Ack=4049955576 Win=15812 Len=0
	14:25:09.12		0.000002	10.160.58.121	10.60.25,175	TCP	53861				Seq=2437571688 Ack=4049956648 Win=15544 Len=0
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45.8	14:25:09.12	9323	0.001052	10.160.58.121	10.60.25.175	TCP	53861	443	so sammi-https	[ACK]	Seq=2437571688 Ack=4049962008 Win=14204 Len=0
459	14:25:09.12	9349	0.000026	10.60.25.175	10.160.58.121	TLSV1	443	53861	7558 Application	Data	
	14125109.13					TCP	53861				Seq-2437571688 Ack-4049967368 W1n-12864 Len-0
461	14:25:09.13	1280	0.000039	10.60.25.175	10.160.58.121	TCP	443				reassembled POU]
	14:25:09.13				10.60.25.175	TCP	53861				Seq=2437571688 Ack=4049972728 Win=11524 Len=0
	14:25:09.13	10.50			10.160.58.121		443			7.7.7.7.	
464	14:25:09.13	2201	0.000769	10.160.58.121	10.60,25,175	TCP	53961	11111			Seq=2437571688 Ack=4049978088 Wfn=10184 Len=0
	14:25:09.13	7	0.000002	10.160.58.121	10.60.25.175	TCP	53561			-	Seq=2437571688 Ack=4049983448 Win=8844 Len=0
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48.7	14125104,11	2258	0.000002	10, 160, 58, 121	10.60.25.175	TYPE	13861	443	60 START-http:	FACKT	Sen-2437571688 Ark-4049994168 Win-6164 Len-0
- 12											

TCP Segmentation Offload



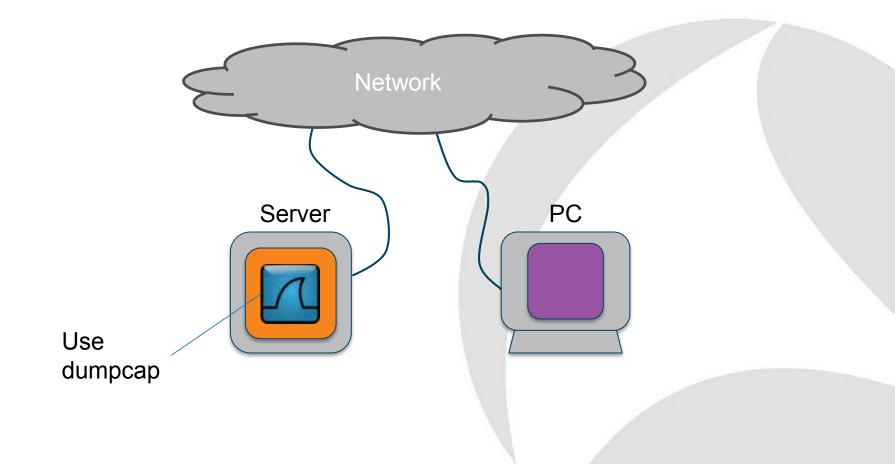
On The Client: Advantages

- Easy to achieve
- Zero disruption to services
- Capture wireless traffic
- Capture VPN traffic inside the tunnel

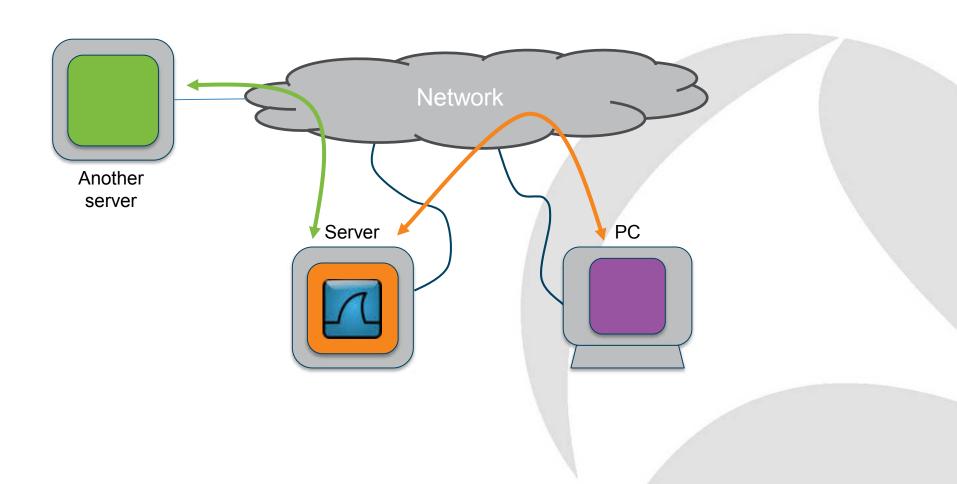
On The Client: Considerations

- TCP Seg. Offload can be confusing
- Disk contention may cause lost packets
- Potential performance hit when saving to C:
 - Page files, EXEs, DLL, Memory Mapped Files
 - Consider USB drive
- Use dumpcap for long-term captures

On The Server: Topology



Discovering unknown interactions



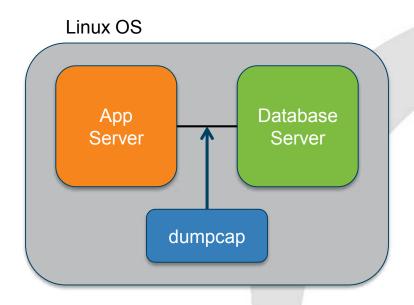
On The Server: Advantages

- Relatively easy to achieve
- Minimal disruption to services
 - Change Request probably needed
- All client traffic visible
- All interactions with other services visible
- Blade and VM east-west traffic visible

On The Server: Considerations

- TCP Seg. Offload can be confusing
- Volume of data higher than client-side capture
- Save to a dedicated volume
 - Not to C: drive, database log vols, etc.
 - USB drives work well
- Use dumpcap not tshark or Wireshark
- Care needed when teaming used
- Intra-OS tracing not possible on Windows
 - Loopback adapter not the same as Linux

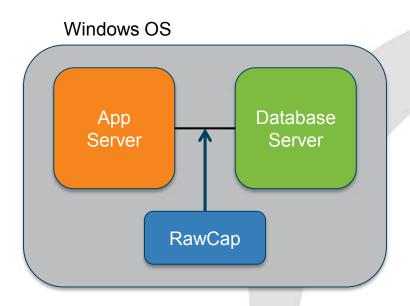
Via loopback



Source and destination IP address is 127.0.0.1

use TCP port number to determine packet direction

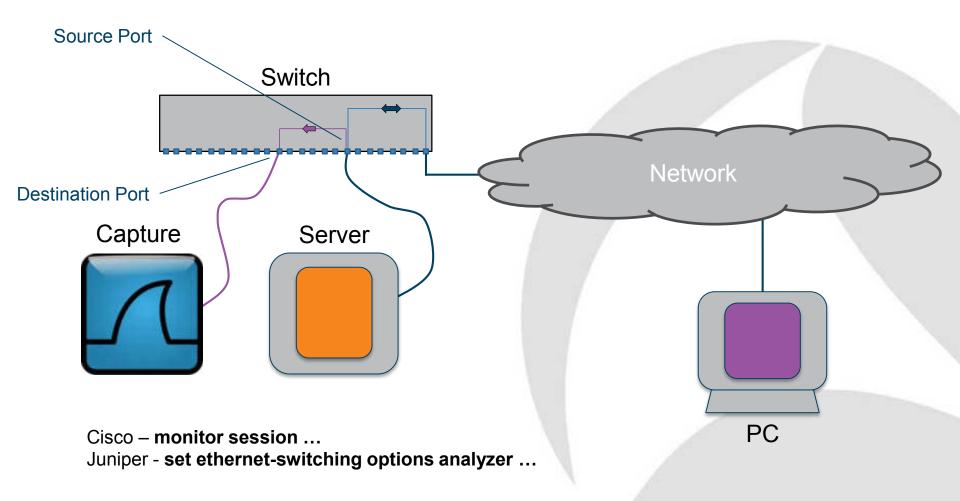
RawCap



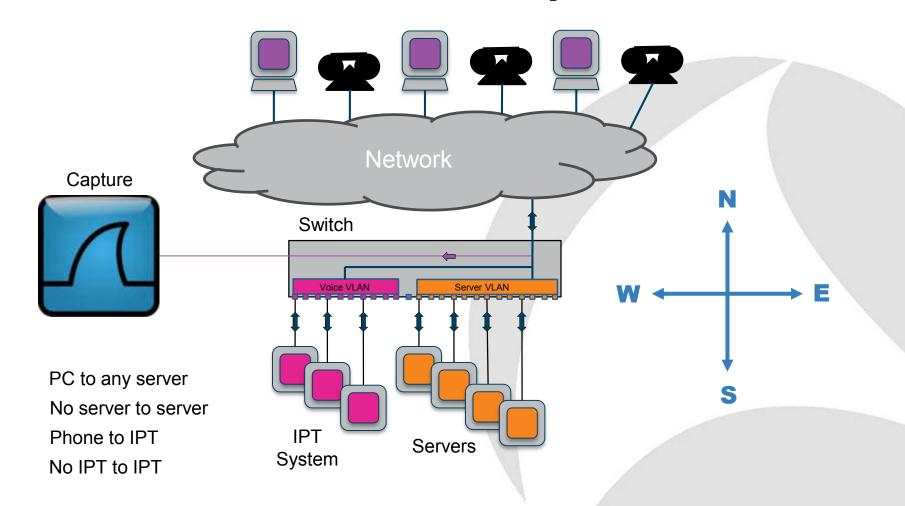
Produces PCAP files
IPv4 only
Windows 2008 r2 onwards

Time for Questions

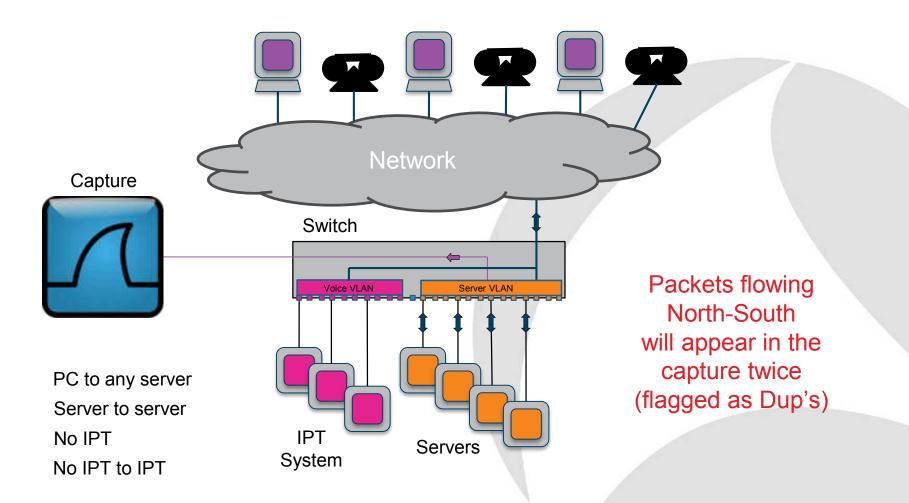
SPAN-Monitor-Mirror: Topology

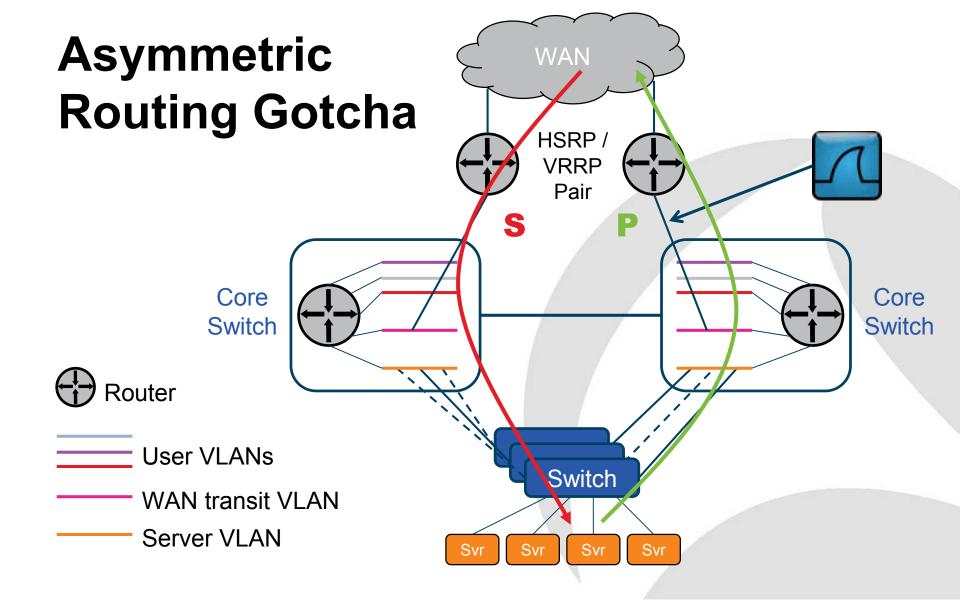


SPAN-Monitor-Mirror: Uplink



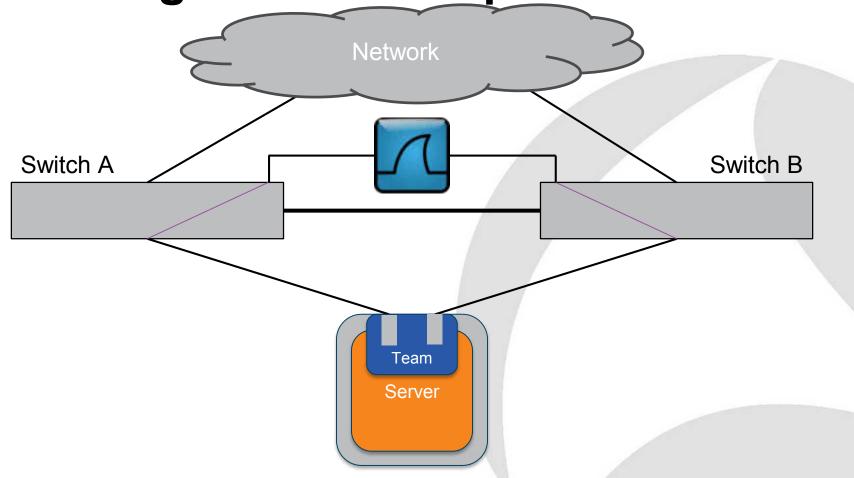
SPAN-Monitor-Mirror: VLAN





Teaming (LBFO) Network Switch A Switch B Options: - Active/standby - Generic or static teaming (IEEE 802.3ad) - Dynamic teaming (IEEE 802.1ax, LACP) Team Server **Always capture** both interfaces!

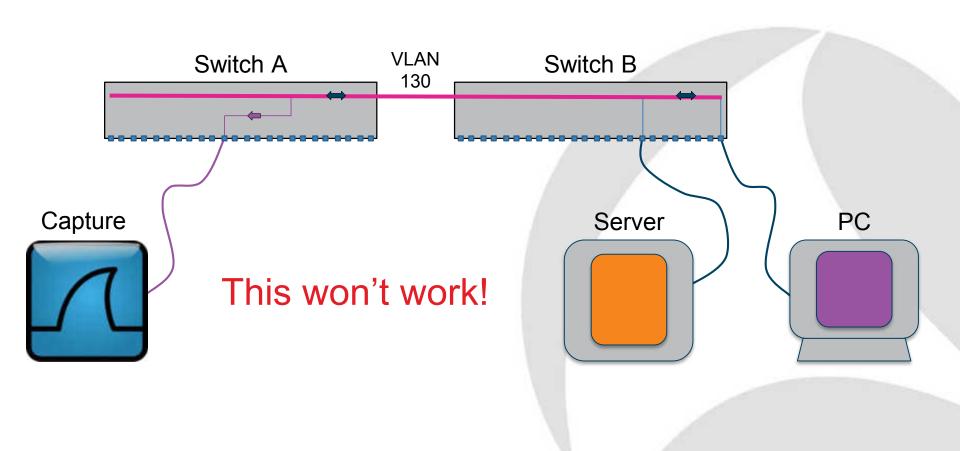
Teaming: Switch independent mode



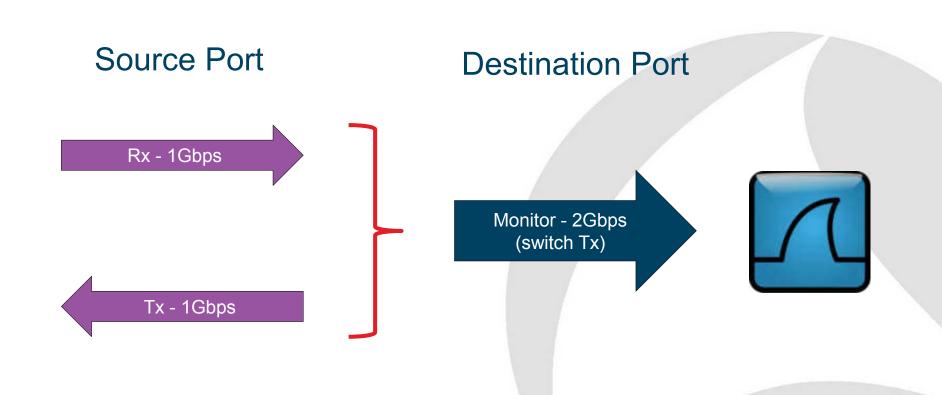
SPAN-Monitor-Mirror: Advantages

- Easy to configure
- Low risk non-invasive
- Multiple sources into one destination
- Entire VLANs can be monitored
 - Need to monitor on each switch
 - May see duplicates
- Negligible impact on the switch

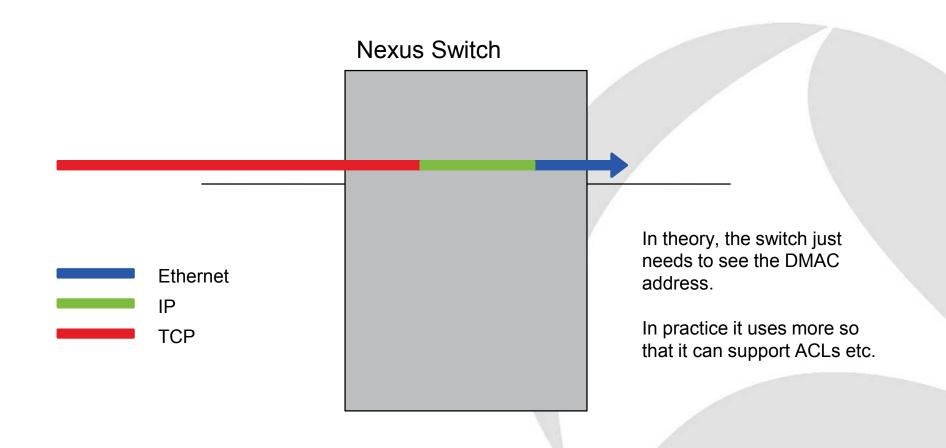
SPAN-Monitor-Mirror: VLAN Gotcha



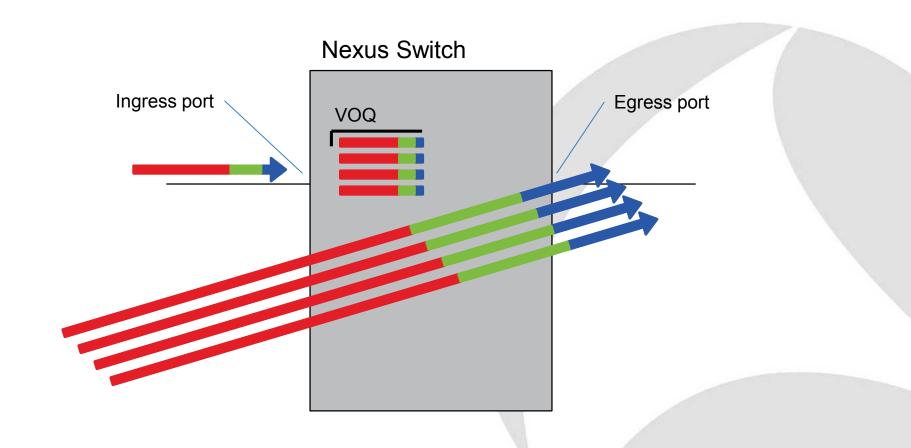
SPAN-Monitor-Mirror: 2-into-1



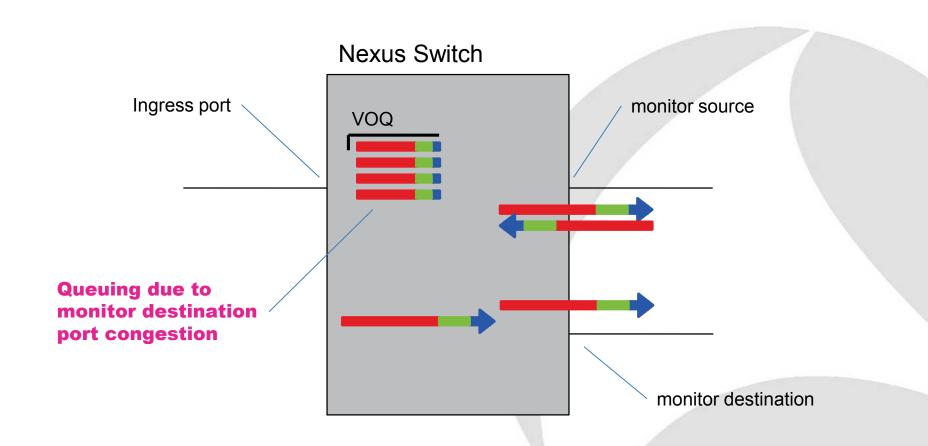
Cut-through switches



Virtual Output Queues



Cisco Nexus Back-pressure Gotcha



SPAN Rate Limiting

Configuring the Rate Limit for SPAN Traffic

By configuring a rate limit for SPAN traffic to 1Gbps across the entire monitor session, you can avoid impacting the monitored production traffic. For Nexus 5000 series switches:

- When spanning more than 1Gbps to a 1 Gb SPAN destination interface, SPAN source traffic will not drop.
- When spanning more than 6 Gbps (but less than 10Gbps) to a 10Gb SPAN destination interface, the SPAN traffic is limited to 1Gbps even though the destination/sniffer is capable of 10Gbps.

On the Nexus 5500 series, SPAN traffic is rate-limited to 1Gbps by default so the **switchport monitor rate-limit 1G** interface command is not supported. Also, to avoid impacting monitored production traffic:

- SPAN is rate-limited to 5 Gbps for every 8 ports (one ASIC).
- RX-SPAN is rate-limited to 0.71 Gbps per port when the RX-trans

Different rules and commands for Nexus 7000

SPAN-Monitor-Mirror: Considerations

- Overload of the monitor destination
- Back-pressure on source port (Cisco Nexus)
 - Alleviated using source rate limiting
- Limited number of monitor sessions
- Requires a spare switch port for destination
- Makes and models vary -> review first

Cisco ACL / VACL: Topology

ACL – Access Control List Match a packet to criteria VACL – VLAN Access Control List Switch Take an action Capture PC Server

Cisco ACL / VACL: Advantages

- VACL Capture on Catalyst
- ACL Capture on Nexus
- Similar to monitor/mirror but also ...
- Wide range of monitor criteria
 - IP addresses, port numbers, etc.
 - Helps avoid destination overload
- More sessions possible
- Is this the future for capture on Cisco?

Cisco ACL / VACL: Considerations

- As per monitor/mirror plus ...
- Complicated to configure
- Greater risk of a mistake and so production impact
- Risk of not capturing the expected traffic

Time for Questions

Blade Enclosure: Front

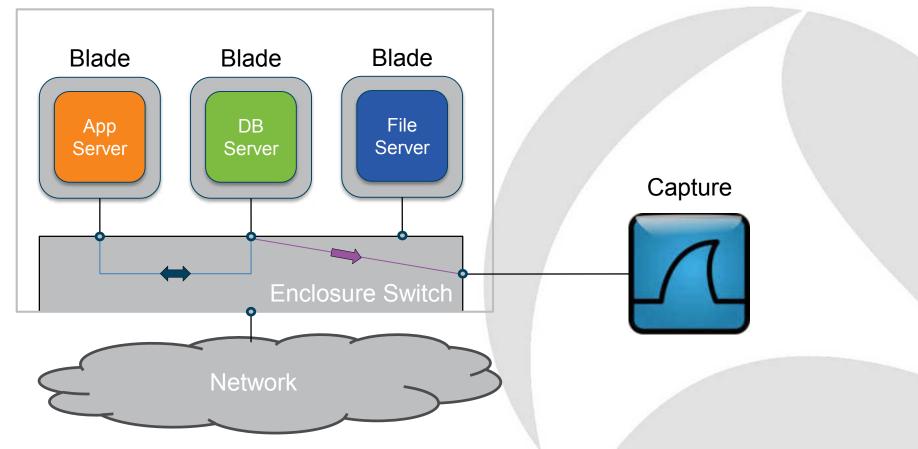


Blade Enclosure: Rear



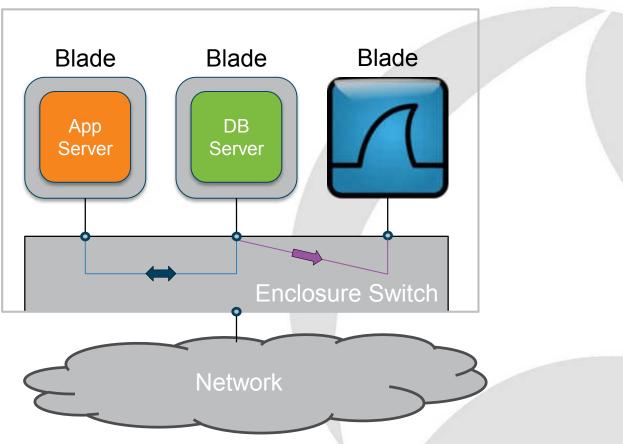
Blade Enclosure: Topology

Chassis



Blade Enclosure Alternative

Chassis



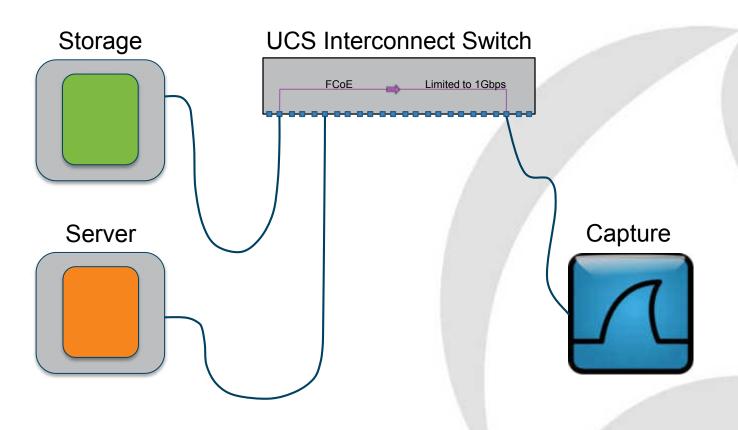
Blade enclosure: Advantages

- Easy to configure
- Low risk non-invasive
- Multiple sources into one destination
- Often entire VLANs can be monitored
 - Need to monitor on each switch
 - May see duplicates
- Negligible impact on the switch

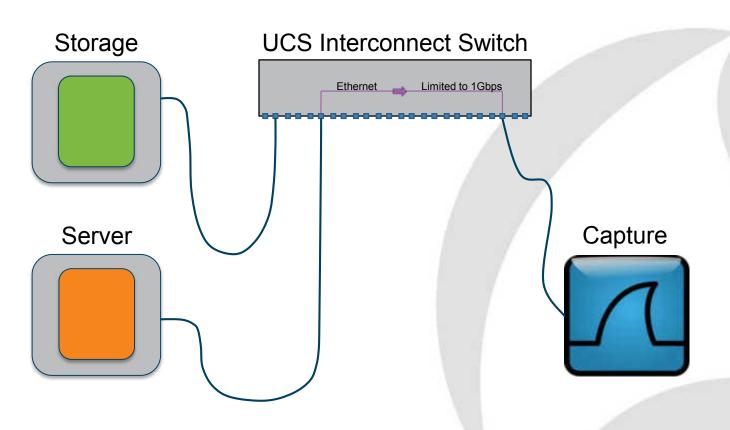
Blade enclosure: Considerations

- Overload of the monitor destination
- Limited number of monitor sessions
- Requires a spare switch port for destination
 - Often all external ports are in use
- Makes and models vary -> review first

Cisco UCS Fabric Interconnect



Cisco UCS Fabric Interconnect



UCS Fab Interconnect: Advantages

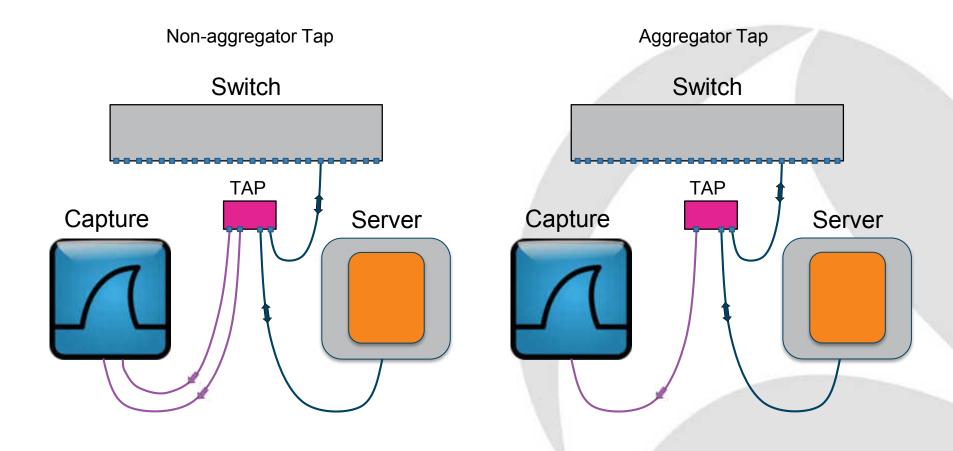
- Quick and easy to configure
- Visibility to East-West traffic
- Monitor multiple source
- Monitor VLANs
- Capture storage traffic (FCoE)

UCS Fab Interconnect: Considerations

- Monitoring limited to 1Gbps
 - This probably negates the storage trace capability
- Monitor src and dst must be on same FI
- Limit of two monitor sessions

Time for Questions

TAP



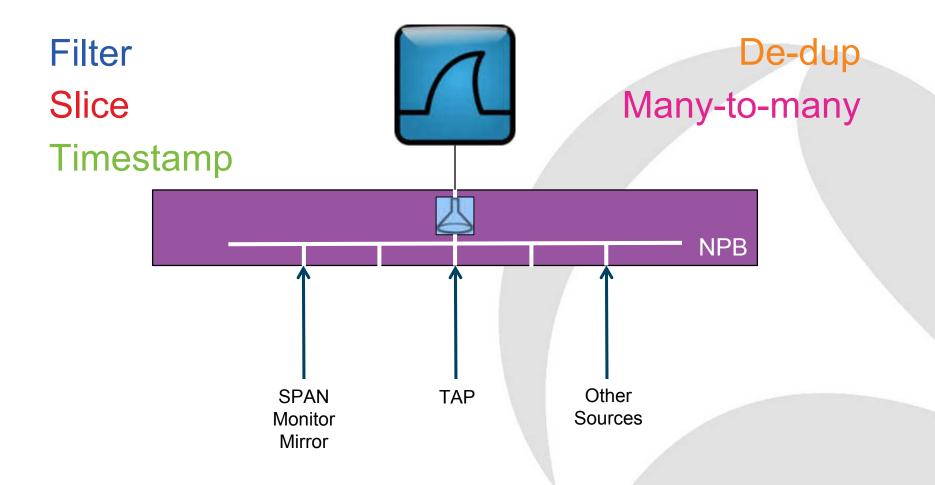
TAP: Advantages

- Reduces risk of dropped packets
- Captures all information including physical errors
- Totally passive
- Will not affect host performance

TAP: Considerations

- Need to break network link to install
- More expensive
- Less flexible
- Non-aggregators require two capture ports
- Aggregators suffer 2-into-1 problem

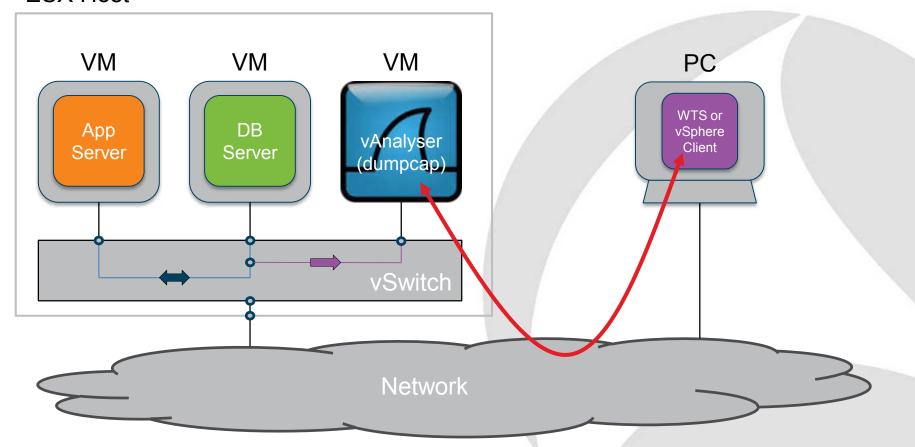
Network Packet Broker



Time for Questions

ESX vSwitch Promiscuous Mode

ESX Host



Promiscuous Mode: Advantages

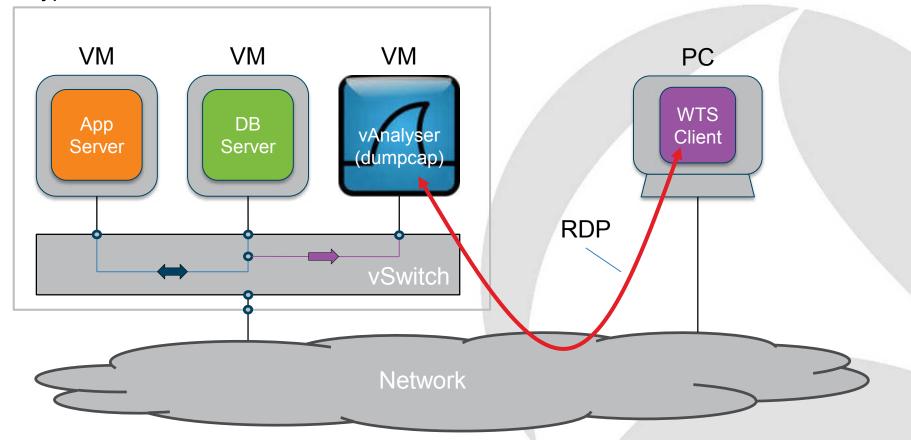
- Minimal disruption to services
 - Change Request probably needed
- Can capture all intra-vSwitch traffic
 - East-West

Promiscuous Mode: Considerations

- vAnalyser VM required
- Care regarding destination of trace data
 - Not to sensitive volumes
- Anecdote that causes high CPU load
 - This has not been our experience
- Capture will not follow vMotioned guest

Hyper-V Monitor Port

Hyper-V



Hyper-V Monitor Port: Advantages

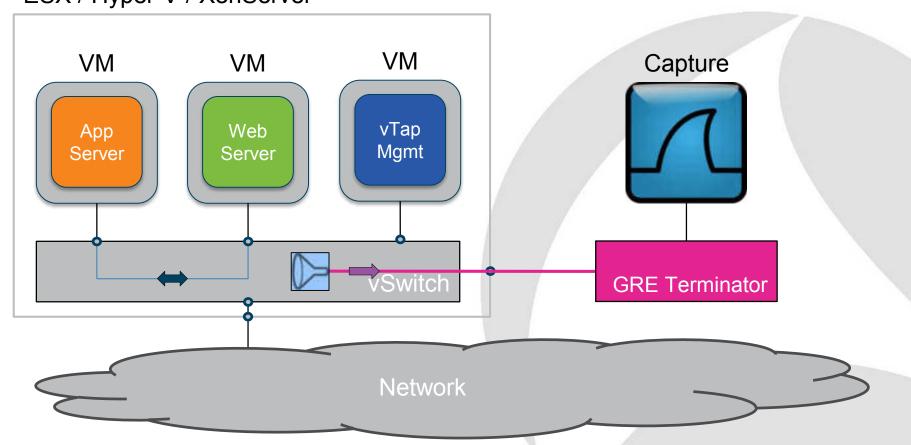
- Similar to monitor/mirror on a physical switch
- Minimal disruption to services
 - Change Request probably needed
- Can capture all intra-vSwitch traffic
 - East-West

Hyper-V Monitor Port: Considerations

- vAnalyser required
- Care regarding destination of trace data
 - Not to sensitive volumes

Ixia Phantom vTap

ESX / Hyper-V / XenServer



Ixia Phantom Tap: Advantages

- No software required on VM's
- No impact to VM performance
- vTap can capture all vSwitch traffic
- Or can capture specific traffic
- Works on the leading hypervisors
- Can track a VM thru' ESX vMotion

Ixia Phantom Tap: Considerations

- vTap Management VM on each host
- Annual subscription for each physical host
- Sensitive to vTap Mgmt. VM performance

Further information

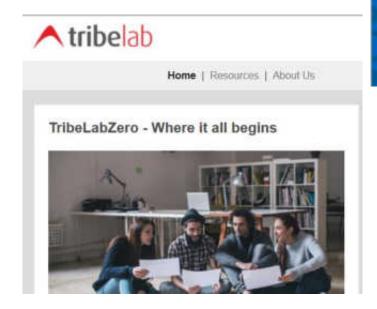
Paul Offord FBCS CITP Mobile: +44 1279 211 668

Email: paul.offord@advance7.com

Web: www.advance7.com



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TribeLab

- Free tutorials
- Free guides
- Free resources