



Data Sheet

porttracker

The Need

Your switching infrastructure has been deployed. It is constantly evolving – growing here, shrinking there. New technologies, new projects and organisational changes constantly need to be integrated. All this puts unrelenting pressure on day to day operations creating:

- **pressure to control costs**
- **uncertainty over what is connected and where**
- **the need for better visibility for troubleshooting and security**



You need porttracker - the appliance based solution that discovers and continuously maintains a detailed view of your true port utilisation. to arm you with the data you need to exert effective budgetary and management controls.

Budget Control

porttracker identifies spare capacity by determining which ports support active connections. It provides comprehensive data including first and last seen dates and times coupled to a constantly evolving history of connections that have been made. You can very rapidly eliminate routine usage overestimates and bear down on capital expenditures (plus the ever recurring maintenance and support costs) by assessing whether requests for additional ports can be satisfied by the existing infrastructure. Maximise both the effectiveness of what you already have and stretch your budget.

Identify Security Breach Connections

porttracker can tell you the location of an offending device flagged by your security measures. Audit history tells you if that device has also connected elsewhere in the past. Provide comprehensive support to your security breach analysis and response.

Guard Against Open Ports

porttracker helps to identify and guard against open access points, identifying ports that are apparently unused which are fully activated and available for use. Security audits will be more effective

Improve Troubleshooting

porttracker not only assists support staff identify where devices subject to problem reports are connected but also delivers key connection details such as port speed, duplex status and VLAN membership. Network troubleshooting progresses confidently, underpinned by accurate data.

Change Management Validation

porttracker improves change management by delivering exact port and switch data to support connection and disconnection requests. After any change is made it can be validated by tracking the data reported for the relevant ports after the event.

Plug Ins and API Interfaces to IPAM and Other Key Systems

porttracker interfaces to other systems. A library of standardised plug ins is being developed in response to market demands. Two plug ins are already available that feed key parameters into the most popular IPAM systems. qsync interfaces to the VitalQIP solution from Alcatel Lucent, while bsync addresses the Infoblox market. For customers wishing to undertake their own integration an API is also provided that is programming language independent.

Architecture

porttracker comprises two major operations – a discovery operation that will auto discover your switching infrastructure and a polling operation that identifies what is connected to that infrastructure. A distributed architecture that is scalable and fast that can be optimised to fit with your existing network architecture and traffic flows like a glove.

For discovery your network can be separated into a number of realms. In each realm, single or multiple pollers can be deployed to capture the required data. Discovery uses SNMP to locate switching infrastructure using a highly optimised algorithm designed to minimise use of precious bandwidth. It uses a variety of methods to identify your infrastructure within the bounds set by the SNMP credentials for the realm.

The infrastructure model that porttracker builds is updated at selectable regular intervals to keep it fresh. You can also add infrastructure devices manually to further minimise the traffic impact.

Polling uses the infrastructure model to acquire a variety of information from your infrastructure devices. It ensures that the data captured is fresh and reliable. Again great care has been taken to ensure this process is fast and imposes the minimum traffic load. A bandwidth throttle has been incorporated to prevent network disruption.

porttracker further enhances standard capture information such as IP and MAC addresses using DNS to add the associated name for the relevant end point device.

Discovery, polling, reporting, syncing and backing up to external systems can each be scheduled whenever you need – monthly, weekly, daily or hourly allowing additional data exploitation and providing data security.



Viewing and Reporting

porttracker is accessed via a secure, intuitive Web interface with support for all the most common browsers. Data is presented in a configurable tabular format. Each column incorporates powerful filtering facilities to allow data selection. Combining filters over many columns allows complex data selection to be carried out with great ease. Each such combination is called a view and views can be stored for instant future reuse providing a sound basis for regular reporting tailored to the exact needs of your organisation as a whole or the specific needs of groups or individuals.

Appliance Options

porttracker is available as a 1U rackable appliance integrating Discovery, Polling, Data Storage and GUI support in one economical package. Additional appliances can be deployed as distributed pollers when and where required. If your preference is virtualisation, porttracker is also available as a 64-bit VMware image incorporating all the features of the physical appliances.

Licensing and Pricing

A wide variety of flexible licensing and pricing options are available.