

Managed Security Service Benefits from Deep Packet Visibility

The NETSCOUT nGenius packet flow solution streamlines service delivery for Norway's Mnemonic

OVERVIEW

Organization

Mnemonic
Oslo, Norway
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Industry

Managed security services

Business Goals

- Ensure smooth service delivery
- Spend less time in infrastructure management and more in threat investigation

NETSCOUT Solution

- NETSCOUT® nGenius® 2200 series packet flow switch and nGenius 4200 series packet flow switch

Business Value

- Provide deep packet visibility to security platforms as part of a managed service
- Streamline service delivery and on-going management of security systems



Norway's Leader in Managed Security Services

Norway-based Mnemonic provides 24/7 monitoring services from European based SOCs staffed with incident response teams. At the core of the Mnemonic's solution is their proprietary platform, Argus. Argus is used to deliver its Managed Defense service that is designed to rapidly detect, analyze and respond to security threats on a large scale. Argus provides the advanced threat prevention ecosystem needed to see the big threat picture in real-time and protect customers against advanced persistent threats, zero days and targeted attacks.

Challenges

Any managed security service depends on on-going view of the customer's network and the efficient functioning on the underlying security monitoring infrastructure. Employee time must be also spent efficiently, ideally mostly focused on higher-value activities such as threat investigation and mitigation, rather than infrastructure management.

Strategic Approach to Service Delivery

Mnemonic serves large enterprises and the SMB market. For enterprises with large and complex networks, ensuring consistent and enterprise-wide packet flow visibility is a challenge.

Rather than solve the problem piece meal with security systems operating in visibility silos, Mnemonic's approach integrates packet flow management at the onset of the customer engagement. This insures deep visibility into the customer's network, enhancing both customer's network security and Mnemonic's value proposition.

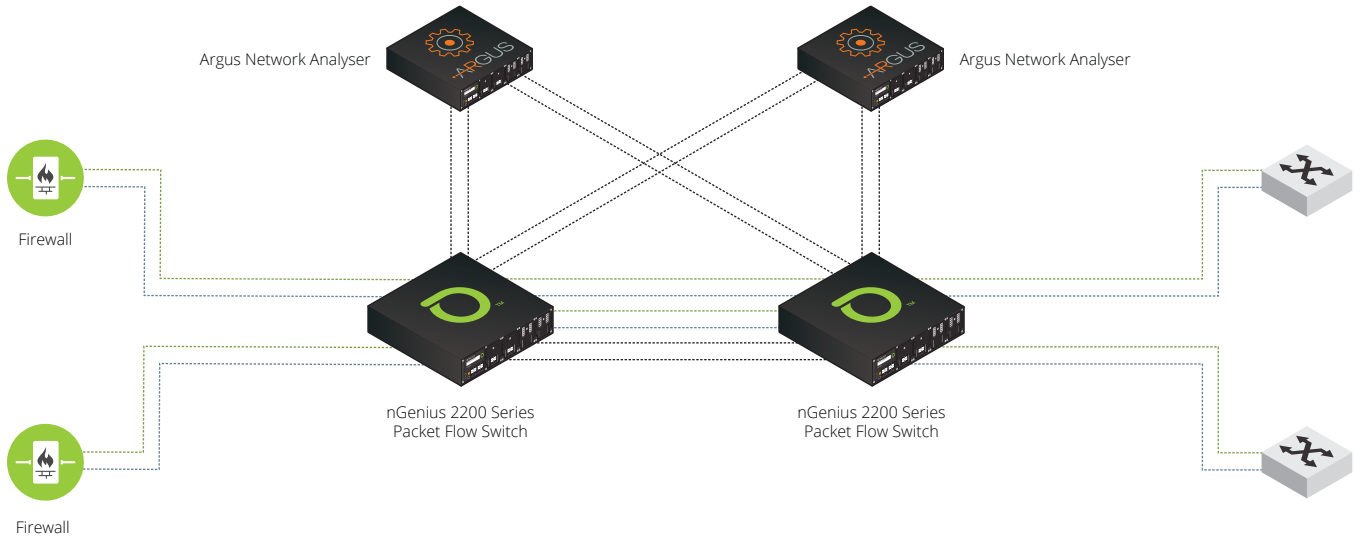


Figure 1: The nGenius PFS appliances aggregate traffic from multiple network segments for centralized inspection.

“NETSCOUT packet flow switches greatly simplify service delivery of our managed security offering. They provide an extra layer of reliability and control over the security monitoring infrastructure. nGenius PFS takes care of keeping things running smoothly, so that our analysts can focus on threat investigation, rather on infrastructure management.”

The Packet Visibility Solution

The Mnemonic team evaluated several network monitoring switches, and opted for the NETSCOUT nGenius Packet Flow Switch (PFS) series, specifically nGenius 2204 packet flow switch or nGenius 4204 packet flow switch models, depending on customer requirement. The appliances are a part of the infrastructure that the company recommends for on-site deployment, alongside passive security devices, such as IDS (intrusion detection system) and SEIM (security event and incident management).

The appliances aggregate traffic from multiple network segments and forwards copies of the traffic to the security devices for inspection. nGenius PFS performs load-balancing, filtering and speed conversion, delivering the right packet flows, at the right time and in the form that the security devices require. The key differentiating factor for Mnemonic was the hardware accelerated, proven performance of nGenius PFS, since the customer’s security and Mnemonic’s reputation depends on high availability of security infrastructure.

The nGenius PFS solution also reduces the time required to manage customer’s security monitoring infrastructure, with many functions, such as health-checking and load-balancing, performed by the packet flow switch. nGenius PFS can automatically rebalance the load if a particular device in a group is not functioning properly or needs to be taken out for maintenance. This allows Mnemonic to focus its personnel on the delivery of the managed service, rather than on managing infrastructure.

Easing Transition to Active Security

Many of Mnemonic’s customers are migrating from passive to active monitoring; the support for active (inline) security is thus a key requirement. The nGenius 4204 packet flow switch and nGenius 2204 packet flow switch devices have built-in support for inline deployments, such as network bypass, conditional triggers and advanced health-checking. With nGenius as part of the deployment, the transition from passive to active monitoring is straightforward and does not require that the customers re-architecture their visibility plane.

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