

Patented, Virtually Inline NAC

Introduction

Any NAC solution is really only as effective as its enforcement mechanism. A good NAC solution offers some level of endpoint assessment, authentication, asset protection, threat detection, and remediation – but these functions provide little or no value without a robust enforcement mechanism. It's the "control" part of Network Access Control.

While a number of enforcement mechanisms exist among NAC appliances, they are typically categorized as either Inline or Out of Band solutions. Inline solutions, which are physically in the data path like firewalls, have a built-in quarantine method,

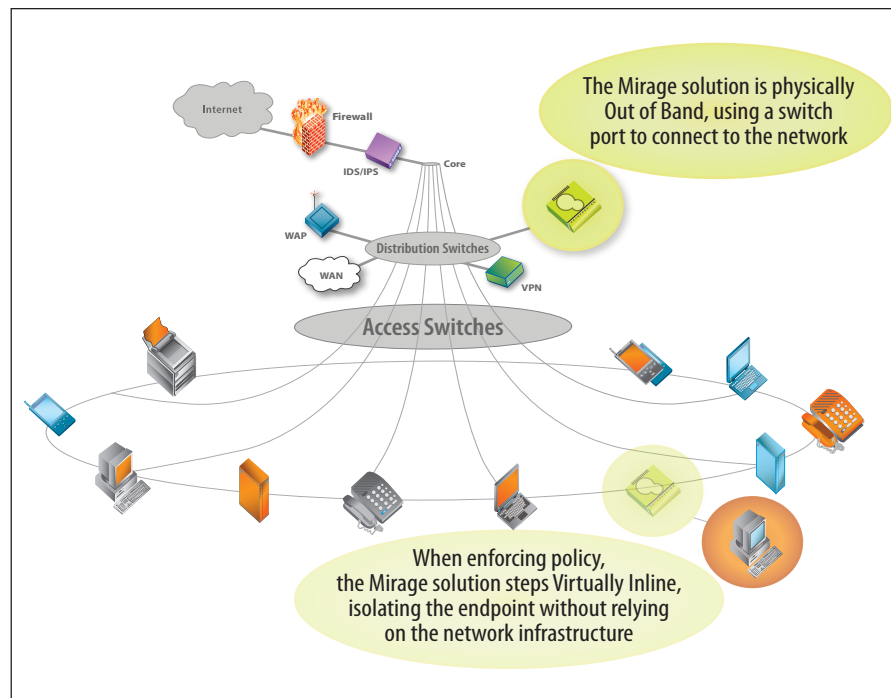
since they can simply drop the frame as it heads from one interface to the other. However, placing more inline devices throughout a network introduces deployment risks that are largely unacceptable to network administrators. Conversely, an Out of Band solution is generally viewed as a superior deployment model, but is typically dependent on other elements of the infrastructure (switches, routers, IPS, DHCP servers, etc.) to carry out any enforcement. The lack of in-box quarantining

in most Out of Band NAC solutions usually requires complex and often risky integration points through the infrastructure. Mindful of the benefits and shortcomings of both methods, Mirage developed a solution that integrated the best parts of Inline and Out of Band solutions, which eliminates the negatives of each.

Virtually Inline – The Only NAC Patent

Mirage's approach to NAC enforcement is unique in the market, in that it combines the flexibility and deployment ease of Out of Band solutions with an in-box enforcement mechanism that is often even more effective than Inline solutions.

By leveraging Layer 2 network protocols, Mirage's appliances can surgically isolate endpoints, with allow/deny decisions on every packet. Where Inline appliances can only stop packets crossing their physical paths, Mirage's approach brings "Next Hop" dropping of restricted packets, regardless of where the appliance is physically located. Furthermore, the out-of-box enforcement capability is provided



transparently, meaning no complex and risky integration with the existing infrastructure.

This approach to quarantining forms the basis of patent # 7,124,197, the only NAC patent in existence. The patent assures a process of controlling network entry.

In short, Mirage combines the ease of Out of Band deployment with the effectiveness of Inline blocking. This "Virtually Inline" approach essentially allows

organizations to have it all: flexible policy deployment with no single points of failure, highly effective and secure endpoint restriction, and notification and remediation for end users.

About Mirage Networks

Mirage Networks, Inc. is the leading provider of Network Access Control (NAC) solutions. Mirage's patented technology gives organizations control of all network devices, increases network uptime, ensures policy compliance, and reduces operational costs. Mirage's NAC appliances work in all network environments, deploy virtually inline, and require neither signatures nor agents to enforce policy and terminate zero-day threats. Mirage Networks is a consistent winner of industry awards and recognition. Learn more about Mirage Networks at www.miragenetworks.com, and visit the Mirage CTO blog at www.mirageblog.com.

Mirage solutions are made available through Authorized ChannelFirst Partners and can also be delivered as a managed service.

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