

What's New in Cascade Profiler 9.5 and Cascade Shark / Pilot 3.5

Cascade® provides end-to-end visibility into service performance – from the remote LAN, across the WAN and deep into the data center – in both physical and virtual environments. This announcement extends Cascade visibility into load balanced applications, virtualized computing environments, and VoIP quality, making today's complex data centers more transparent for network monitoring and troubleshooting. The new multi-segment analysis and precision time stamp capabilities in Cascade Shark® and Cascade Pilot® 3.5 enable network manager to quickly determine where in the network problem are occurring.

The Transparent Datacenter

Visbility into application delivery controllers (ADC) – automates the process of discovering and mapping the ADC virtual IP (VIP) address to its backend pool of servers, to enable reporting and monitoring of load balanced applications and services. Cascade Profiler® 9.5 supports F5 Local Traffic Manager (LTM), Riverbed Technology Stingray™ Traffic Manager and manual mechanism for mapping other ADC solutions.

Virtual Cascade Shark – a software version of the Cascade Shark appliance that has been virtualized to run on VMware ESX environments, Virtual Cascade Shark attaches to the virtual switch in the ESX hypervisor to

- Monitor the performance of all inter-VM traffic and send data to Cascade Profiler for analysis and reporting
- Continuously capture packets and store them on the local server or on a storage area network (SAN) for back-in-time analysis with Cascade Pilot

Virtual Cascade Shark can also be deployed on a customer-provided server as a low-end packet capture appliance.

Multi-segment analysis (MSA) – Cascade Pilot simplifies the task of correlating and analyzing related traffic streams captured from multiple locations or sources to quickly identify where on the network performance issues are occurring. Packet capture sources can include:

- Cascade Shark appliances
- Steelhead appliances (via Embedded Cascade Shark functionality or TCPdump)
- Third-party packet capture solutions, such as WireShark, that support the standard pcap format
- Cascade Pilot

 Pilot

 3rd party
 packet
 capture

 Remote
 Steelhead

 Data center
 Steelhead

 Cascade
 Shark

 Cascade
 Shark

- Automated discovery F5 LTM and Stingray ADCs for visibility into load balanced environments
- Monitor virtualized computing environments using Virtual Cascade Shark
- > VoIP quality reporting
- Support for Cisco SCCP "Skinny" VOIP signaling
- Multi-segment analysis
- Support for precision time stamps from third-party span port aggregators
- Hierarchical device & interface reporting

VoIP quality reporting – while Cascade Shark / Pilot have long monitored VoIP quality, this announcement brings VoIP reporting into Cascade Profiler, further deepening the integration between the two products. Cascade Profiler can report on jitter, packet loss, MOS and R-Factor, as well as QOS category for H.323, SIP and Cisco SCCP (Skinny Call Control Protocol) signaling protocols. Cisco SCCP is a newly supported protocol.

Ease-of-Use Enhancements

High-precision time stamps – Cascade Shark appliances can adopt the precision time stamps from network taps for greater accuracy and for coordinated time stamping across the network and with other monitoring tools in the customer's environment. Precision time stamping is critical for low-latency trading environments or other time-sensitive applications and provides better accuracy for multi-segment analysis. Supported network taps include:

- Gigamon SMT-436 GigaSMART blade for the GigaVue-2404
- cPackets cPacket cVU & cTap families (with Precision Timing module option)
- VSS Monitoring Distributed Traffic Capture Series

Floating / Undocked Windows – Cascade Pilot now can allow View windows to be "undocked" and expand to full screen size or moved to a second monitor. Great for operations that need to display on large monitors while operating additional troubleshooting views.

Hierarchical device and interface grouping and reporting— an alternative to service-based views, the interface dashboard organizes all the devices and interfaces known to Cascade Profiler in a built-in and user-defined tree structure and streamlines access to interface-specific metrics, such as utilization, top 10 interfaces, QoS, etc.

Analytics enhancements – streamlines the process of bulk tuning analytics polices, by enabling all policies for a location to be edited from the same screen. In addition, analytics alert evidence tables for response time now automatically breaks down total response time into network round trip time (NTT) and server delay, allowing users to more quickly isolate where the delay is occurring.

About Riverbed

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