

# **Eliminating SPAN Port Contention**

A guide for network architects

A DATACOM SYSTEMS WHITE PAPER



# Minimize Downtime

Tools run faster, data is easier to work with, and issues are resolved quicker.

**W**hen streams of data are being monitored from several different teams, contention over SPAN ports can cause strain to the processing power of your network. This can lead to network down time, slower processing speeds and possible loss of data.

The problem is that most businesses and establishments that use such large networks often don't have the resources to monitor all network traffic at all times. At Datacom, we offer several solutions for eliminating SPAN port contention.

## Solutions for Eliminating SPAN Port Contention

### Regeneration



One-to-Many configurations replicate copies of identical network traffic to provide multiple tools monitoring access to the same links. In addition to eliminating contention for access to critical links, multiple tools can be connected to the same link for redundancy, testing, or advanced monitoring applications. Learn more about our products that offer regeneration here.

### Filtration



For tools that may not need 100% of the data from high-speed aggregated traffic streams, you have the option of applying filters to the data to increase tool efficiency and make analysis simpler. Line-rate hardware filtering on each port can allow you to customize and streamline the amount and type of data each connected monitoring tool receives. Because they are receiving only traffic of interest, tools run faster, data is easier to work with, and issues are resolved quicker. Filters Datacom offers include IP and MAC ranges, VLAN, port number, and protocol type. Learn more about our products that offer filtration here.

### Aggregation



In the past, network and security managers were required to install a monitoring device on each SPAN port that they needed to monitor. This was not only time-consuming to deploy and manage, requiring more personnel and equipment, it was also expensive. Because of an understandable lack of monetary and human resources, network managers were sometimes prevented from deploying monitoring devices on every network segment. This leads to critical links being compromised. By increasing the network segments a single monitoring tool can cover, a multi-link aggregation system can dramatically improve network security, while saving organizations a considerable amount of money in deployment and management costs. Learn more about our products that offer aggregation here.

### SPAN Port Contention Solutions from Datacom Offer:

- 100% Network Uptime – many of our systems are entirely passive and won't disrupt network operations even if power is lost.
- Multiple interface monitoring tools.
- Decreased reliance on switch resources for network management visibility. No more oversubscription or configuration errors.
- Instantly deploy tools after installation.
- Easy-to-share test access points without maintenance or need for approval.
- Minimize management expenses and reduce MTTR.
- Customize data flow to each tool.
- Swapable load balanced power supplies.

To learn more about our SPAN port contention elimination solutions, contact us today.



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