University Campus Network Monitoring using NetFlow Analyzer - A case study

The Client

A large University that is more than 150 years old based in United Kingdom. This University has more than 25,000 full time and part time students and more than 3,500 employees on its rolls.

The Challenge

The University had a campus wide WAN comprising of 26 Cisco routers and 12 Enterasys Routers. The Campus network was the principal medium of communication among its diverse community. If the institute's WAN went down for any significant time it had the potential of bringing the university system to a grinding halt. So they wanted to foolproof their network of any eventuality. The Network team identified the primary challenges that faced them in their daily operations and set forth their requirements.

The core requirements were identified to be:

1. Monitor the network traffic pattern within their firewalled perimeter on a daily basis
2. Identify any faults in the network rapidly
3. Forecast future network traffic requirements accurately - reducing cost associated with inaccurate bandwidth provisioning

The Solution

ManageEngine NetFlow Analyzer was deployed and NetFlow was enabled on all the 26 Cisco Routers and 12 Enterasys Routers. The NetFlow statistics exported from the equipments were exported to NetFlow Analyzer.

Benefits

ManageEngine NetFlow Analyzer allowed them to perform the following with ease:

1. Having a daily report on bandwidth consumption helped them stay abreast of the band width usage details
2. Knowing what traffic is using what bandwidth on the network which led to reduced time to troubleshoot network down tim
3. Having alarm generated upon threshold violations helped to fix any issue instantly
4. Calculating accurately the bandwidth requirements/provisioning they had to make for their enterprise