



## HP Networking and InMon Traffic Sentinel

Solution brief

### The challenge

You cannot manage what you cannot see. Traditionally, the network has been invisible making it difficult for an organization to tell whether the traffic is productive or inappropriate, if security threats are spreading or the network is being attacked. Organizations cannot ascertain how efficiently the network is meeting business requirements or who is using the network the most.

Enterprises face multiple challenges when managing their networks. Measuring real-time networking performance for a critical application and being able to understand if network resources are being misused are both important. Having the ability to identify who was connected where and when is necessary to help address security threats. Threats often materialize from inside the network as well as from outside as a result of mobile computing, and firewalls and intrusion detection systems do not provide protection once a threat is inside the perimeter.

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**Breakthrough network-wide visibility and control from the inventors of sFlow®**

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To plan for future growth, you must understand current usage of the network, where additional bandwidth might be best deployed, and which applications are driving growth the most.

## How HP Networking and InMon can help you meet the challenge

HP provides an open-standards networking platform that makes sure that only tested and certified applications are able to run on your network with the security you need. Through the networking specialization within HP AllianceONE, we deliver a choice of applications—so you get the most business value from your network.

Managing a network in today's business environment is challenging. You face both continuous focus on cost reduction and the need to manage and contain security threats. Most HP switches have sFlow capability, and InMon's Traffic Sentinel makes use of this advanced technology to give you extensive insight into your network traffic. In addition to providing immediate, real-time visibility into network problems, Traffic Sentinel also allows you to review historical usage. The availability of Traffic Sentinel on a HP Networking Services zl Module integrates the measurement system directly into the network, giving network engineers the critical information required.

The integration of Traffic Sentinel into a HP Networking Services zl Module provides a solution that is simple, easy-to-use and manage, and enhances network efficiency. By using a central sFlow collector and analyzer, such as InMon's Traffic Sentinel, customers can take full advantage of this capability. Enabling sFlow on every port in the network allows full visibility of network traffic.

InMon's traffic management applications allow you to:

- Perform sophisticated reporting, data extraction, and filtering
- Track usage quotas automatically and rate limit traffic from users who exceed their quotas
- Automate reports and perform analysis to address security threats as they unfold
- Maintain network usage records

- Analyze trends in network performance
- Integrate with legacy infrastructure—without losing a comprehensive view of network performance

Traffic Sentinel provides enterprise-wide performance management and surveillance of complex, multi-layer switched and routed networks—enabling the rapid identification and resolution of performance issues or threats to the network. A threat may be a visible security attack or more subtle misuse, such as peer-to-peer downloading, corporate espionage, or data leakage. Network performance can be optimized around business requirements and future capacity growth, planned on the basis of demonstrated need. Designed as a highly scalable solution, Traffic Sentinel can monitor the entire network from one location in the network. Complete network visibility allows you to:

- Optimize network performance
- Ensure quality of service
- Enforce security policies
- Identify suspicious behavior
- Quickly respond to security threats
- Account for network usage

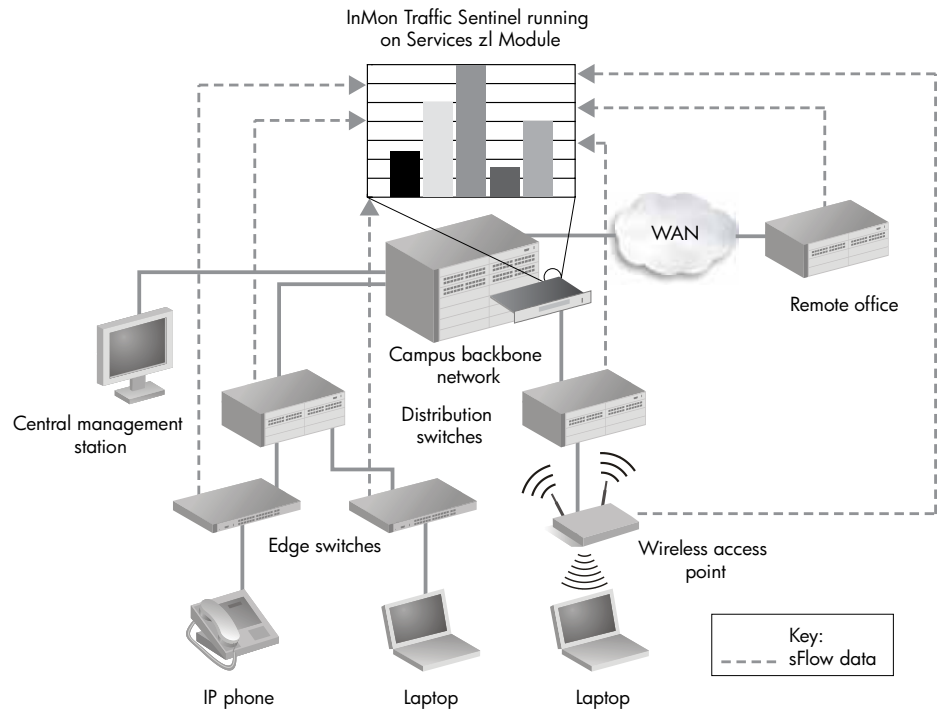
Fully understanding how the network is being used changes the paradigm of network management.

## Solution features

- **Network visibility:** Traffic Sentinel is designed to monitor all ports across an entire network. The scalability of sFlow allows this universal monitoring to give complete visibility into network activity.
- **Scalable:** In addition to supporting sFlow, Traffic Sentinel can also integrate data from legacy network devices.
- **Extensive historical data collection capability:** It has the capability to store past events and history.
- **Powerful reporting, querying, and scripting:** Traffic Sentinel offers a flexible and powerful querying, reporting, and scripting capability for creating custom reports.

# Solution architecture

Figure 1: sFlow samples taken from across the network.



- **Establish usage quotas:** Traffic Sentinel allows controls to be implemented that rate and limit traffic from users who exceed their quotas, providing fair access to network resources and reserving bandwidth for business-critical applications.
- **Ease of manageability:** As an integrated application, Traffic Sentinel is fully integrated into the network infrastructure and can be managed directly by the network engineering staff. Also, access control makes sure that only certain staff has authorization to view the data.
- Use flexible and powerful custom queries to integrate results with third-party applications. Results of queries and reports can be integrated automatically into other applications, such as HP PCM plus, or reporting packages.
- Sophisticated thresholds and alerts allow you to focus on the problem areas and quickly determine the root cause.
- Traffic Sentinel also monitors traffic data from other vendors—including NetFlow and IPFIX—to give a unified view of your entire network.

## Solution benefits

- Gain visibility into all the network traffic, from core to the edge, wired and wireless.
- Manage the usage of the network, limiting inappropriate usage such as peer-to-peer, multimedia, or file sharing and reserve bandwidth for business-critical applications.
- Retain historical data to allow analysis of who was doing what, when and where, at any point in time.
- Security analysis is performed by identifying unusual patterns of network activity and looking for suspicious signatures in packets across the multisite enterprise network.

## Solution components

- InMon Traffic Sentinel is sold as a software application that is run on an HP Networking Services z1 Module.
- Annual maintenance agreements are available for product support, plus unlimited updates as new software revisions are released. The InMon customer portal hosts customer forums, support, and software downloads.
- Traffic Sentinel is managed through its own Web interface, including upgrading the software to new versions.

- Training and consulting is available. Often, customers find this most useful after a period of approximately six months—after the solution is fully integrated into the network, some experience has been gained with it, and further customization or advanced scripting is required.

## Why HP Networking and InMon?

HP Networking is the “network of choice,” providing industry-leading solutions, products, and services for wired and wireless networks. The HP Networking vision offers the flexibility to deliver secure, standards-based solutions—helping to enhance the business value of your network by fortifying security, reducing complexity, and increasing productivity. Through HP AllianceONE, HP Networking delivers a choice of standards-based solutions.

InMon, as the inventors of sFlow and the developers of Traffic Sentinel, integrates easily with an HP network.

The combination of InMon and HP Networking provides extensive visibility of the network traffic.

## What is HP AllianceONE?

Businesses are constantly seeking ways to improve competitiveness and manage costs. You need to enable new applications to support the business while addressing cost and network complexity. Currently, you are forced to choose between integrating multiple appliances through open standards or being limited to a sub-optimal end-to-end solution from a single vendor.

HP AllianceONE allows you to choose from a selection of market-leading applications that integrate with your network, giving you the confidence that the solution has already been pre-tested. For unforeseen problems, our support team along with InMon can provide fault-isolation assistance and propose a resolution plan.

To find out more about the InMon Traffic Sentinel solution, visit <http://www.hp.com/networking/AllianceONE>.

To understand and manage your network performance with HP Networking and InMon Traffic Sentinel, visit <http://www.hp.com/networking/AllianceONE> and <http://www.inmon.com>.



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4AA2-4049ENW, Created January 2009; Updated April 2011, Rev. 1

