PALO ALTO NETWORKS AND PROFITAP

Reduce Enterprise Risk at Machine Speed with SOAR Platform Integration

Network Benefits of the Integration

- Take advantage of 10G and 40G bypass TAPs.
- Get added security in case of in-line appliance failure with the Profitap Bypass TAP heartbeat feature.
- Eliminate network interruptions for updates, service or troubleshooting.
- Ensure optimum availability and security for your networks with Profitap Bypass TAPs and Palo Alto Networks firewalls.

The Challenge

In a high-availability network, the loss of a single device or power source cannot be allowed due to the risk of network connectivity disruption. This also means adding a security device to protect the network should not introduce a single point of failure. Implementing multiple firewalls together as high availability pairs is a best practice as this adds an extra fallback into the system. However, the problem still persists with single firewall applications.

Palo Alto Networks and Profitap have partnered to ensure security and optimal availability for IT networks around the globe. Combined, Palo Alto Networks next-generation firewalls and Profitap Bypass TAPs offer complete network visibility and threat prevention without reducing reliability.

Profitap

Profitap develops and manufactures a range of bypass terminal access points (TAPs), currently supporting speeds of 10G and 40G. Profitap Bypass TAPs have two network ports connected in-line to the upstream and downstream network devices as well as two monitor ports that connect to a Palo Alto Networks firewall.

Palo Alto Networks

The Palo Alto Networks Security Operating Platform prevents successful cyberattacks through intelligent automation. Our platform combines network and endpoint security with threat intelligence and accurate analytics to help streamline routine tasks, automate protection, and prevent cyber breaches. Tight integrations throughout the platform and with ecosystem partners deliver consistent security across clouds, networks, and mobile devices, natively providing the right capabilities at the right place across all stages of an attack lifecycle. Because our platform was built from the ground up with breach prevention in mind—with important threat information shared across security functions system-wide—and architected to operate in modern networks with new technology initiatives, such as cloud and mobility, customers benefit from better security than legacy or point security products provide while enjoying lower total cost of ownership.

Palo Alto Networks & Profitap

Palo Alto Networks and Profitap offer a complete offering for optimum availability and security of your networks, taking advantage of next-generation firewalls and bypass TAPs. This combination allows easy maintenance of in-line appliances without affecting network availability.

Under normal network conditions, the bypass switch will pass a heartbeat through the firewall to ensure operation, and all network traffic will be routed through the firewall ports. By sending heartbeat packets, the bypass TAP can accurately track if the connected device is operational. If the in-line device fails due to a hardware malfunction, power loss, or software problem, the bypass TAP's fail-safe protection will keep the critical link up.

On top of the heartbeat functionality, the in-line network port group—NET A and NET B ports—supports link failure propagation. If a network disconnection occurs on one port of the group, the other port will automatically propagate the failure on the monitored line and allow alternative data paths to be used in the network's routing node.

Use Case No. 1: Manual Bypass Mode

Challenge: Keep the network fully operational during maintenance and troubleshooting.

Answer: Integrating a Profitap Bypass TAP into the network allows in-line appliances to be accessed at any time, such as to add, remove, and/or upgrade firewalls, without affecting network uptime or security. This is done by activating the manual bypass feature in the BP-Manager software. This way, traffic is no longer forwarded to the in-line appliance, so the device can be freely accessed. The bypass mode can be disabled for maintenance, making the in-line appliance active again. This feature makes trouble-shooting or planned maintenance easy and can be done without affecting the operational stability of the network.

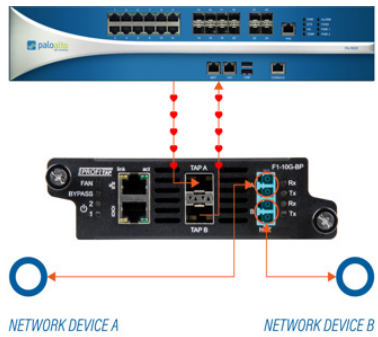

Figure 1: Profitap Bypass TAP integrated in-line, with heartbeats

Use Case No. 2: Heartbeat Functionality

Challenge: Actively check the operational status of the in-line appliance.

Answer: To actively track if the in-line appliance connected to the Profitap Bypass TAP is operational, the TAP uses bidirectional, configurable heartbeat packets with the data stream that, in turn, the in-line appliance must forward. If the in-line appliance is compromised in any way, these packets will not return to the bypass TAP. In this event, the TAP will enable bypass mode to ensure the critical network link stays up.

Use Case No. 3: Out-of-Band Mode

Challenge: Maintain out-of-band monitoring.

Answer: The Profitap Bypass TAP can be set up in out-of-band mode with no need to rewire, allowing network traffic to be forwarded to intrusion detection systems or other out-of-band appliances.

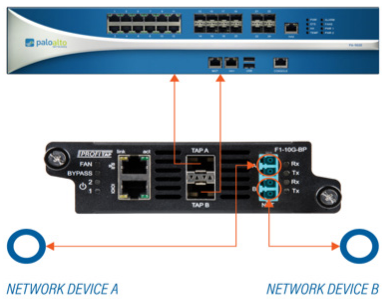

Figure 2: Profitap Bypass TAP in out-of-band mode

Profitap

Profitap develops and manufactures Copper and Fiber Network TAPs, Network Packet Brokers and Portable Field Service Troubleshooters. These solutions are designed with the security, forensics, deep packet capture and network performance monitoring sectors in mind.

Profitap network solutions help eliminate network downtime and add security to existing and new networks all over the world. All of Profitap's networking monitoring tools are highly performant, secure and user-friendly, and provide complete visibility and access to your network, 24/7.

With more than 1,000 clients from 55 countries, Profitap has become a must-have solution and tech partner for many important businesses, many of which are among Fortune 500 companies.

About Palo Alto Networks

We are the global cybersecurity leader, known for always challenging the security status quo. Our mission is to protect our way of life in the digital age by preventing successful cyberattacks. This has given us the privilege of safely enabling tens of thousands of organizations and their customers. Our pioneering Security Operating Platform emboldens their digital transformation with continuous innovation that seizes the latest breakthroughs in security, automation, and analytics. By delivering a true platform and empowering a growing ecosystem of change-makers like us, we provide highly effective and innovative cybersecurity across clouds, networks, and mobile devices.

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