VIAVI

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State of the Network Study

Executive Summary

Research and analysis conducted in conjunction with:

Enterprise Strategy Group™

Executive Summary

Enterprise Strategy Group proudly presents the findings of the 17th Edition 2025/26 State of the Network study, commissioned by VIAVI Solutions. The study provides insights into, and analysis of, the ever-evolving challenges that network security managers face, driven by the proliferation of hybrid infrastructures and increasingly diverse application ecosystems, by evaluating the strategic innovations that help to answer the call. The research was drawn from surveys of 750 networking and security professionals across multiple industries and spanning seven countries, including Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

This eBook summarizes key findings from the study, which encompasses network monitoring, hybrid infrastructure monitoring, and the relationships between network and security monitoring, to offer a comprehensive guide, exploring key aspects of modern network and incident management.

The exploration begins by examining network monitoring solution strategies to achieve optimal insights into network resilience, behavior, and performance. Organizations employ a wide variety of network monitoring tools, with network performance monitoring being the most popular (80% adoption). Most organizations (59%) use a hybrid approach, combining integrated monitoring platforms with purpose-built tools. While many aspire to move toward more purpose-built, multi-vendor monitoring tools, actual change has moved in the opposite direction, with platform-based approaches growing by 10% year over year. Third-party monitoring solutions are most valued to achieve end-to-end visibility within a single tool (50%) but are also finding success in filling gaps in existing tools, providing greater detail and context around alerts and ensuring vendor independence.

80% *of organizations have deployed network performance monitoring tools, the most popular response of all types.*

4x better success *in driving MTTR to <1 hour for those with strong packet capture capabilities.*

Of all the technical approaches available for monitoring networks, packet capture is one of the most commonly used, with 79% of organizations reporting an increasing value and reliance on packet analysis. For those reporting having strong packet capture capabilities, additional valuable advantages emerged, including significantly shorter mean time to detection (MTTD) of incidents and a four times better rate of success in driving mean time to resolution (MTTR) down to under one hour.

From there, the focus shifts to cloud and multi-cloud network monitoring and management, addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by today's cloud-centric environments. As organizations today heavily rely upon hybrid cloud infrastructure, understanding these techniques is important for maintaining network performance and security. Network monitoring data remains crucial in hybrid environments, with 78% reporting the need for flow-level data in cloud environments. Packet capture in the cloud is crucial as well, with 92% reporting this capability as important and 53% considering it extremely important. One other promising development is the 125% increase in cross-team collaboration for cloud performance monitoring versus results from last year's study, approaching majority adoption. This collaboration, coupled with reduced cloud provider complexity, indicates growing maturity in hybrid cloud management.

92% *of organizations consider packet capture capabilities in the cloud to be important.*

***79%** of organizations are moving toward converged NetSecOps, and those that do commonly experience enhanced security.*

Finally, the study delves into the intersection and convergence of network and security practices. Organizations face diverse cybersecurity challenges with no strong consensus on primary concerns; however, key themes include process issues such as tactical versus strategic actions and handling security alert volume, business management decisions such as compliance policies and hiring challenges, and security deficiencies such as specific environmental vulnerabilities. The integration of network and security operations teams into a NetSecOps model shows significant promise for helping stay in control. We found that 79% of organizations are moving toward NetSecOps approaches, with 27% having already completed implementation. Those that have made this shift reported a range of benefits, with overall enhanced security the most common response. Other benefits include improved incident analysis, faster detection and mitigation, and elimination of visibility blind spots.

NetSecOps has arrived

Overall the 17th Edition 2025/26 State of the Network study offers invaluable insights and practical recommendations that help organizations navigate the complexities of modern network environments. The state of network monitoring and security operations is sound but faces ongoing challenges with complex environments, team resource constraints, and evolving security needs. Organizations that implement the recommendations made in this report will be better positioned to address these challenges effectively.

Enterprise Strategy Group, now part of Omdia, provides focused and actionable market intelligence, demand-side research, analyst advisory services, GTM strategy guidance, solution validations, and custom content supporting enterprise technology buying and selling.

VIAVI (NASDAQ: VIAV) is a global provider of network test, monitoring and assurance solutions for telecommunications, cloud, enterprises, first responders, military, aerospace, and railway. VIAVI is also a leader in light management technologies for 3D sensing, anti-counterfeiting, consumer electronics, industrial, automotive, government, and aerospace applications.

VIAVI delivers industry-leading network performance management and security solutions, offering comprehensive visibility and actionable insights to help teams identify and address performance degradations and improve operational efficiency. The Observer Platform offers end-to-end monitoring and deep packet analysis to support rapid troubleshooting, compliance validation, and forensic-level post-breach incident investigations. This unified approach strengthens network reliability and helps organizations optimize application delivery across complex digital environments.

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