Mirror Wire Data with VMware

Published: 2022-07-07

The ExtraHop virtual sensor can be configured to monitor network traffic in the following network configuration examples.

- Monitoring traffic on multiple network interfaces or VLANs with ERSPAN
- Monitoring Intra-VM Traffic
 - One virtual interface on the EDA 1000v or 1100v
 - Up to three virtual interfaces on the EDA 2000v or EDA 6100v
- Monitoring external mirrored traffic to the VM
- Monitoring external mirrored traffic to the VM (EDA 2000v or EDA 6100v)
- Monitoring both intra-VM and external mirrored traffic to the VM (EDA 2000v or EDA 6100v)

Note: Monitoring external network-mirrored traffic requires an external NIC and an associated virtual switch.

Monitoring traffic on multiple network interfaces or VLANs with ERSPAN

This scenario requires you to configure an interface on the ExtraHop system to receive ERSPAN traffic and configure the VMware server to mirror traffic from specified ports.

See Configure ERSPAN with VMware 🛽 for configuration details.

Monitoring intra-VM traffic

This scenario requires a second VM port group on the default virtual switch of the ESX host for monitoring traffic within the virtual switch as well as external traffic in and out of the switch.

- 1. Start the VMware vSphere client and connect to your ESX server.
- 2. Select the ESX host at the top of the tree control in the left panel and then click the **Configure** tab.
- 3. In the **Networking** section, click Virtual Switches.

exampleium.test	ing.example.com ACTIONS
 Storage Storage Adapters Storage Devices Host Cache Configur 	Virtual switches ADD NETWORKING EDIT MANAGE PHysical ADAPTERS ···
Protocol Endpoints VO Filters VIC Filters Virtual switches VMkernel adapters Physical adapters TCP/IP configuration VILTUAI Machines VM Startup/Shutdo Agent VM Settings Default VM Compati Swap File Location	Anagement Network VLAN ID: VMikemel Ports (1) vmk0: 10.10.11.164 VM Network VM Network VLAN ID: VI Network Virtual Machines (1) Standard Switch: vSwitch1
 System Licensing Host Profile Time Configuration Authentication Servi Contificate 	> Standard Switch: vSwitch2

- 4. To add a port group to the vSwitch0, click **Add Networking**. The Add Networking window appears.
- 5. Select Virtual Machine Port Group for a Standard Switch as the connection type and then click Next.

1 Select connection type 2 Select target device	Select connection type Select a connection type to create.
3 Connection settings 4 Ready to complete	VMkernel Network Adapter
	The VMkernel TCP/IP stack handles traffic for ESXi services such as vSphere vMotion, iSCSI, NFS, FCoE, Fault Tolerance, vSAN and host management.
	Virtual Machine Port Group for a Standard Switch
	A port group handles the virtual machine traffic on standard switch.
	O Physical Network Adapter
	A physical network adapter handles the network traffic to other hosts on the network.
	CANCEL BACK NEX

6. In the Select target device step, choose **Select an existing standard switch** and then click **Next**. The default switch is vSwitch0.

Select connection type 2 Select target device	Select target device Select a target device	for the new connection.		
Connection settings	 Select an existing 	standard switch		
	vSwitchO			BROWSE
	O New standard swi	tch		
	MTU (Bytes)	1500		
			CANCEL	BACK

7. In the Connection settings step, assign a unique name to the new port group, click the VLAN ID dropdown menu, and select All (VLAN 4095).

1 Select connection type 2 Select target device 3 Connection settings	Connection settings Use network labels to hosts.	o identify migration-com	patible connections co	ommon to two or more
4 Ready to complete	Network label	Local Port Mirror	r	
	VLAN ID	All (4095)	•	

- 8. Click Next.
- 9. Click Finish.
- 10. Set the Remote Port Mirror to Promiscuous Mode as follows.
 - a) In the vSwitchO section, click the edit menu icon ... next to the new port group and click **Edit**.
 - b) Click Security.
 - c) Select the override checkbox next to Promiscuous mode set the Promiscuous Mode to **Accept**, and then click **OK**.

ocal Port Mirror - E	dit Settings			
Properties Security	Promiscuous mode	Override	Accept	~
affic shaping	MAC address changes	Override	Accept	~
eaming and failover	Forged transmits	Override	Accept	~

- 11. Click **VMs** from the top menu.
- 12. Right-click the name of the sensor virtual machine and click Edit Settings.
- 13. Click Network Adapter 2.
- 14. Select **Browse** from the drop-down menu.
- 15. Click Local Port Mirror, and then click OK.

Select Network

 \times

	▼ Filter
Name	Distributed Switch
Local Port Mirror	
VM Network	
	2 items
	CANCEL
	CANCEL

- 16. Verify that Local Port Mirror appears next to Network Adapter 2 in the Edit Settings window, and then click **OK**.
- 17. Restart the sensor to activate the new adapter setting.

Monitoring external mirrored traffic to the VM

This scenario requires a second physical network interface and the creation of a second vSwitch associated with that NIC. This NIC then connects to a mirror, tap, or aggregator that copies traffic from a switch. This setup is useful for monitoring the intranet of an office.

- 1. Start the VMware vSphere client and connect to your ESX server.
- 2. Select the ESX host at the top of the tree control in the left panel and then click the **Configure** tab.
- 3. Click Networking.

exampleium.	testing.exa	ample.com	ACT	IONS -				
Summary Monitor	Configure	Permissions	VMs	Resource Pools	Datastores	Networks		
 Storage Storage Adapters Storage Devices 		al switches dard switch: vsw	-	ADD NETWORKING	EDIT	MANAGE PHYSIC	ADD NETWORKING	REFRESH
Host Cache Configui Protocol Endpoints I/O Filters Vitual switches	f	 Local Per VLAN ID: 40 Virtual Material 	95				al Adapters c4 10000 Full	
VMkernel adapters Physical adapters TCP/IP configuration Virtual Machines VM Startup/Shutdo,		 Manage VLAN ID: VMkernel vmk0 : 10. 		twork				
Agent VM Settings Default VM Compati		VI AN ID:	work					

This view shows how the virtual switch is configured. It displays the physical NIC to which the vSwitch is tied (vmnic4 is eth0) and which networking components are connected to that vSwitch.

4. To add a second vSwitch, click Add Networking. The Add Network Wizard window appears.

r

5. Select Virtual Machine Port Group for a Standard Switch as the connection type and then click Next.

1 Select connection type	Select connection type
2 Select target device	Select a connection type to create.
3 Connection settings	
4 Ready to complete	VMkernel Network Adapter
	The VMkernel TCP/IP stack handles traffic for ESXi services such as vSphere vMotion,
	iSCSI, NFS, FCoE, Fault Tolerance, vSAN and host management.
	Virtual Machine Port Group for a Standard Switch
	A port group handles the virtual machine traffic on standard switch.
	O Physical Network Adapter
	A physical network adapter handles the network traffic to other hosts on the network.

6. In the Select target device step, select **New standard switch**, and then click **Next**.

1 Select connection type 2 Select target device	Select target device Select a target device	for the new connection.		
3 Create a Standard Switch4 Connection settings5 Ready to complete	Select an existing	standard switch		
	 New standard swit 	ch		BROWSE
	MTU (Bytes)	1500		
			CANCEL	BACK

7. In the Create a Standard Switch step, click the Add adapters icon (+).

1 Select connection type 2 Select target device	Create a Standard Switch Assign free physical network adapters to the new switch.			
3 Create a Standard Switch 4 Connection settings 5 Ready to complete	Assigned adapters	Select a physical network adapter from the list to view its details.		
		CANCEL BACK NEX		

8. Select the NIC interface for external traffic mirroring, and then click **OK**.

 \times

Add Physical Adapters to the Switch

vmnic1	Adapter	Mellanox Technologies MT27500 Family [ConnectX-3]		
wnic1000402	Name	vmnic1000402		
	Location	PCI 0000:41:00.0		
vmnic2	Driver	nmlx4_en		
vmnic3	Status			
	Status	Connected		
	Actual speed, Duplex	10000 Mb, Full Duplex		
	Configured speed, Duplex	10000 Mb, Full Duplex 10.20.192.1-10.20.255.254 (VLAN1020) 192.168.12.1-192.168.15.254 (VLAN5)		
	Networks			
		10.10.0.1-10.10.15.254 (VLAN1010)		
		10.10.0.1-10.10.15.254		
		0.0.0.1-255.255.255.254 (VLAN4)		
	Network I/O Control			
	Status	Allowed		
	SR-IOV			
	Status	Not supported		
	Cisco Discovery Protocol			
	Version	2		

9. Verify the assigned adapter and then click **Next**.

🎜 ExtraHop

 1 Select connection type 2 Select target device 	Create a Standard Switch Assign free physical network adap	oters to the new switch.	
3 Create a Standard Switch 4 Connection settings	Assigned adapters	All Properties CDP	LLDP
5 Ready to complete	+ X 🕆 🖡	Adapter	Mellanox Technologie
	Active adapters		[ConnectX-3]
	Image: (New) vmnic1000402	Name Location	vmnic1000402 PCI 0000:41:00.0 nmlx4_en
		Driver	
	Standby adapters	Status	
	Unused adapters	Status	Connected
		Actual speed, Duplex Configured speed, Duplex	10000 Mb, Full Duple
			10000 Mb, Full Duple
		Networks	10.20.192.1-10.20.255.
			192.168.12.1-192.168.15
			10.10.0.1-10.10.15.254
			10.10.0.1-10.10.15.254
			0.0.0.1-255.255.255.2
		Network I/O Control	
		Status	Allowed
		SR-IOV	
		CANCEL	BACK

10. In the Connection settings step, type a unique name in the Network label field, select **All (VLAN 4095)** from the VLAN ID drop-down menu, and then click **Next**.

1 Select connection type 2 Select target device 3 Create a Standard Switch	Connection settings Use network labels to hosts.	b identify migration-compatible	connections cor	nmon to two or more
4 Connection settings 5 Ready to complete	Network label	Remote Port Mirror	_	
	VLAN ID	All (4095)	•	

- 11. Review your settings and then click **Finish**.
- 12. Set the Remote Port Mirror to Promiscuous Mode as follows.
 - a) Click **Edit** next to vSwitch1.

=

irtua	al switches				ADD NETWORKING	REFRESH
> Stan	dard Switch: vSwitch0					
> Stan	dard Switch: vSwitch2					
∨ Stan	dard Switch: vSwitch1 ADD NET	TWORKING	EDIT	MANAGE PHY	SICAL ADAPTERS	
	Remote Port Mirror			-	sical Adapters mnic1000402 10000 Full	

- b) Click the Security tab, set the Promiscuous Mode to Accept, and then click OK.
 - **Note:** Mac address changes and Forged transmits are set to **Accept** by default. You can change these settings to **Reject** if required for your environment.

vSwitch1 - Edit Settings

Properties			
Security	Promiscuous mode	Accept	\sim
Traffic shaping	MAC address changes	Reject	\sim
Teaming and failover	Forged transmits	Reject	~



- 13. In the left panel, select the ExtraHop virtual sensor.
- 14. Click the Actions drop-down menu and then select Edit Settings....
- 15. Click Network Adapter 2 and then click Browse... from the drop-down menu.

tual Hardware VM Options				
				ADD NEW DEVICE
> CPU	2 ~			6
Memory	4	GB	~	
> Hard disk 1	4	GB	~	
Hard disk 2	20	GB	~	
SCSI controller 0	VMware Par	avirtual		
> Network adapter 1	VM Networ	k ~		✓ Connect
> Network adapter 2	VM Networ	k		☑ Connect ⊗

16. Click **Remote Port Mirror**, and then click **OK**.

Select Network

1	7	١,	

T Eiltor

Name	Distributed Switch
Local Port Mirror	-
Remote Port Mirror	-
VM Network	-
	3 items
	3 items

17. Restart the ExtraHop VM to activate the new adapter setting.

Monitoring external mirrored traffic to the VM (EDA 2000v or EDA 6100v)

In this scenario, you must create a third and fourth physical network interface and two more vSwitches associated with those NICs. These NICs then connect to a mirror, tap, or aggregator that copies traffic from a switch.

- 1. Start the VMware vSphere client and connect to your ESX server.
- 2. Select the ESX host at the top of the navigation tree in the left panel and then click the **Configure** tab.
- 3. Click Networking and then click Add Networking.
- 4. Select Virtual Machine Port Group for a Standard Switch as the connection type and then click Next.
- 5. In the Select target device step, choose **Select an existing standard switch** and then click **Next**. The default switch is vSwitch0.
- 6. In the Connection settings step, assign a unique name to the new port group (Remote Port Mirror 2, for example), click the VLAN ID drop-down menu, and select All (VLAN 4095).
- 7. Click **Next** and then click **Finish**.
- 8. Set the Remote Port Mirror to Promiscuous Mode as follows.
 - a) Click **Edit** next to vSwitch2.
 - b) Click the Security tab, set the Promiscuous Mode to Accept, and then click OK.

Note: Mac address changes and Forged transmits are set to **Accept** by default. You can change these settings to **Reject** if required for your environment.

- 9. In the left panel, select the ExtraHop virtual sensor.
- 10. Click the Actions drop-down menu and then select Edit Settings....
- 11. Click **Network Adapter 3** and then click **Browse...** from the drop-down menu.
- 12. Click Remote Port Mirror 2, and then click OK.
- 13. Repeat steps 3 through 10 to add a fourth vSwitch.

14. Restart the ExtraHop VM to activate the new adapter setting.

Monitoring both intra-VM and external mirrored traffic to the VM (EDA 2000v or EDA 6100v)

In this scenario, you can monitor a mix of intra-VM and external mirrored traffic on up to three virtual interfaces.

- 1. To monitor intra-VM traffic on one or more virtual interfaces, create a VM port group on the default virtual switch of the ESX host for each interface as described in Monitoring Intra-VM Traffic.
- 2. To monitor external mirrored traffic on one or more virtual interfaces, create a physical network interface and corresponding vSwitch for each interface as described in Monitoring External Mirrored Traffic to the VM.
- 3. Click **Network Adapter x** and select an option from the **Network label** drop-down list for each interface.

Mirroring VLANs

To mirror VLANs, you must either set the destination port on the port mirror configuration to VLAN Trunking or set the exact VLAN ID on the ports of the VLANS you are mirroring.

Related documentation

For information about configuring RSPAN, ERSPAN, and RPCAP to monitor remote devices, see the following topics.

- Configure RSPAN with VMware 🗹
- Configure ERSPAN with VMware 🗗
- Configure ERSPAN with the Nexus 1000V 🖪
- Packet Forwarding with RPCAP 🖪