Highlights

- *n*TAPs provide important devices the visibility they need
- easy to deploy and economical to implement
- variety of options to fit the business need

NETWORK TAPS

Superior Visibility. Superior Results.

Needing to increase visibility into your data? Look no further than Network TAPs (*n*TAPs) which provide round-the-clock access to traffic without disrupting data flow or wasting time. *n*TAPs are passive devices that keep traffic flowing, even when the power isn't. They are the smart choice for feeding network analyzers, monitoring tools, and security devices, while decreasing the risk of dropped data. *n*TAPs are also space efficient and economical.

NETWORK INSTRUMENTS®

Performance Management Solutions

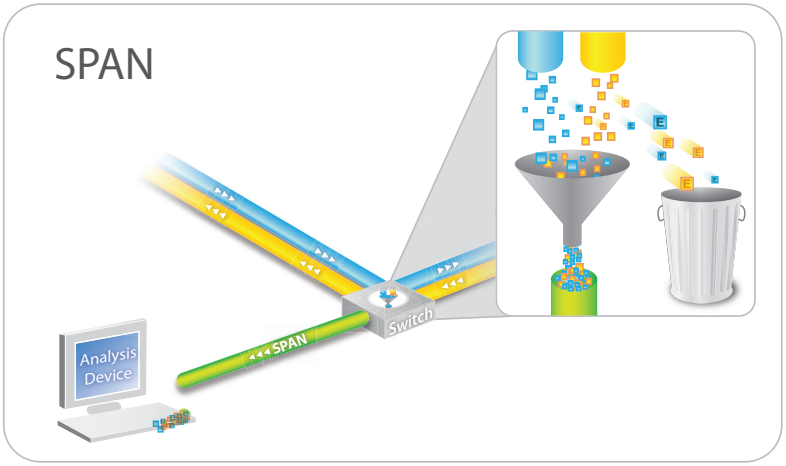
WHAT IS A TAP?

A TAP (Test Access Point) is a passive splitting mechanism installed between a 'device of interest' and the network. Depending on the analysis device attached to the TAP, the connection to the analyzer can be on one or two links, ensuring that all data arrives at the monitoring device in real time.

What are the differences between TAPs and SPAN ports?

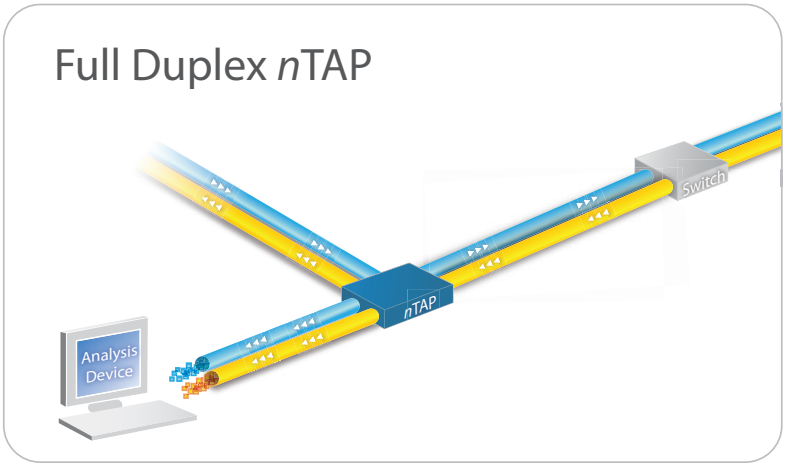
SPAN

- Hardware & media errors are dropped
- RX & TX copied into one TX signal
- If utilization exceeds the SPAN link capacity, packets are dropped



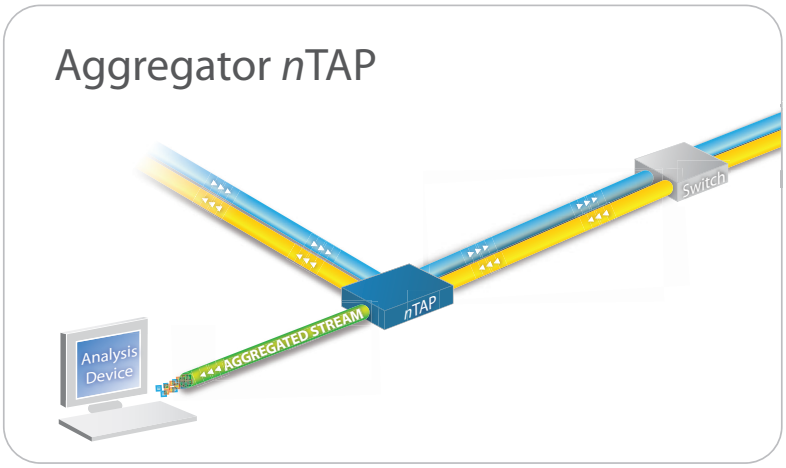
FULL DUPLEX *n*TAP

- TX & RX signals delivered on separate ports
- Captures everything on the wire, including MAC and media errors
- Guarantees complete delivery of packets even when the network is saturated



AGGREGATOR *n*TAP

- TX & RX signals are joined together and delivered on one link
- Captures everything on the wire, including MAC and media errors
- Suggested for networks with low-to-moderate bandwidth utilization



TYPES OF *n*TAPS

*n*TAPs come in a variety of options and are a snap to deploy, economical to implement, and ideal for organizations using analysis tools such as network analyzers, forensic appliances, route monitoring devices, and intrusion detection and prevention systems.

Copper *n*TAPs

Install *n*TAPs on 10 Mb, 100 Mb, or 1 Gb copper links for quick, anytime access to network traffic. Depending on your network, choose 10/100 or 10/100/1000 copper *n*TAPs to send perfect copies of critical traffic to network analyzers, remote monitoring appliances, forensics tools, and similar dual-receive devices.

Aggregator *n*TAPs

Install Aggregator *n*TAPs on 10 Mb, 100 Mb, or 1 Gb links. Designed for low-to-moderate utilization full-duplex links, Aggregator *n*TAPs merge data into single streams for transmission to one or two single-receive analysis devices. Industry-leading buffer sizes offer less likelihood of lost packets than SPAN ports to ensure critical traffic reaches analyzers, remote monitoring appliances, and forensics tools.

Optical *n*TAPs

Install *n*TAPs on 1 Gb or 10 Gb single- or multi-mode optical links. Depending on your needs, choose an Optical *n*TAP that connects to one, two, or three full-duplex links to send perfect copies of critical traffic to network analyzers, remote monitoring appliances, forensics tools, and similar dual-receive devices. LC connections allow for high density installations.

Conversion *n*TAPs

Install Conversion *n*TAPs on 10 Mb, 100 Mb, or 1 Gb links. When analyzers and similar monitoring devices communicate over different topologies than the network, Optical-to-Copper or Copper-to-Optical *n*TAPs bridge the gap. Conversion *n*TAPs send perfect copies of critical traffic to network analyzers, remote monitoring appliances, forensics tools, and similar dual-receive devices.

For single-receive devices, Aggregator Conversion *n*TAPs merge full-duplex links into single streams for transmission to one or two single-receive analysis devices. Industry-leading buffer sizes offer less likelihood of lost packets than SPAN ports to ensure critical traffic reaches analyzers, remote monitoring appliances, and forensics tools. Aggregator Conversion *n*TAPs are designed for low-to-moderate utilization full-duplex links.

Not sure what *n*TAP is right for your network?

Use our *n*TAP wizard to determine the best *n*TAP to fit your needs.

*n*TAP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Does an *n*TAP require power?

A: Any *n*TAP with copper connections to the network or analyzer will require power to copy the data stream and send it to the monitoring device. However, the data stream continues to pass through the *n*TAP to the network even if power to the *n*TAP fails.

"Pure" optical *n*TAPs (fiber in and out) require no power to operate.

Q: Will *n*TAPs drop packets?

A: It depends on the *n*TAP and the environment. Full duplex *n*TAPs will not drop packets but require that the analyzer attached be capable of receiving two feeds from the TAP.

Aggregator *n*TAPs can drop packets if the receive capacity of the analyzer is less than the amount of traffic coming in from the network.

Q: What split ratio do I need when deploying an optical *n*TAP?

A: If all devices between the connections are within 30 meters of the *n*TAP, a 50/50 split ratio is ideal. While we recommend that you always test the strength of your optical signal with a meter, for longer hauls it may be necessary to choose a split ratio that diverts more of the signal to the distant device.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR FAMILY OF *n*TAP PRODUCTS, VISIT www.networkinstruments.com/products/*n*taps.

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About Network Instruments®

Network Instruments, a leading provider of performance management and troubleshooting for over sixteen years, helps organizations ensure the delivery of business-critical applications. The company's platform of management and reporting products provides comprehensive visibility into networks and applications to optimize performance, speed troubleshooting, and assist long-term capacity planning.

Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company has sales offices worldwide and distributors in over 50 countries.

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