

Application Note

Network Reporting with Exinda Networks

Network traffic optimization reduces the reliance of business upon costly capacity bandwidth upgrades. Exinda Networks delivers the means to effectively deliver traffic optimization through your network through an accessible user interface. The first step to using this interface for optimization is to ascertain how your network is operating to identify any efficiency changes that must be made. Exinda Optimizer allows you to take this step with its extensive network monitoring capabilities. To present an easy to understand overview your network, detailed reports can be generated with your Exinda Optimizer, allowing you to determine how your network is operating.

We now provide an overview of how you can use the reporting feature of your Exinda Optimizer.

About this Document

This document contains the following sections:

1.	About Exinda Monitor Reports See what type of Reports your Exinda Optimizer can generate.	Page 2
2.	Generating Reports See how to generate Reports with Exinda Optimizer.	Page 3
3.	Reading Reports See how to open Report files on your computer.	Page 3
4.	Interface Summaries See how much data your network is carrying.	Page 4
5.	Network Summaries See the type of data your network is carrying.	Page 5
6.	Remote SLA See how accessible a remote host is from your network.	Page 9
7.	Top Applications See which applications are using most of your network capacity.	Page 10
8.	Top Hosts See which hosts are using the most of your network capacity.	Page 12
9.	Top Conversations See which conversations are consuming the majority of your network capacity.	Page 16
10.	. Definition Reference A list of technical Definitions used in this application note	Page 18

Document Definitions



A complete reference of technical terminology used in this application note is provided at the back of the document on page 18.

Question: What kind of reports can my Exinda Optimizer generate?

Your Exinda Optimizer can create Adobe portable document format (pdf) compatible documents containing the following information about your network:

• Interface Summary: This section allows you to see how much data your network is carrying at different times of the day. This information allows you to determine the peak traffic periods on your network and verify whether additional network resource capacity is required.

• **Network Summary:** This section allows you to pinpoint the specific sources of the majority of your network traffic at different times in the day.

• **Optimizer Policy Throughput:** This report section displays how your Exinda Optimizer policies are performing over the day. For more information about Optimization policies, refer to *"Application Note: Policy Configuration with Exinda Optimizer*¹

• **Remote SLA:** This section displays the availability and reachability of a remote (external) host over different times of the day. Use this report to verify that your ISP is providing with an appropriate level of service, or simply to ensure that your network is meeting your connectivity requirements.

• **Applications:** This section displays the specific applications that are consuming the majority of your network resources over the day. You can use this information to determine whether any unnecessary applications are congesting your network.

• **Hosts:** This section displays the specific hosts (internal and external to your network) that are consuming the most of your network resources over the day. You can use this information to determine which of your network hosts are the most resource intensive.

• **Conversations:** This section identifies the specific conversations (between two hosts using a single application) that are consuming the majority of your network resources over the day.

• **Subnets:** This section provides details about the network traffic into and out of the defined subnets of your network. You can use this feature to identify the network traffic from each department of your business or from groups of external hosts. For further information about defining subnets, refer to section 2.17 of *"Exinda Optimizer: Appliance User Manual"*.

As mentioned previously, this application note contains an annotated sample report to demonstrate the power of Exinda Optimizer's monitor reports.

¹ Available at: <u>http://www.exinda.com/pdfs/Exinda_AppNote_Policy_Configuration.pdf</u>.



Question: How can I generate a monitor report?

Monitor Reports are generated from the report generation interface shown below in Figure 1. This interface can be brought up by clicking on the "Reporting" sub menu link as shown:

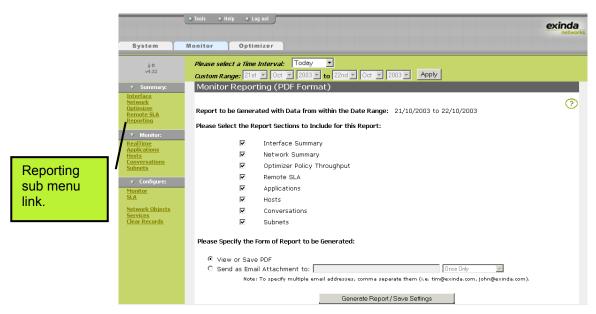


Figure 1. Report Generation Interface.

As you can see in Figure 1, you can select to include report sections (described above) by clicking on the appropriate check boxes. Once this is done, select how you want to view the report from the following settings:

1. Generate the report and download it directly to your computer, allowing you to generate a report on demand.

2. Send the report as an email attachment. This can be done on demand, or automatically configured to send a report to you periodically.

Reports are generated to conform to the Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf) standard. As such, you will need to have Adobe Acrobat reader installed on your computer in order to read your reports. Acrobat can be downloaded free of charge from the internet: <u>http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html</u>. Once you have installed this software, you can open Monitor reports as through your Windows Filesystem explorer.

Question: How do I read my monitor report?

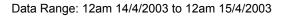
Once you have received your monitor report, you can open the pdf document for reading or printing. The report is structured simply in the order of the report sections you selected in the Report Generation Interface shown in Figure 1. A front cover is provided for the report with report title and report data range information.

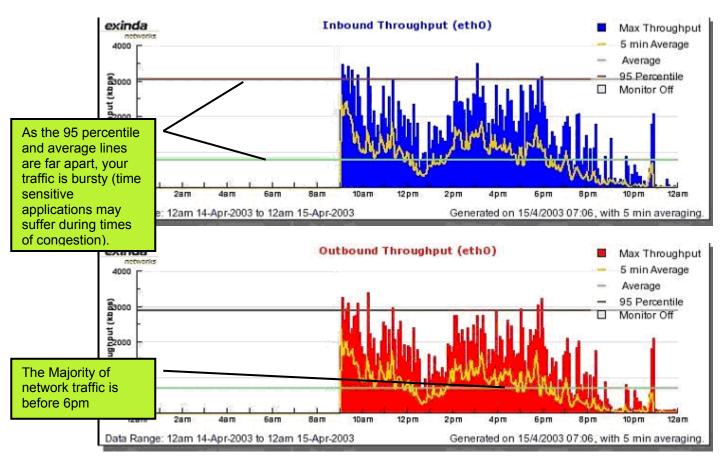
Case Study: How can I use a typical monitor report?

This section details a sample monitor report to demonstrate the many ways in which monitor reports can improve in the performance of you business communications network. This section will provide an actual monitor report, noting the various important sections.

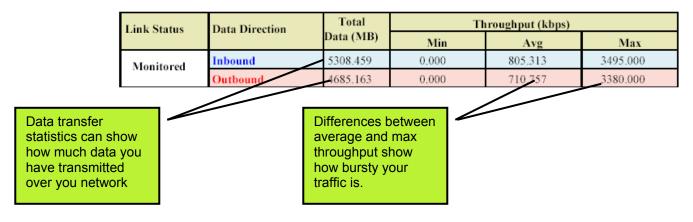


Interface Summary



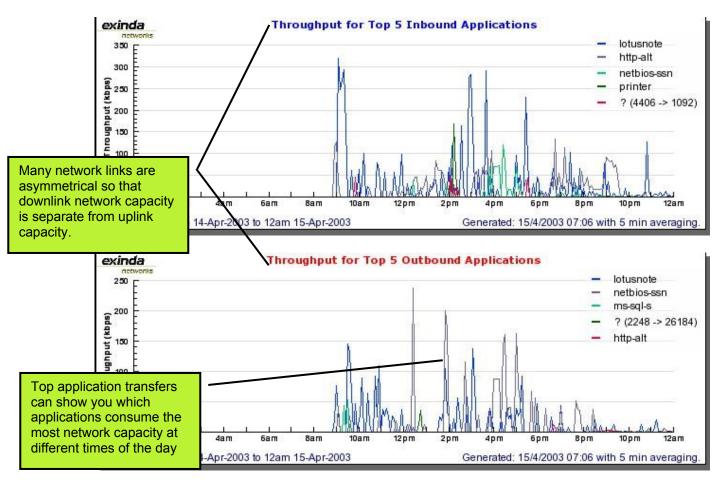


Link Interface Summary (eth0)



In this section of the monitor report, you can see the times of the day that your network is busy – pinpointing times of congestion when traffic prioritization may be needed. Differences between average and maximum measurements also indicate the burstiness of your traffic. Bursty traffic often is the cause of performance problems with time sensitive applications.



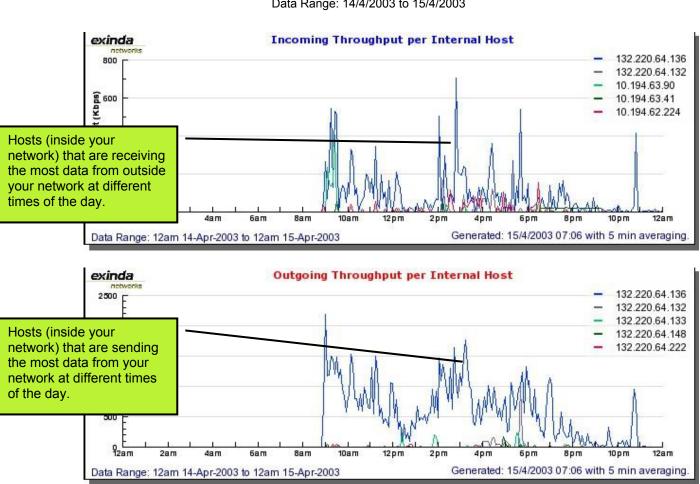


Traffic Throughput By Most Utilised Application Data Range: 14/4/2003 to 15/4/2003

Here, top applications in your network over the day are presented. Two different graphs (inbound and outbound) as most network links are asynchronous so that network traffic on the downlink (inbound) does not affect uplink (outbound) applications. Using these graphs, you can easily determine which applications are consuming the most network capacity and diagnose problems such as:

- a) Starvation of resources for critical applications,
- *b)* Over utilization of network capacity by non-essential or wasteful applications (eg. Kazaa file sharing), and
- c) Security risks caused by malicious applications operating over your network.

Once these problems have been diagnosed you can take action with your Exinda Optimizer to improve network reliability.



Traffic Throughput By Most Utilised Host

Data Range: 14/4/2003 to 15/4/2003

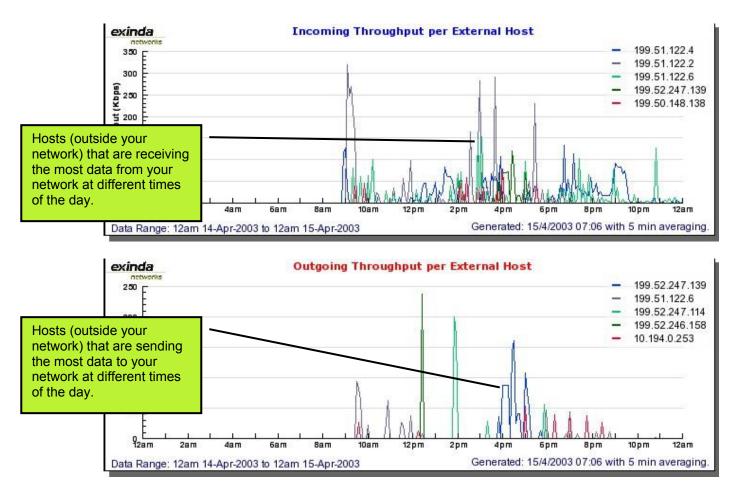
Top Internal Hosts shows each host inside your network that is sending and receiving the most data over the day. With this display you may determine hosts that are accessing the network unnecessarily. This process is made simple using the top applications network display in addition to this display.





Traffic Throughput By Most Utilised Host

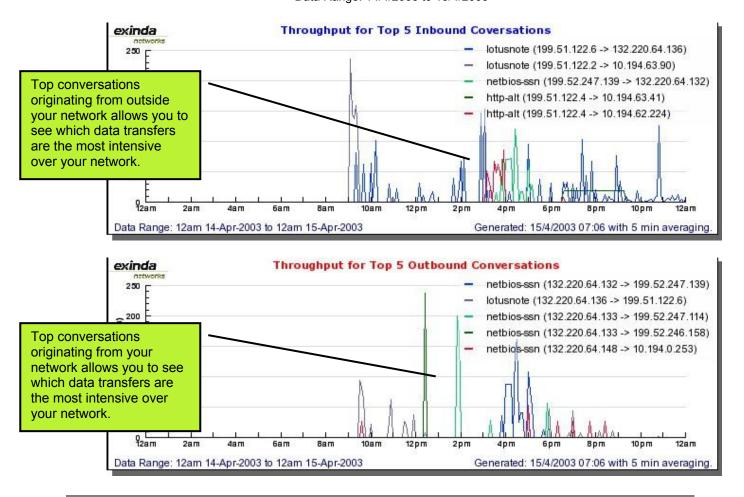
Data Range: 14/4/2003 to 15/4/2003



The previous report page showed the hosts inside your network that are transmitting and receiving data. In contrast, this page shows the hosts outside your network that are being accessed. Malicious and unwanted hosts may appear here highlighting a security or efficiency problem in your network.



Traffic Throughput By Most Utilised Conversation Data Range: 14/4/2003 to 15/4/2003



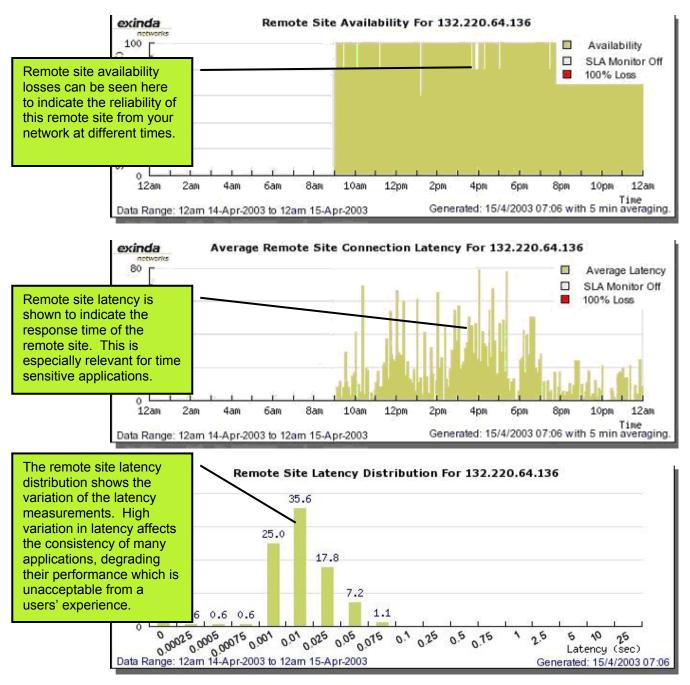
Here the top network conversations are presented according to whether or not they were initiated from your network. Conversations can be used to determine problems with large and extended data transfers between two hosts with the same application.





Remote SLA Measurements For 132.220.64.136

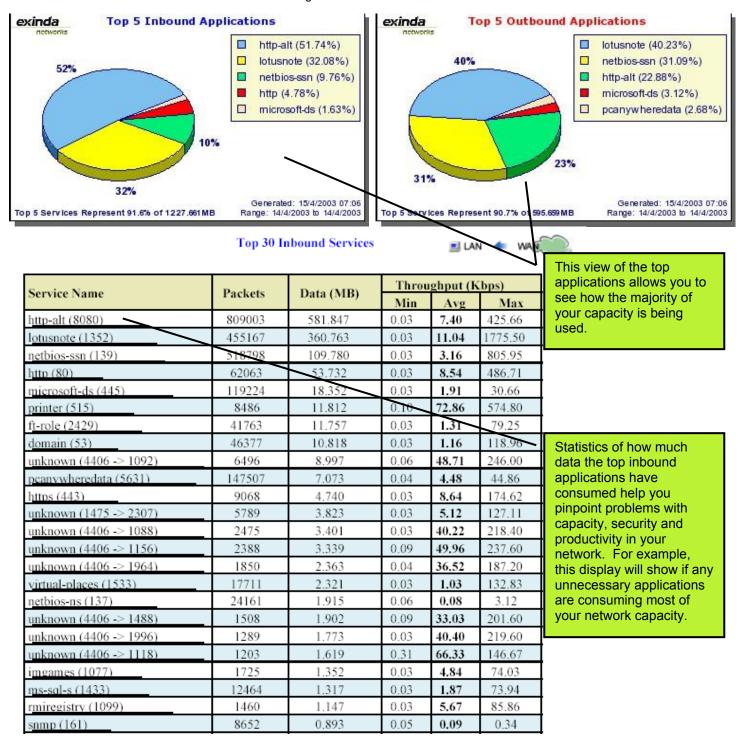
Data Range: 12am 14/4/2003 to 12am 15/4/2003



Remote site SLA verification is an essential part of the Exinda Monitor, allowing you to evaluate the accessibility, response and consistency of response of a host outside your network over time. This information enables you to see whether your communications link is allowing your network applications to function sufficiently outside your network.



Traffic Analysis - Top Applications/Services Summary



Service Name	Packets	Data (MB)	Thro	ughput (Kbps)	
Service Name	Fackets	Data (MD)	Min	Avg	Max	
lotusnote (1352)	436619	217.223	0.03	4.90	2289.39]
netbios-ssn (139)	481698	167.859	0.03	9.47	1155.62	
http-alt (8080)	6 875 58	123.532	0.03	1.25	387.66	
microsoft-ds (445)	106686	16.860	0.03	1.79	24.93	
pcanywheredata (5631)	171280	14.493	0.03	10.50	148.83	
http (80)	56234	9.186	0.03	1.15	17.96	Otatiatian of how much
ms-sql-s (1433)	13109	7.779	0.03	1.69	95.41	Statistics of how much data the top outbound
ft-role (2429)	42606	5.555	0.03	0.63	30.44	applications have
https (443)	8678	3.682	0.03	5.14	697.11	consumed help you
domain (53)	45321	2.951	0.03	0.11	2.03	pinpoint problems with
netbios-ns (137)	25379	2.889	0.06	0.12	4.42	capacity, security and
unknown (2248 -> 26184)	4027	1.947	0.23	56.97	118.88	productivity in your
unknown (36980 -> 1675)	1238	1.570	0.03	28.11	272.86	network.
unknown (2251 -> 26184)	3213	1.564	0.12	51.24	141.87	
unknown (2284 -> 26184)	2361	1.095	0.12	27.18	63.23	
unknown (2287 -> 26184)	2443	1.068	0.23	27.33	116.55	
virtual-places (1533)	17370	0.880	0.03	0.33	7.33	
snmp (161)	8199	0.870	0.09	0.09	0.35	
bootps (67)	2449	0.813	0.22	0.41	1.92	
unknown (36730 -> 1040)	587	0.649	0.51	24.30	226.84	
unknown (36960 -> 1127)	400	0.438	0.11	27.61	216.39	
nery (1222)	974	0.391	0.03	1.51	145.52	

Top 30 Outbound Services

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This shows you which inbound and outbound applications are the most capacity intensive. This allows you to verify that your network capacity is being used in the most efficient manner possible. For example, this display will alert you of any unnecessary applications consuming the majority of your network capacity. Alternatively, you may find that malicious applications are operating on your network, exposing security vulnerabilities and costing you money. Information from this display can be used to formulate an optimization policy with Exinda Optimizer.



Traffic Analysis - Top Internal Hosts Summary

Top 5 Outbound Hosts Top 5 Inbound Hosts exinda exinda networks 132.220.64.136 (50.54%) 132.220.64.136 (49.25%) 132.220.64.132 (17.07%) 132.220.64.132 (15.57%) 49% 51% 132.220.64.148 (12.51%) 132.220.64.148 (15.10%) 10.194.63.90 (10.39%) 132.220.64.222 (11.02%) 91 99 132.220.64.222 (9.49%) 132.220.64.133 (9.07%) 11% 10% 16% 17% 13% 15% Generated: 15/4/2003 07:06 Generated: 15/4/2003 07:06 Top 5 Hosts Represent 59.2% of 59 Top 5 Hosts Represent 24.5% of 1227.661MB Range: 14/4/2003 to 14/4/2003 105MB Range: 14/4/2003 to 14/4/2003 **Top 30 Internal Hosts Receiving Inbound Traffic** 💷 LAN WA This view of the top internal allows you to see Throughput (Kbps Host Name Host IP Packets Data (MB) how the majority of your Min Avg capacity is being used. 151.954 205879 132.220.64.136 0.03 4.04web03.acme.net 132.220.64.132 132.220.64.132 134787 51.327 0.02 3.20 805.95 132.220.64.148 179352 37.609 4.87 79.62 0.03 payroll .acme.net 23355 10.194.63.90 31.245 10.194.63.90 0.03 29.95 713.58 132.220.64.222 201063 132.220.64.222 28.546 0.02 2.7578.24 10.194.63.41 56651 27.317 0.03 10 194 63 41 1.7066.97 0.03 254.18 132.220.64.208 132.220.64.208 33122 27.011 1.05132.220.64.210 132.220.64.210 32761 25.075 0.03 1.27 246.00 10 194 62 16 10.194.62.16 23491 23.158 0.03 17.59 505 Statistics of the hosts 10.194.63.33 10.194.63.33 36891 22.881 0.03 2.94 136 inside your network 10.194.62.224 10.194.62.224 21056 22.432 0.03 5.91 243 receiving data can help 132.220.64.206 132,220.64.206 33709 20.014 0.03 0.85 200 you determine which hosts 21042 19.106 0.03 3.21 639 132.220.64.205 132,220,64,205 are causing the most 10.194.62.195 10.194.62.195 16106 18.775 0.03 43.60 960 downlink congestion in 10.194.62.246 10.194.62.246 22710 17.547 0.03 2.95 320 your network. 10.194.62.23 22773 17.536 77 10.194.62.23 0.03 2.84 10.194.63.19 10.194.63.19 21380 17.455 0.03 492 6.48 132.220.64.144 140745 16.858 0.02 0.518.64 web.acme.net 132.220.64.203 20207 15.800 0.03 1.83 345.75 132.220.64.203 10.194.62.251 10.194.62.251 19586 15.126 0.03 2.72 287.89



Top 30 Internal Hosts Sending Outbound Traffic

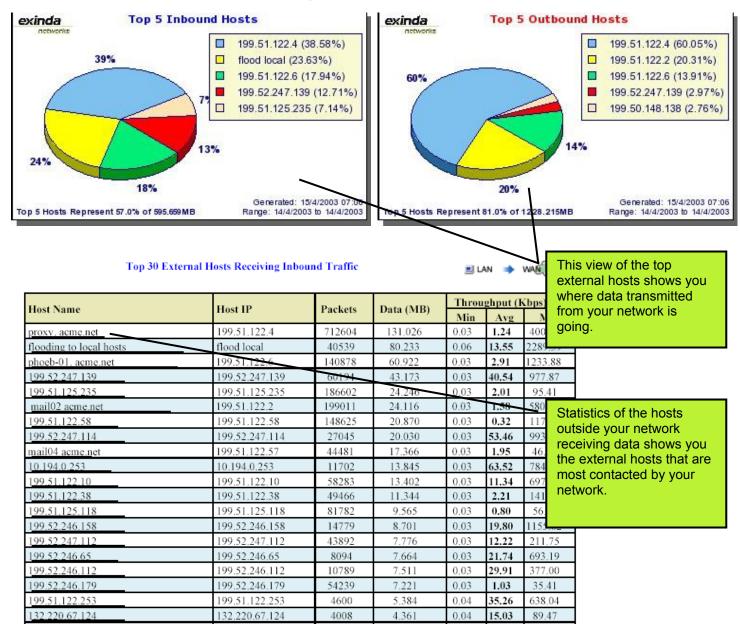
Heat News		Deskata	Data (MB)	Throughput (Kbps)			
Host Name	Host IP	Packets		Min	Avg	Ma	x
asiapac.th.acme.net	132,220,64,136	221044	173,508	0.03	8.99	2289,3	9
132.220.64.132	132.220.64.132	137192	54.833	0.03	1.91	977.8	7
netserver01. th.acme.net	132,220.64,148	163402	53.179	0.03	33.14	784.58	8
132.220.64.222	132.220 64.222	190491	38.810	0.03	4.93	141.8	7
132.220.64.133	132,220,64,155	65566	31,939	0.03	3.42	1155.6	2
saldb, acme.net	132.220.64.135	21409	21,852	0.03	24.88	1147.4	0
1dap-03. acme.net	132,220,64,144	107009	12.327	0.03	0.42	43.45	5
10.194.60.4	10.194.60.4	82161	8.156	0.03	1.33	148.8	3
132.220.64.138	132,220.64,138	10214	8.113	0.03	33.19	361.8	2
132.220.64.130	132.220.64.130	69339	7.588	0.03	9.57	272.8	6
132.220.64.206	132.220.64.206	32417	5.997	0.03	0.33	58.	Otatistics of the boots
10.194.63.33	10.194.63.33	32767	5.880	0.03	1.03	43.	Statistics of the hosts
132.220.64.223	132,220.64,223	8692	5.189	0.03	6.84	615.	inside your network
132.220.64.210	132.220.64.210	27820	5.008	0.03	0.24	35.	sending data can help you
10.194.63.41	10.194.63.41	57507	4.358	0.03	0.63	11.	determine which hosts are
10.194.62.249	10.194.62.249	9551	4.304	0.03	1.25	103.	causing the most uplink
132.220.64.208	132,220,64,208	26358	4.224	0.03	0.23	15.	congestion in your
10.194.62.74	10.194.62.74	15091	3.812	0.03	0.81	27.	network.
zeus-01. acme.net	132.220.64.143	33506	3,790	0.03	0.17	19.78	5
10.194.63.19	10.194.63.19	17247	3.673	0.03	0.58	387.6	6

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This page shows you which hosts inside your network are causing the most uplink and downlink congestion in your network. This information can be used to formulate an optimization policy with your Exinda Optimizer.



Traffic Analysis - Top External Hosts Summary



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Top 30 External Hosts Sending Outbound Traffic

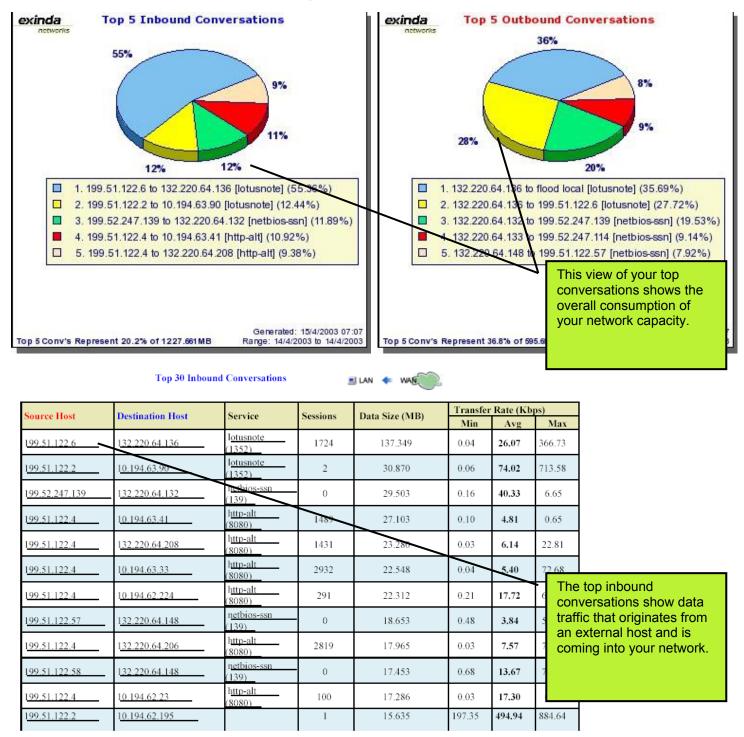
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Host Name	Host IP	Packets	Data (MB)	Thro	ughput (Kbps)			
Host Name	Host IP	Packets		Min	Avg	Max			
proxy.acme.net	199.51.122.4	836485	597.428	0.03	5.29	425.66			
mail02 acme.net	199.51.122.2	237557	202.050	0.03	13.74	1218.13			
phoeb-01. acme.net	199.51.122.6	162266	138.395	0.03	8,36	1775,50			
199.52.247.139	199.52.247.139	55461	29.514	0.03	20.27	805.95			
199.50.148.138	199.50.148.138	34819	27.448	0.03	0.77	246.00			
199.51.122.58	199.51.122.58	147997	26.218	0.03	0.57	249.43			
199.51.122.38	199.51.122.38	50835	19.923	0.03	8.84	574.80			
199.51.125.235	199.51.125.235	180414	19.844	0.02	1.49	Stati	stics of the hosts		
web.acme.net	199.51.122.57	64326	18.658	0.03	2.03		outside your network		
ldap. acme.net	199.51.122.60	14338	18.461	0.03	30.06		ending data shows you		
199.51.125.118	199,51,125,118	110408	12.924	0.02	0.49		external hosts that are		
199.50.20.218	199.50.20.218	12608	11.219	0.03	6.87	1	acting your network		
geosystemb.acme.net	164.57.152.195	12068	9.011	0.03	5.74		t frequently.		
199.52.246.179	199.52.246.179	62372	8.457	0.02	1.03		i nequentiy.		
199,50,20,80	199,50,20.80	7743	5.906	0.03	5.62	1			
199.52.134.26	199.52.134.26	8480	5.861	0.03	3.68	(4		
doncaster.acme.net	199.51.101.217	3776	4.889	0.04	17.58	66.47]		
199.52.247.132	199.52.247.132	3955	4.212	0.03	13.87	1216.74			
199.52.247.112	199.52.247.112	40638	3.865	0.02	3.44	852.18			
199.50.9.70	199.50.9.70	2765	3.214	0.04	20.47	174.62]		

This page shows the external hosts that are receiving the most data from your network as well as the hosts that are contacting your network most frequently. These external sites are typically the source of most of your unnecessary network congestion and are a major cause of security vulnerabilities.



Traffic Analysis - Top Conversations Summary





	_	_	_	_						
Source Host	Destination Host	Service	Sessions	Data Size (MB)		er Rate (K	•			
					Min	Avg	Max			
132.220.64.136	flood local	lotusnote (1352)	71	78.223	1.94	213.39	1670.62			
132.220.64.136	199.51.122.6	l <u>otusnote</u> (1352)	2830	60.747	0.16	8.46	469.08			
132.220.64.132	199.52.247.139	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	5	42.811	0.03	49.09	6.16			
132.220.64.133	199.52.247.114	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	1	20.030	0.18	62.36	776.37			
132.220.64.148	199.51.122.57	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	2	17.363	0.43	3.58	46-24			
132.220.64.148	199.51.122.58	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	5	16.376	0.72	12.41	The top inbo conversation	ound ns show data		
132.220.64.222	199.51.125.235	microsoft-ds	8	11.575	1.56	5.90		riginates from		
		(445)	i		í í	Í		k and is being xternal host.		
132.220.64.133	199.52.246.158	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	1	8.701	0.03	19,80		xtemai nost.		
132.220.64.148	10.194.0.253	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	17	7.760	0.29	144,37				
132.220.64.148	199.52.246.112	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	5	7.494	0.19	103,95	377.00			
132.220.64.136	199.52.246.65	l <u>otusnote</u> (1352)	2	7.292	12.13	57.98	405.52			
132.220.64.144	199.51.125.118	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	9149	6.716	0.03	0.48	0.66			
132.220.64.138	10.194.0.253	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	17	6.077	0.29	114,87	178.60			
10.194.63.33	199.51.122.4	h <u>ttp-alt</u> (8080)	0	5.787	0.03	1.26	12.17			
132.220.64.206	199.51.122.4	h <u>ttp-alt</u> (8080)	0	5.513	0.03	1.36	6.35			
132.220.64.223	199.51.122.10	n <u>etbios-ssn</u> (139)	1	5.184	0.10	23.64	615.81			

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Top 30 Outbound Conversations

Top Conversations allow you to see the composition of your network traffic over extended periods in and out of your network. To ensure network efficiency, unnecessary network conversations should be blocked from your network (or de-prioritised) using an appropriate Exinda Optimizer policy.



Definition Reference

- Adobe Portable Documents: The Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf) is a type of document that is used extensively due to their small document size. In order to view portable documents, you must install Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer. This software can be downloaded free of charge from the internet (http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html)
- Application: A network application is a type of data that is sent over a network to support applications such as file sharing and web browsing.
- **Conversation:** A network conversation is a transaction of data that occurs between two hosts using the same application.
- **Capacity (Network):** Network capacity sometimes called bandwidth is the raw amount of data that your network can transmit in a specified time period. Simply, network capacity is the speed of your network link.
- **Host:** Any computer on a network that is a repository for services available to other computers on the network. It is quite common to have one host machine provide several services, such as SMTP (email) and HTTP (web).
- **Inbound/Outbound Traffic:** Inbound traffic is data that is transmitted into your internal network from external hosts, outbound traffic is data that is transmitted from your internal network.
- **Internal/External Host:** Hosts are either internal or external depending on whether or not they are part of your private network (Internal).
- **ISP (Internet Service Provider):** An institution that provides access to the Internet in some form, usually on a commercial basis.
- Latency: Latency is the time it takes for a message to travel from your network to a remote host. Latency is an important way of measuring the efficiency of a network link for network applications.
- **Latency Distribution:** Latency distributions are important to determine the consistency of a network link. Many network applications are intolerant of variations in latency, and so require a low distribution of latency.
- **Network Interface:** The point between your Exinda Optimizer and the network. Typically, each Exinda Optimizer is packaged with two network interfaces: one for your internal network, and one for your external network.
- **SLA (Service Level Agreement):** An agreement between a company and an ISP to deliver a particular Internet access service level.

Subnet: A group of hosts in a network that are assigned similar network (IP) addresses.

Throughput: The rate at which data is transmitted over your network.