Interop Labs Network Access Control

Interop Las Vegas 2007 Jan Trumbo trumbo@opus1.com

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- Interop Labs are: Technology Motivated, Open Standards Based, Vendor neutral, Test and Education focused, Initiatives...
- With team members from: Industry Academia Government

Visit us at Booth 122!



Technical contributions to this presentation include: Steve Hanna, Juniper Networks and TCG TNC Kevin Koster, Cloudpath Networks, Inc.

Karen O'Donoghue, Joel Snyder, and the whole Interop Labs NAC team



Objectives

- This presentation will:
 - Provide a general introduction to the concept of Network Access Control
 - Highlight the three most well known solutions
 - Provide a context to allow a network engineer to begin to plan for NAC deployment
 - Articulate a vision for NAC
- This presentation will not:
 - Provide specifics on any of the three major approaches introduced
 - Delve into the underlying protocol details



Why Network Access Control?

- Desire to grant different network access to different users, e.g. employees, guests, contractors
- Network endpoints can be threats
 - Enormous enterprise resources are wasted to combat an increasing numbers of viruses, worms, and spyware
- Proliferation of devices requiring network connectivity
 - Laptops, phones, PDAs
- Logistical difficulties associated with keeping corporate assets monitored and updated



Network Access Control is

Who you are ...





...should determine **What** you can access









"Who" Has Several Facets





Access Policy May Be Influenced By

- Identity
 - Jim (CTO), Steve (Network Admin), Sue (Engineering), Bob (Finance), Brett (Guest)
- Location
 - Secure room versus non-secured room
- Connection Method
 - Wired, wireless, VPN
- Time of Day
 - Limit after hours wireless access
 - Limit access after hours of employee's shift

• Posture

- A/V installed, auto update enabled, firewall turned on, supported versions of software
- Realtime traffic analysis feedback (IPS)



Sample Policy

IF user group="phone" THEN VLAN="phone-vlan"

ELSE IF non-compliant AND user = "Alice" THEN VLAN="quarantine" AND activate automatic remediation

ELSE IF non-compliant AND user = "Bob" THEN VLAN="quarantine"

ELSE IF compliant THEN VLAN="trusted"





NAC is More Than VLAN Assignment

- Additional access possibilities:
 - Access Control Lists
 - Switches
 - Routers
 - Firewall rules
 - Traffic shaping (QoS)
- Non-edge enforcement options
 - Such as a distant firewall



NAC is More Than Sniffing Clients for Viruses

- Behavior-based assessment
 - Why is this printer trying to connect to ssh ports?
- VPN-connected endpoints cannot access HR database

You need control points *inside* the network to make this happen







Sample NAC Transaction





Access Requestors

- Sample Access Requestors
 - Laptops
 - PDAs
 - VoIP phones
 - Desktops
 - Printers



Access Requestor

- Components of an Access Requestor / Endpoint
 - Posture Collector(s)
 - Collects security status information (e.g. A/V software installed and up to date, personal firewall turned on)
 - May be more than one per access requestor
 - Client Broker
 - Collects data from one or more posture collectors
 - Consolidates collector data to pass to Network Access Requestor
 - Network Access Requestor
 - Connects client to network (e.g. 802.1X supplicant or IPSec VPN client)
 - Authenticates user
 - Sends posture data to Posture Validators

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Policy Enforcement Points



Policy Enforcement Point

- Components of a Policy Enforcement Point
 - Network Enforcement Point
 - Provides access to some or all of the network
- Sample Policy Enforcement Points
 - Switches
 - Wireless Access Points
 - Routers
 - VPN Devices
 - Firewalls



Policy Decision Point



- Components of a Policy Decision Point
 - Posture Validator(s)
 - Receives data from the corresponding posture collector
 - Validates against policy
 - Returns status to Server Broker
 - Server Broker
 - Collects / consolidates information from Posture Validator(s)
 - Determines access decision
 - Passes decision to Network Access Authority
 - Network Access Authority
 - Validates authentication and posture information
 - Passes decision back to Policy Enforcement Point





Example: Policy Enforcement

- Users who pass policy check are placed on production network
- Users who fail are quarantined



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Example: Policy Enforcement

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NAC Solutions

- There are three prominent solutions:
 - Cisco's Network Admission Control (CNAC)
 - Microsoft's Network Access Protection (NAP)
 - Trusted Computer Group's Trusted Network Connect (TNC)
- There are several proprietary approaches that we did not address



Cisco NAC

Network Admission Control

- Strengths
 - Many posture collectors for client
 - Installed base of network devices
- Limitations
 - More options with Cisco hardware
 - Not an open standard
 - Requires additional supplicant
- Status

Product shipping today



Microsoft NAP

Network Access Protection

- Strengths
 - Part of Windows operating system
 - Supports auto remediation
 - Network device neutral
- Limitations
 - Part of Windows operating system
 - Not an open standard
- Status
 - Client (Vista) shipping today; will be in XP SP3
 - Linux client available
 - Server (Longhorn) still in beta; 3rd parties shipping

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Trusted Computing Group (TCG) Trusted Network Connect (TNC)

- Strengths
 - Open standards based
 - Not tied to specific hardware, servers, or client operating systems
 - Multiple vendor backing Juniper, Microsoft
- Limitations
 - Potential integration risk with multiple parties
- Status
 - Products shipping today
 - Tightly integrated with Microsoft NAP but products not shipping yet (Monday announcement)

Updated specifications released May 2007

TNC Architecture



Source: TCG



Current State of Affairs

- Multiple semi-interoperable solutions
 - Cisco NAC, Microsoft NAP, TCG TNC
 - Conceptually, all 3 are very similar
 - All with limitations
- Industry efforts at convergence and standardization

- TCG
- IETF



Getting Started - What's Most Important to You?



Where will NAC apply?

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VPN	WLAN	Guests	Desktops	Computer Room	Everywhere
					- /



Where Can You Learn More?

- Visit the Interop Labs Booth (#122)
 - Live Demonstrations of all three major NAC architectures with engineers to answer questions
- Visit Interop Labs online: Interop Labs white papers, this presentation, and demonstration layout diagram
 Network Access Control http://www.opus1.com/nac
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VOIP: Wireless & Security http://www.opus1.com/voip











Where can you learn more?

White Papers available in the Interop Labs:

What is Network Admission Control? What is 802.1X? Getting Started with Network Admission Control What is the TCG's Trusted Network Connect? What is Microsoft Network Access Protection? What is Cisco Network Admission Control? What is the IETF's Network Endpoint Assessment? Switch Functionality for 802.1X-based NAC Exception Cases and NAC Get the "NAC" of Troubleshooting NAC Resources

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Free USB key to the first 600 attendees! (has all NAC and VOIP materials) http://www.opus1.com/nac

NAC Lab Participants



InteropLabs NAC Team Members

Karen O'Donoghue, US Navy, Team Lead	Kevin Koster, Cloudpath Networks	
Bill Clary, grandmotherboard.org	Jeff Fulsom, Univ of Utah	
Joel Snyder, Opus One	Mike McCauley, Open Systems Consultants	
Jan Trumbo, Opus One	Henry He, UNH IOL	
Chris Hessing, Identify Engines	Lynn Haney, TippingPoint	
Terry Simons, Identity Engines		

InteropLabs NAC Vendor Engineers

Thomas Howard, Cisco Systems, Inc. Mark Townsend, Enterasys Mike Skripek, Extreme Networks Charles Owens, Great Bay Software Eric Holton, HP Procurve Bret Jordan, Identify Engines Bob Filer, Juniper Networks Chrisitan McDonald, Juniper Networks Denzil Wessels, Juniper Networks Steve Hanna, Juniper Networks Oliver Chung, Lockdown Networks Pat Fetty, Microsoft Don Gonzales, Patchlink Scott VanWart, Q1 Labs Tim McCarthy, Trapeze Networks Rvan Holland, Trend Micro Alwin Yu, Trend Micro Amit Deshpande, Wave Systems

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Thank You!

Questions?

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