The Case for Cyber Security Ethernet Switches

Today, more and more physical security systems are connected to IP communication or SCADA networks, leaving them vulnerable to cyber attack, and threatening national security and public safety.

The problem
As threats to critical infrastructure sites grow, these sites in turn continue to increase their use of physical security elements. However, with surveillance cameras, access control systems, sensors and controllers all connected using TCP/IP and networking technology and relying on communication networks, a new threat has been introduced - cyber attack.

Commonly, criminals use a combined cyber and physical attack, accessing and tampering with systems over networks to allow for physical access to a site. For example:

- Video streams from surveillance cameras can be replaced or manipulated
- Access control systems can be hacked to open gates and doors
- Perimeter security sensors and controllers can be disabled or blinded
- Industrial controllers and power distribution systems can be taken over and damaged

Therefore, a comprehensive solution that can cover a broad range of both physical and cyber threats is required.

The solution
Aimetis Tungsten Cyber Security Ethernet Switch was specifically designed to secure physical security networks, SCADA based systems and safe-city applications.
Tungsten provides ironclad security with full control and customizable networking capabilities. Cutting-edge hardware, coupled with network intelligence and policy enforcement software engines, offers an effective tool for securing sites and installations.

Tungsten can be used as the foundation for field and physical security communication networks and enhance infrastructure safety with the following key features:

• Rugged hardware, designed to withstand extreme environmental conditions.
• Fiber optic and RJ45 ports with high-power PoE capabilities, for simple installation.
• Increased switch functionality, for fewer devices in the field and less points of possible failure, such as media converters, power supply and injectors, serial device servers, I/O controllers, etc.
• Continuous monitoring and analysis of data traffic of all elements and points in the network.
• Cyber protection, not only for servers and network points, but also for all elements in the field.

**Uncompromised security**

A multi-layer security enforcement tool located at the edge of the network, Tungsten allows for:

• Detection and identification of every element and endpoint in the network.
• Real-time alerts and the ability to block any attempt to connect an unauthorized device to the network.
• Inspection of the incoming and outgoing traffic, at port level, to make sure that only known, safe, and identified traffic, from authorized entities, is allowed.
• Detection of Layer2 and Layer3 cyber attacks: CAM overflow, ARP spoofing or poisoning, IP address spoofing, streaming and video hijacking, Spanning-Tree Protocol manipulation and denial of services.
• Reporting and taking automatic action to restore the continuous operation of the network.
• Protection of hardware and making switch policy enforcement tamperproof.

**Flexibility**

A combination of 10/100/1000 copper Ethernet ports and fiber (SFP) slots covers a wide range of installation requirements. Tungsten supports:

• Classic star topologies as well as redundant ring topologies.
• Dry contact input and output, for monitoring discreet sensors or environmental conditions and activating external devices such as audio alarms or warning lights.

• Both DIN-rail and wall-mount installation options.
• Dedicated external serial port (RS232, RS422, or RS485)* for connecting legacy devices.

**Durability**

A heavy-duty aluminum die-cast casing is used for optimal heat dissipation. Tungsten complies with industrial temperature ratings and a wide range of DC input voltage.

**Power over Ethernet**

Tungsten supports high PoE power (240W) including ultra-high standard (60W) support. It is fully compliant with IEEE 802.3af, IEEE 802.3 at 2-event and LLDP standards and supports forced-mode powering for compatibility with legacy devices. It saves on cost and size, thus avoiding cumbersome and bulky installations or costly external injectors.

**IP routing**

Tungsten remotely connects to the local network by mapping internal IP addresses to TCP or UDP ports (port mapping) and by supporting NAT and DHCP to route the inbound traffic.
Auxiliary serial port

Tungsten supports RS232/422/485 serial communications and X.25 over TCP (XOT). An external plug supporting synchronous communications is optional.

Monitoring and control

Tungsten provides real-time alerts on any exception from policy, configuration, traffic behavior or protocol and accurately locates a device’s physical whereabouts and port information. In cases of protocol anomalies, Tungsten will also log the traffic for effective retrospective analysis.

High availability

Tungsten allows for easy deployment, minimum down time and reduced cost with a built-in uOTDR (Micro Optical Time Domain Reflectometer) that constantly monitors fiber optic conditions. Industry-standard Ethernet Ring Protection Switching (ERPS) G.8032 / Y.1344 protocols enable close to zero restoration times for both copper and fiber failures with minimal packet loss.

DHCP server

Tungsten assigns IP addresses to local devices by configuring the embedded DHCP server and setting address lease rules.

Our Cyber Security Vision

Convergence

Perhaps the first official acknowledgment of the unavoidable link between physical and cyber security came in the form of US President Barack Obama’s Executive Order on Improving Critical Infrastructure Cyber Security and his Presidential Policy Directive on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience in 2013. Those directives state that the protection of critical infrastructure is dependent on strengthening cyber security measures and increasing collaboration with IT and physical security stakeholders. They empower US federal agencies to implement holistic security measures to protect critical infrastructure, buildings, assets, information and people.

Defence in depth

The Defense in Depth concept helps assure business continuity by defending a system against any kind of attack, using several different methods. Originally, the term Defense in Depth referred to a military strategy that aimed to delay, rather than prevent, the advance of an attacker by yielding space in order to buy time.

In terms of network security, Defense in Depth tactics not only prevent attacks, but also buy an organization time with a forensic approach that detects and responds to threats, thereby reducing and mitigating the consequences of a breach.

Multi-layer protection

Multi-Layer Protection describes the practice of combining multiple mitigating security controls to protect resources and data. A key Defense in Depth component, Multi-Layer Protection derives from a military strategy that involves multiple layers of defense that resist quick penetration by an attacker. The basic theory is that as an incursion progresses, resources are consumed and progress is slowed until it is halted and turned back.
Technical Specifications

Power Supply
- DC Feed: 24V (+18Vdc to +36Vdc), 48 (+36Vdc to +72Vdc), 54Vdc, redundant power inputs
- Power consumption to 255W depending on attached PoE devices
- PoE: 2 x 60W per port (Ultra PoE), 4 x 30W per port (IEEE 802.3af/IEEE 802.3at)

Environmental
- Operating Temp: 40˚C to +75˚C (no fans)
- Storage Temp: 40˚C to +85˚C
- Relative Humidity: 5 to 95% non-condensing
- Dimensions: 90mm x 140mm x 110mm
- Enclosure: aluminum die cast for improved heat dissipation; IP-40 protection
- Environment: RoHS compliant

Interfaces
- Copper Ethernet: 8 x 10/100/1000Mbps auto-negotiate ports
- Fiber Ethernet: 4 x SFP ports including 100/1000Mbps support with Digital Diagnostic Monitoring
- Console Port: RS232 port using Cisco CLI pin-out for local access
- Discrete I/O: discrete digital input and dry contact relay output
- Configuration Freeze: hidden reset button activates read-only mode and blocks any possibility of remote configuration change
- External UART: dedicated RS232/422/485 interface for remotely accessing legacy equipment

Switch
- Engine: jumbo frame support; IPv4/IPv6 multicast; 4 Mb packet memories; 8192 MAC addresses
- QoS: 8 priorities + 8 CoS queues per port; Strict or Weighted Round Robin scheduling
- VLAN: IEEE802.1Q VLAN with 8K MACs and 4K VLANs
- STP: RSTP (Rapid Spanning-Tree) and MSTP (Multiple) support
- Snooping: IGMPv2 and IGMPv3. MLDv1 and MLDv2
- Access Control: IEEE 802.1X
- Security: Radius and TACACS+

Management
- GUI: HTTP/HTTPs server
- SNMP: SNMPv1/v2/v3 agent
- CLI: Telnet/SSHv2
- Alerts: SNMP traps and Syslog messages
- RMON: RMON Group 1, 2, 3, 9
- Access list: restricted access to management info
- Back and Restore: configuration download or upload
- IP Configuration: static or using DHCP

Compliance
- IEEE 802.3: IEEE 802.3vb, IEEE 802.3u, IEEE 802.3ab, IEEE 802.3af, IEEE 802.3at, IEEE 802.3ultra-at, IEEE 802.3i, IEEE 802.3z
- Regulation: CE, FCC, VCCI, UL
- Isolation: 2.1 KVDC, ESD: 15KV, Surge: 4KV, EFT: 4KV
- Safety: EN60950-1:2001
- EMC: EN61000-6-3:2007, EN55022, EN61000-6-2:2007, EN55024
- Utility Substations: IEEE 1613, IEC 61850-3

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