

DATA SHEET

Plixer FlowPro

Security benefits

- Detect abnormal behavior and security threats
- Monitor DNS traffic to catch malware and botnets
- Identify malware that uses C2 communications
- Visualize encrypted web traffic destinations

Network benefits

- Increase visibility where metadata is not exported
- Monitor performance with Layer 7 precision
- Achieve faster fault isolation and MTTR
- Visualize traffic and apps across your entire network

Complete visibility of network traffic is key to managing your network, protecting your assets, and investigating security incidents. While Plixer Enterprise Platform and Plixer Core Platform collect network traffic data directly from a wide variety of infrastructure devices, there are many situations where Plixer FlowPro can be deployed to deliver additional, valuable network and security insights.

Plixer FlowPro provides deep packet inspection, application fingerprinting, application performance, and visibility from Layer 2 through Layer 7. It also gives you the ability to monitor domain name system (DNS) traffic to identify the fully qualified domain names for encrypted web traffic, protocol anomalies, and malicious activity. By adding FlowPro to Plixer's platforms, teams can efficiently manage and optimize the network, while simultaneously enabling security operations to lower risk, gain data context, and respond quickly to security incidents.

Whether you need to monitor traffic in remote offices, an isolated data closet, or a full data center, Plixer FlowPro provides the information you need to perform root-cause analysis of both network performance and security events.

Security benefits

By installing Plixer FlowPro Defender where it can observe DNS traffic, you gain details about what is entering and leaving your network over DNS.

Most malware uses DNS in its attacks. Specifically, malware creators abuse DNS to bypass your firewall and use your DNS servers (internal or external) to communicate directly with assets within your network.

One technique encodes information such as credit card numbers into the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) sent to the DNS server.

When the DNS server looks it up, it finds that the domain name does not exist. The local DNS server then forwards the request out of your network with your data, where it makes its way to an authoritative DNS server controlled by the malware creator. The malware creator can simply decode the FQDN forwarded by your DNS server and store your stolen information for later resale on the black market.

Malware creators can also use the DNS reply to send an encoded response back to your asset, providing additional instructions to the malware. Using a combination of deep packet inspection (DPI) and behavioral analytics, Plixer FlowPro Defender quickly identifies and alerts on assets compromised by malware that has leveraged various forms of DNS abuse for data exfiltration or C2.

Network benefits

Cloud-hosted applications such as CRM systems, backups, and email services put your business performance at the mercy of the internet. Resolving issues around poor connection times is often more involved than merely reviewing a bandwidth utilization trend. Packet loss, retransmits, and round-trip time can all be major contributors to a poor application experience. The physical location of the end user can also be a significant factor. Is the problem isolated to a specific end system, an end user, a subnet, or the entire organization?

Plixer FlowPro Application Performance Monitor (APM) empowers network administrators to find the root cause. By leveraging DPI to monitor critical application traffic, both internal and cloud-bound, it provides detailed visibility into each connection to help ensure that the end-user experience remains optimized.

Beyond performance information, Plixer FlowPro APM provides insight into potential configuration issues as well. VoIP quality of service is often measured with MOS score, ToS, packet loss, and jitter; however, phone calls can also be affected by the wrong codec and the network path a call takes. Plixer

FlowPro APM exports these factors in a way that makes troubleshooting easier, reducing Mean Time to Resolution.

Virtual appliance options

Plixer FlowPro is offered as a virtual appliance for customers wishing to deploy in an on-premise hypervisor. System specifications are dependent on a number of factors. Please reach out to your account representative for recommendations on proper hardware sizing and configuration.

Hardware appliance options

Plixer FlowPro is also available as a stand-alone hardware appliance that can be deployed in a customer's datacenter.

See “hardware appliance specifications” below for configuration details and speak with your account representative for information on custom requirements including increased storage options.

Subscription License

Plixer FlowPro is purchased as a subscription license. The subscription has an ongoing Subscription Agreement as part of the terms of your subscription license. Product updates and customer support are included as part of the subscription.

Ordering information

Ordering subscription licenses of Plixer FlowPro software is based on a number of factors including required functionality, port speed, and volume of traffic. The chart below provides an overview of functionality based on FlowPro license. For full details, reach out to your account representative.

	Plixer FlowPro	Plixer FlowPro APM	Plixer FlowPro Defender
Obtain traffic visibility from all network locations	✓	✓	✓
Monitor network traffic	✓	✓	✓
Virtual appliance available	✓	✓	✓
Physical appliance (with up to 7 monitor ports) available	✓	✓	✓
Monitors via SPAN, mirror port, or ethernet tap	✓	✓	✓
ERSPAN support	✓	✓	✓
Troubleshoot latency issues		✓	
Measure application round trip time		✓	
Packet-level performance metrics		✓	
Resolve network performance issues		✓	
Identify Layer 7 applications		✓	
Monitor latency for Layer 7 applications		✓	
Monitor latency for clients/servers		✓	
Monitor VoIP performance		✓	
Detect malware DNS data exfiltration			✓
Detect malware DNS Command and Control			✓
Detect compromised assets using DGAS			✓
Alert on DNS lookup to known malware C2 sites			✓
Alert on DNS lookup to user-defined domains			✓
FQDN reporting			✓
DNS performance visibility			✓

Warranty

As a customer-centric company, Plixer is committed to providing quality products and solutions. If one of our products fails due to a defect, we have developed a comprehensive warranty that protects you and provides a simple way to get your product repaired or media replaced as soon as possible.

The hardware appliance comes with a 3-year warranty against manufacturing defects. Software warranties are covered through the Subscription Agreement.

Service and support

Plixer provides a comprehensive set of professional

service offerings. Plixer can design, deploy, and optimize your implementation as well as deliver customized training. Remote services and on-site services are available.

Plixer support is available 24/7/365. At Plixer, we are dedicated to providing customers with best-in-class support. When you contact us, you are immediately connected with an engineer who will work with you to ensure a resolution.

Additional information

For additional technical information, please visit: <https://www.plixer.com/products/flowpro/>

Hardware appliance specifications

	Plixer FlowPro 1GbE	Plixer FlowPro 10GbE
Chassis configuration	1U Chassis	
Processor	Intel Xeon E-2334 3.4GHz, 8M Cache, 4C/8T	
Memory	16 GB	32 GB
Storage	128 GB	
Networking	1 x RJ-45 Mgmt LAN port, Broadcom 5720 Dual Port 1Gb, 2 x Intel Ethernet i350 Quad Port 1GbE BASE-T	1 x RJ-45 Mgmt LAN port, Broadcom 5720 Dual Port 1Gb, Broadcom 57412 Dual Port 10GbE SFP+ 1 x SFP+ SR Optic 10GbE 850nm
Power	Dual, Hot Plug, Redundant Power Supply (1+1), 600W	
Power Cords	NEMA 5-15P to C13 Wall Plug, 125 Volt, 15 Amp, 10 Feet (3m), Power Cord, North America	
Weight	15.43 lbs. (7 kg)	
Dimensions	16.9" x 1.73" x 18.42" (431mm x 44mm x 468mm) (WxHxD)	
Environmental	Storage: Temperature: -20°C to 70°C (-4°F to 158°F) Humidity: 5% to 95% Operating: Temperature: 0°C to 40°C (32°F to 104°F) Humidity: 5% to 90%	
Hardware Warranty	3 Years	

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ds-3001.2-0523

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