

WHITEPAPER

Increase security, performance and business intelligence by replicating network data streams

The power of Plixer Replicator

Plixer



What if your network told you when it was having performance and security issues? What if it could provide specifics about where and when and could prioritize issues?

The truth is your network can provide this data. Whether for network security, performance, or business intelligence, your network infrastructure is a storehouse of important data. The network flow data (as well as other UDP data) collected by your routers, switches, firewalls, etc. provide valuable intelligence if properly analyzed.

However, these devices typically limit sending flow records to one or two destinations to help reduce CPU utilization. While this limiting helps computing overload, the value of the data is then consumed entirely by a couple of tools—like a network performance monitoring tool or a SIEM.

To address this, Plixer Replicator receives flow streams through a single IP and then duplicates and forwards the streams. This allows you to reserve the compute power of devices for their intended purposes while simultaneously sending the data collected by those devices to multiple locations.

With high-speed and high-performance Plixer Replicator you can get more from data analysis from your current infrastructure and more easily scale infrastructure as the enterprise grows.

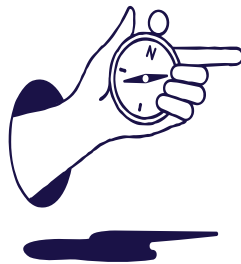
Key benefits

With Plixer Replicator you can streamline network flow data from hundreds or even thousands of devices, duplicate the data, and forward it to new destinations without modifying the original source IP address. Doing so allows you to:

- Send the same data to both network and security tools for analysis
- Reduce traffic on the network and load on routers and switches
- Lessen your configuration complexity
- Provide redundancy by sending UDP datagrams to multiple destinations simultaneously, including cloud-based sites

Duplicating the UDP streams through a single appliance allows you to easily balance traffic loads and provide fault tolerance. Simultaneously, you can send network flow data collected by the device to multiple analysis tools to increase security, performance, and business intelligence.

For example, by using Plixer Replicator, you can allow your firewall to use its compute power for firewall activities and maximize the metadata collected by the firewall to improve network security by forwarding the data to multiple tools. And this advantage extends to any network device, whether you plan to use the network flow data for performance, security, or business intelligence.



The highly flexible Plixer Replicator also gives companies with compliance requirements a way to back up system messages and notifications to multiple locations so when an audit takes place, they can be certain they have the data.

Improve resiliency and configuration scalability

Security and network teams regularly introduce new products and tools into their environment. With Plixer Replicator, new device configuration becomes a one-time effort. Instead of touching every network device again, simply update Plixer Replicator to forward data wherever you want it—be it to a SIEM, flow collector, big data platform, or analytics application. By leveraging Plixer Replicator’s robust forwarding capabilities, IT teams significantly reduce configuration time as new data sources are deployed on the network. This improves productivity and makes it easier to add new devices as needed.

Prevent cybercriminal obfuscation

As a proactive effort to thwart cybercriminals in their attempt to delete data and cover their tracks, Plixer Replicator sends data to many distinct locations. As a transparent “bump-in-the-wire,” Plixer Replicator does not store information, but rather transparently collects, duplicates, and forwards it to disparate locations. By distributing millions of flow and metadata records to various products and locations, it becomes difficult for bad actors to hack all your destination systems and cover their tracks.

Gain business intelligence

Because Plixer Replicator can collect and forward any UDP data to another device or analysis solution, the use for that data goes beyond network or security intelligence. You can send device performance, communication, location, or event data to any source that you might benefit from having that data analyzed. Additionally, you could use data from one device to inform action on another device. For instance, you might need to send performance data about one device to another to reduce the over-production of devices or predict when machines will need repair. Or if you have autonomous devices, sending GPS data from one device to the other can prevent these devices from colliding.

Easy to use, easy to manage, and easy to configure

Plixer Replicator offers an easy to manage and deploy web interface while still maintaining the power of a command line. Available as either a virtual or a physical appliance, Plixer Replicator sits between UDP metadata-exporting devices (switches, routers, firewalls, etc.) and the products that collect that data—such as [Plixer's network detection and response](#) (NDR) platform and [Plixer's network performance monitoring and diagnostics](#) (NPMD) platform.

Plixer Replicator can duplicate and distribute any UDP datagram and keep the original source IP address, which is important because you want the collector to believe it is receiving the flows directly from the original device exporting the network flow data. If the collector needs to reach out to the exporter, it will query the original source IP address and not the flow replicator.

Additionally, you can deploy multiple Plixer Replicators for failover redundancy/high availability, and customization is available through a RESTful API.

Summary

By tapping into your network flow data and sending it to multiple locations, you can support performance, security, and business intelligence. Plixer Replicator helps you take the data readily available on your network infrastructure and send it to NetOps and SecOps solutions for analysis. Additionally, you can tap this data for further business intelligence without sacrificing the use of the data for network performance and security.

Plixer Replicator takes in a data single stream, then copies and forwards it to wherever you need it to go. When you're able to distribute network flow data, you can maximize the value of your existing security and network monitoring products and protect the CPU of the infrastructure devices exporting the data.



About Plixer

Plixer provides a single platform for network security and monitoring, delivering the insight and analytics needed to manage the immense opportunities and risks of a digital business. As a leader in the Network Detection and Response & the Network Performance Monitoring and Diagnostics markets, Plixer provides the comprehensive intelligence and visibility needed to analyze, evaluate, and visualize the millions of conversations that cross networks every second.

