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Case Study: Bit Torrent, Copyrighted Material and End User Monitoring for Security

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March 2013

Network monitoring alerts are very important when you are running a wireless network. Not only is monitoring the equipment in the field and through the backend important, but monitoring your end users is arguably even more important to the overall security of your network. Such is the case in all kinds of networks, whether they are free, paid or a hybrid model of access.

The WiDirect as a management solution takes this key piece of infrastructure- the network's security- very seriously, having integral features that help to pin point problems as they arise in a swift and efficient manner so that the network operator can handle the breach before further infractions are committed.

A real life example of these measures took place in the Annapolis Wireless in February 2013, a network that has been utilizing the WiDirect since 2007. A marina operator received notification that a user on the marina's WIFI network was sharing copyrighted files on multiple occasions using the Bit Torrent protocol.

Even though the WiClient on site at the marina was doing NAT, meaning all the users in that location were using the same IP address, they were able to utilize the WiDirect's Peer to Peer traffic alerts feature to help pin point which specific user was causing the violations. Once the user was identified, they used the WiDirect to block the user in question and prevent future infringement notices. As it also turned out, the WIFI user was a customer of an adjacent Marina who was not authorized to use the service to begin with.

The WiDirect's and WiClient's Peer to Peer traffic alerts allow the network operators to identify users who are using Bit Torrent. By enabling this functionality, they were able to immediately identify a user who was actively using Bit Torrent on the network.

After identifying the user, they were able to compare the times listed on the infringement notices with the times the user was connected on the WiDirect and found they matched exactly. Additionally, the WiDirect reported this user had transferred over 700 GB of data during the time period we received the infringement notices, which further confirmed that this user was the person identified on the notice for uploading copyrighted movies using Bit Torrent.

Without having such a fast acting, stealth resource at their fingertips, the liability of such illegal activities as transferring copyrighted movies would have fallen on the network operators themselves. The WiDirect product line gave them a line of defense against law breakers and the resources to put a stop to this behavior, as well as offer evidence they were not the actual culprits.

Key requirements of any network involve varying degrees of access and resources to deal with security breaches. The WiDirect product line makes that a reality; putting the safety of the network on the forefront and helping the network operators run their business with ease and peace of mind.

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