

# Customer Experience



Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO)

Non Departmental Public Body choose the flexible Critical 'Copper' TAP range to deploy monitoring and IDS solutions.

## CUSTOMER NEEDS

- Invisible IDS solution
- Ease of deployment
- Easy network access point
- Seen to be secure
- Easily maintained solution

## SOLUTION COMPONENTS

- Critical 10/100 TAPs
- Critical 100/1000 Combination TAPs
- Checkpoint Firewall
- IDS Probes
- Network Sniffers

## RESULTS

- Secured the network
- Monitor Firewall status
- Flexible solution
- Public confidence in security policies

*“Using the Network Critical TAPs is simplicity itself.”*

**Ken Mann**  
Network Security Manager  
PITO



The vision of the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) is to be a world class provider of information management and communications services and systems for the police and it's other customers. Moreover, to deliver in a high-quality, timely and effective manner.

It's aim is to support the UK police and other criminal justice organisations in reducing crime and in administering justice more effectively by providing information and communication technology solutions, either directly or through contracts with suppliers. The organisation also has a role in getting best value for the police service on the goods and services they buy. This is done through setting up collective procurement arrangements.

PITO is a government agency, or Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), funded by the grant-in-aid and by charges for the services it provides.

When formulating it's network security strategy, PITO decided that the option of using SPAN ports was simply not viable, due to the potential of packet loss, coupled with the possibility of introducing a single point of failure. As one of the key requirements for the organisation was to implement a flexible solution that allowed them to gain immediate

## ABOUT PITO

- PITO is a Home Office executive non-departmental body
- Founded in 1998
- Overseen by a board that draws its members from:
  - Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)
    - Police Authorities
    - Home Office
    - the Scottish Executive
    - Independent members
- PITO delivers national systems as part of a drive towards integrated policing

*“The early adoption of Critical TAPs by PITO as part of their IDS deployment, has not only highlighted the flexibility of the products but also the many associated benefits to our customers”*

Alastair Hartrup  
Managing Director  
Network Critical Solutions Ltd

access to the network, the decision was taken that ‘Tapping technology’ needed to be the utilised as part of the solution. As a result they selected Network Critical TAPs as the key facilitator within the overall internal IDS deployment.

### Security by Obscurity

As a non Departmental Public Body it is very important that PITO are seen by the public to be secure and this need led them to select a solution that allowed for not only the simple deployment of their chosen security application, but one that was also none intrusive and easily maintained. It was also vital that the security solution remained “invisible” to potential threats. In choosing Critical 10/100 and 100/1000 TAPs PITO was able to match all their specific criteria and gain what is described by the organisation as “security by obscurity”.

### Simplicity Itself

When asked about the immediate benefits of using the Critical TAPs Kenn Mann, Network Security Manager for PITO, said “By integrating TAPs into the network’s perimeter points at an early stage we have gained maximum flexibility in connecting security devices without disrupting the smooth running of the services we provide to our users. Using them is simplicity itself.”

Looking to the future, the organisation has selected a range of Critical Gigabit TAPs to match both the current and future capabilities of the IDS solution, as it is deployed into other areas of the business.



*Providing the MissingLINK™*

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