

Brochure

**VIAVI**

## **Observer nTAPs**

Superior Visibility. Superior Result.

### **Need Access to Network Traffic without Disrupting Data Flow? Add an Observer® nTAP™.**

A high-quality nTAP is a passive splitting mechanism installed between a device and the network. It is the smart choice for feeding analyzers, monitoring tools, and security devices, while decreasing the risk of dropped data. Its compact design lets you maximize efficiency and make the most out of limited space.

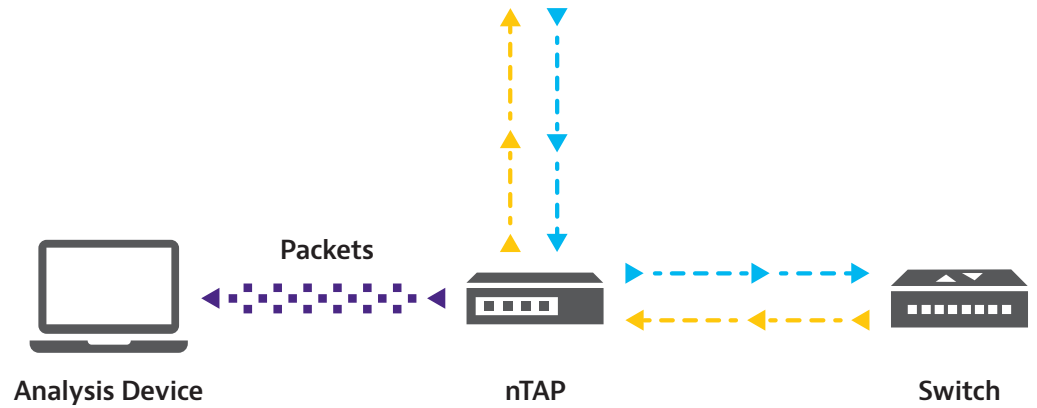
#### **Benefits**

- Easy to deploy and economical to implement
- Provides important devices with better visibility
- Available in a variety of options to fit business needs

## Differences between SPAN Ports and nTAPs

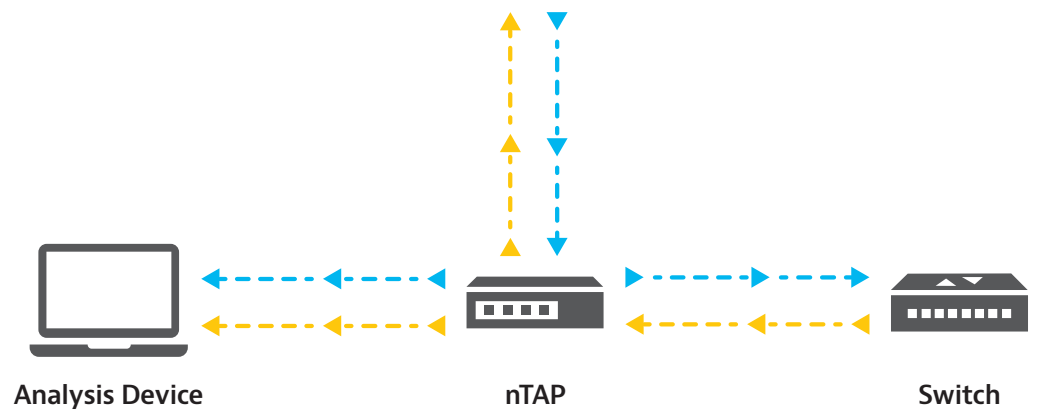
### SPAN

- Hardware and media errors are dropped
- RX TX copied into one TX signal
- If utilization exceeds the SPAN link capacity, packets are dropped



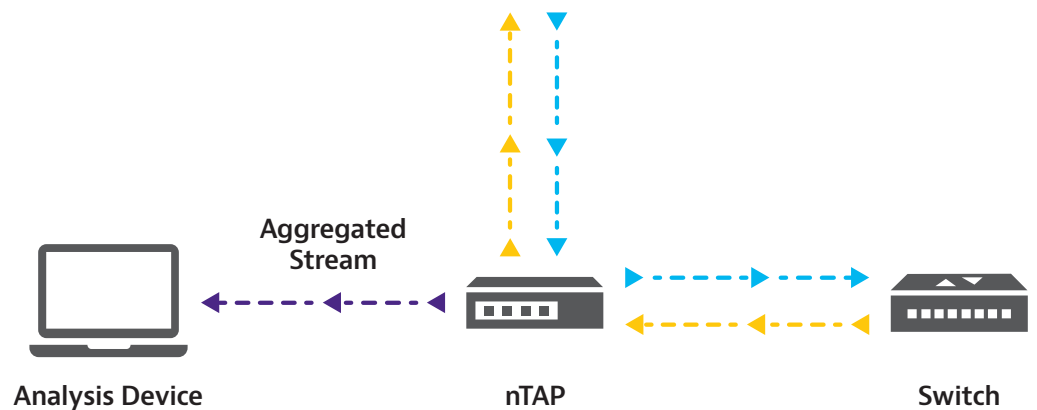
### Full-Duplex nTAP

- TX and RX signals delivered on separate ports
- Captures everything on the wire, including MAC and media errors
- Guarantees complete delivery of packets even when the network is saturated



### Aggregator nTAP

- TX and RX signals are joined together and delivered on one link
- Captures everything on the wire, including MAC and media errors
- Suggested for networks with low-to-moderate bandwidth utilization



## Types of nTAPs

nTAPs come in a variety of options and are simple to deploy, economical to implement, and ideal for organizations using analysis tools such as forensic appliances, network analyzers, route monitoring devices, and intrusion detection and prevention systems.

### Copper nTAPs

Install nTAPs on 10/100 Mbps or 1 G copper links for quick, anytime access to network traffic. Depending on your network, choose 10/100 or 10/100/1000 copper nTAPs to send perfect copies of critical traffic to network analyzers, remote monitoring appliances, forensics tools, and similar dual-receive devices.



### Aggregator nTAPs

Install aggregator nTAPs on 10/100 Mbps or 1 G links. Designed for low-to-moderate utilization full-duplex links, aggregator nTAPs merge data into single streams for transmission to one or two single-receive analysis devices. Industry-leading buffer sizes offer less likelihood of lost packets than SPAN ports to ensure critical traffic reaches analyzers, remote monitoring appliances, and forensics tools.



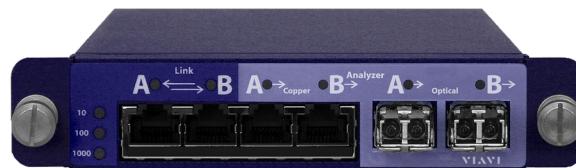
### Optical nTAPs

Install nTAPs on 1/10 G single or multimode optical links. Depending on your needs, choose an optical nTAP that connects to one, two, or three full-duplex links to send perfect copies of critical traffic to network analyzers, remote monitoring appliances, forensics tools, and similar dual-receive devices. LC connections allow for high-density installations.



### Conversion nTAPs

Install conversion nTAPs on 10/100 Mbps or 1 G links. When analyzers and similar monitoring devices communicate over different topologies than the network, optical-to-copper or copper-to-optical nTAPs bridge the gap. Conversion nTAPs send perfect copies of critical traffic to network analyzers, remote monitoring appliances, forensics tools, and similar dual-receive devices. For single-receive devices, aggregator conversion nTAPs merge full-duplex links into single streams for transmission to one or two single-receive analysis devices.



## nTAP Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Does an nTAP require power?**

**A:** Any nTAP with copper connections to the network or analyzer will require power to copy the data stream and send it to the monitoring device. However, the data stream continues to pass through the nTAP to the network even if power to the nTAP fails.

“Pure” optical nTAPs (fiber in and out) require no power to operate.

### **Q: Will nTAPs drop packets?**

**A:** It depends on the nTAP and the environment. Full-duplex nTAPs will not drop packets but require that the analyzer attached be capable of receiving two feeds from the TAP.

Aggregator nTAPs can drop packets if the receive capacity of the analyzer is less than the amount of traffic coming in from the network.

### **Q: What split ratio Do I need when deploying an optical nTAP?**

**A:** If all devices between the connections are within 30 meters of the nTAP, a 50/50 split ratio is ideal. While we recommend that you always test the strength of your optical signal with a meter, for longer hauls it may be necessary to choose a split ratio that diverts more of the signal to the distant device.

For more information about our family of nTAP products, visit [viavisolutions.com](https://viavisolutions.com).



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