

Enhancing Application and Security Assurance for VMware NSX Environments

NSX edition of vSCOUT with nGeniusONE Use Cases

- Maintain application continuity with NSX edition of vSCOUT™ by reducing the mean time to resolve (MTTR) application problems before they become business affecting.
- Monitor and analyze east-west traffic and changes associated with vMotion.
- View performance of applications and user experience while validating that micro-segmentation security controls have been properly implemented.
- Understand the dependencies of an application and baseline its performance.
- Gaining holistic visibility of application health in hybrid environments including VMware® Cloud for AWS, VMware, VMware NSX, and non-virtualized legacy servers and networks.

“The NSX edition of vSCOUT is an exciting addition to NETSCOUT’s smart data offering. The agentless integration with NSX provides seamless and unparalleled visibility into the performance of applications for both north-south and east-west traffic.”

Enterprise Network Director,
Financial Services Company



Delivering Application Visibility in NSX Environments

The challenges of digital transformation are driving enterprises to seek new levels of operational efficiency, business process agility and security in their essential business applications and services. NSX is VMware’s innovative Software Defined Data Center (SDDC) solution that delivers simplified management, micro-segmentation security, provisioning agility and enhanced data center economics. With NSX, networks can be programmatically managed and provisioned on demand, resulting in improved service velocity, enhanced security, and rapid disaster recovery.

It is essential to maintain the performance of applications and services across any SDDC environment, including VMware NSX. IT personnel must quickly resolve issues that arises (Mean-Time-to-Resolution – MTTR), and in many cases prove it is NOT an NSX issue at all (Mean-Time-to-Innocence – MTTI). This challenge is further compounded by the complexity of enterprise multi-cloud strategies and the wide variety of network, application, infrastructure and security issues that can impact services across the SDDC environment.

Enterprise organizations have depended on wire-based, application layer-7 visibility for service and security assurance capabilities in their legacy data centers, and require the same visibility in their SDDC environments. Pinpointing the root cause of disruptions in SDDC can be significantly delayed if IT staff lack economical visibility or are using inefficient point tools, especially across a complex service delivery path.

NETSCOUT’s NSX Edition of vSCOUT for VMware

NETSCOUT® has developed a revolutionary solution to extend the power of NETSCOUT’s Adaptive Service Intelligence™ (ASI) wire data analysis technology beyond traditional data centers and north-south traffic into virtualized environments, to provide deep insights into east-west traffic. The NSX edition of vSCOUT (or simply vSCOUT) delivers the same rich ASI intelligence directly into the heart of an organization’s mission critical VMware NSX, that customers have leveraged in their cloud and legacy environments. The smart data provided by the vSCOUT is consumed by NETSCOUT’s proven nGeniusONE® Service Assurance platform to deliver smart analytics to address the most challenging application and service assurance issues.

vSCOUT combined with the nGeniusONE platform delivers unrivaled visibility into business services along with contextual workflows to speed problem resolution, making the solution both easy for a Level 1 responder to use and powerful for an expert to operate. Rather than looking at individual elements in isolation, the nGeniusONE solution offers an overarching view into the performance characteristics of applications and user experience while validating that micro-segmentation security controls have been properly implemented. These views expose underlying service dependencies that help IT teams to more effectively manage health, availability, security and user experience issues across NSX deployments.

- vSCOUT provides smart data for views and analysis in the nGeniusONE platform which is designed to scale to the needs of the world’s largest enterprises and service providers.
- The NSX edition of vSCOUT provides affordable monitoring of east-west IP traffic in SDDC environments to augment existing north-south traffic data analysis with InfiniStreamNG™ appliances enterprise-wide.
- Easy to deploy and easy to manage, the NSX edition of vSCOUT will seamlessly adapt to an organization’s security policy and strategy.

ABOUT NETSCOUT

NETSCOUT Systems is a leading provider of business assurance, a powerful combination of service assurance, cybersecurity, and business intelligence solutions with a focus on protecting digital business services against disruptions in availability, performance, and security. As a visionary and committed VMware partner, NETSCOUT has the experience and resources to help organizations migrate to VMware NSX environments and minimize the disruptions that can come with digital transformation.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

In order to deploy the VMware NSX edition of vSCOUT agent v. 6.0.1 or 6.1, the following is required:

- NSX 6.2 with vSphere 5.5 or 6.0
- NSX 6.3 with vSphere 6.0 or 6.5
- NSX 6.4 with vSphere 6.7

Unique Innovation for East-West (App) Visibility

Only NETSCOUT can leverage the power of wire data through its patented ASI technology. The NSX edition of vSCOUT is unique in delivering application visibility and assurance directly from the hypervisor. nGeniusONE, with industry-leading support for more than 1000 voice, video and data applications, uses smart data from vSCOUT to pinpoint the source of application disruptions impacting the user community.

vSCOUT in combination with the nGeniusONE platform:

- Reports critical key performance indicators (KPIs) for user experience, application performance, and application and network errors
- Delivers automated Service Dependency mapping that exposes the connectivity between applications, servers and users
- Provides Service Dashboard rollups of application performance
- Continues reporting on application behavior regardless of virtual machine / container location or movement
- Provides continuous monitoring and trending of data in customizable reports for use by IT staff and business stakeholders

How it Works

The NSX edition of vSCOUT is a service virtual machine (SVM) that can be installed on every hypervisor in a VMware cluster and leverages the NSX NetX API to process copies of packets flowing into and out of VMs on the same ESX host (see Figure 1).

Packet forwarding to the NSX edition of vSCOUT is simple and easily controlled using an NSX security group. Any VM that belongs to the vSCOUT security group will automatically be monitored by it. NSX provides various means of defining membership rules for security groups, and using a security group to control packet forwarding allows IT to align their application visibility and assurance with their security policies and practices.

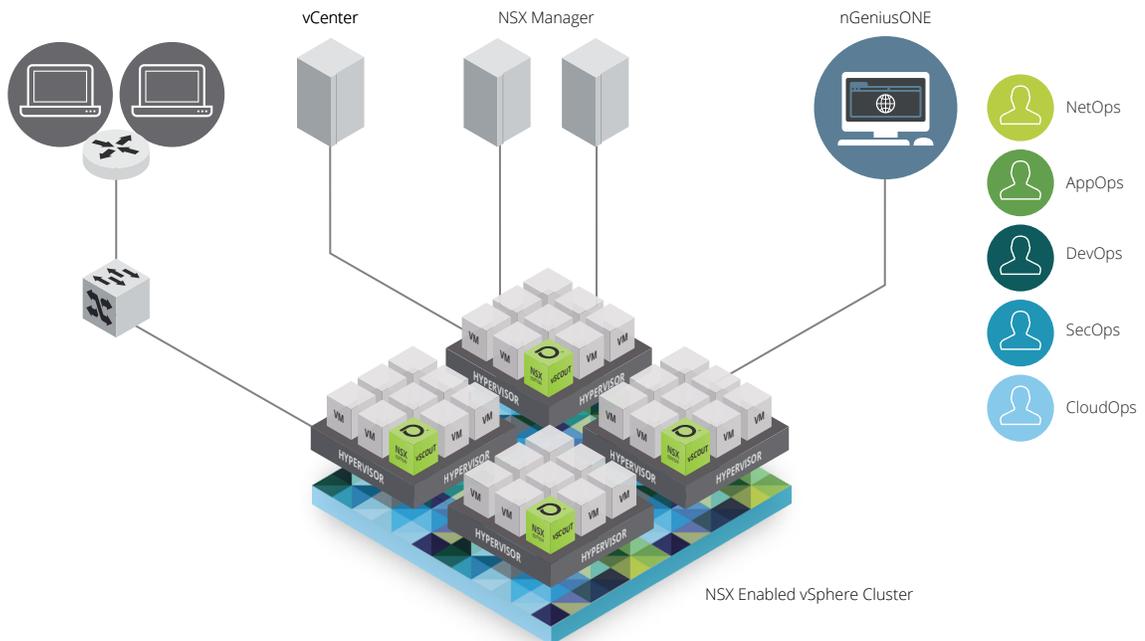


Figure 1: NSX Edition of vSCOUT with nGeniusONE Service Assurance platform which improves collaboration among all members of the IT team from NetOps to DevOps, AppOps, SecOps and CloudOps.

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(if you don't know the URL of your VSX company please email vsxalliance@vmware.com for assistance)

The analysis performed locally by ASI in the NSX edition of vSCOUT generates KPIs for correlation and presentation in nGeniusONE. This has the benefit of avoiding over-burdening the network with added load from sending copies of packets to external data sources.

If direct access to wire data is required, vSCOUT can be configured to forward copies of the server's packets to a NETSCOUT vSTREAM™ virtual appliance or InfiniStreamNG for full ASI functionality including real-time views of sessions, conversation details, end-to-end call-trace data, and packet storage and analysis.

Key Benefits

- Achieve faster more dependable provisioning for applications deployed in the NSX environment with smart data and smart analytics from the NSX edition of vSCOUT and the nGeniusONE platform.
- Bridge the collaboration and knowledge gap between application, server and network operations teams as they operate in the VMware NSX, cloud and legacy environments.
- Quick time to value with easy to deploy and easy to manage approach; the NSX edition of vSCOUT will seamlessly adapt to an organization's security policy and strategy.
- Solve problems rapidly and economically with more complete visibility into East-West as well as North-South traffic.
- Reduce complexity and manual tasks with agentless architecture that operates independently of the application virtual machines being monitored.



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