

Enabling NAC and Network-based Authentication

Great Bay Software Inc.

As Enterprise companies begin to investigate the deployment of NAC and network-based authentication solutions, they are quickly presented with a significant challenge, the identification of each endpoint system. Through the use of Endpoint Profiling, Great Bay Software's Beacon system identifies all network attached endpoints, including those that are not capable of authenticating, by type and location, providing the network administrator with the information necessary to deploy and manage the authenticated network. The Beacon system delivers a number of significant benefits to Enterprise companies including:

- ❖ **Reduced Risk** – Increases the opportunity for a successful deployment by providing a set of tools to deploy and administer the authentication-enabled network
- ❖ **Cost Savings** – Eliminates months of work to discover the type and location of all network attached endpoints
- ❖ **Comprehensive** – Provides a solution for securing all company-owned assets
- ❖ **Change Control** – Facilitates adds, moves, and changes in the authenticated network
- ❖ **Compliance** – Provides a historical and real-time view of all network attached endpoints by type, location, and behavior

Beacon facilitates the timely deployment of NAC and solutions that rely on network-based authentication by providing the network administrator with the tools required to accurately configure all network edge ports leading up to deployment, and provides a framework for managing the authenticated network following deployment.

Endpoint Profiling for the Enterprise

Great Bay Software's Beacon system introduces the concept of Endpoint Profiling as a mechanism to facilitate the deployment of NAC and network-based authentication by discovering and managing the location and type of all LAN attached endpoints.

The Beacon system not only streamlines the deployment of NAC, it also provides a system to facilitate several administrative tasks in the NAC-enabled network including Adds, Moves, and Changes, location of non-compliant devices, discovery of unmanaged endpoints, and quick location of endpoints in situations such as helpdesk calls, security events, policy violations, and asset tracking.



Features and Benefits

- ❖ **Reduced Risk** – Increasing the opportunity for a successful deployment.
- ❖ **Cost Savings** – Eliminates months of work discovering all network attached endpoints
- ❖ **Comprehensive** – Provides a solution for securing all company-owned assets
- ❖ **Change Control** – Facilitates adds, moves, and changes in the authenticated network
- ❖ **Compliance** – Provides a historical and real-time view of all network attached endpoints

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Beacon's Endpoint Profiling works by aggregating information from a number of sources including:

- ❖ Inference-based discovery
- ❖ Network traffic analysis
- ❖ Network topology comprehension
- ❖ Network infrastructure communication

Each network attached device type is determined and aligned with the location of the device to provide a complete picture of the network attached endpoints. In addition, because the system is cognizant of the authentication process, Beacon also provides visibility into the machines and people that have authenticated to the network, their location, and their history of network usage. Also, by providing contextual information to security and events management systems, Beacon helps monitor and manage anomalies related to authentication such as port swapping and profile changes.

Managing the Authentication Life-cycle

Beacon manages the entire lifecycle of the authenticated network from deployment to ongoing administration. In addition, the information provided by Beacon to other management systems provides a more robust management framework for events management, contextual views of the IT system and the security profile for the Enterprise.



For more information

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Deployment

Beacon facilitates the deployment of network-based authentication and NAC by providing a contextual understanding of all network attached endpoints. This information is used to provide the ability to configure the entire network from one view or to utilize the system as a repository for all network endpoints, most notably those that must be accommodated outside of the NAC/802.1X system

Administration

Beacon provides a framework for managing the administrative tasks that are unique to the authenticated network such as accommodating adds, moves, and changes, device verification, and asset tracking. In addition, the system monitors the behavior of the endpoints and can alert if a device or MAC address is compromised

NIS/SIM Integration

There are a number of notable events unique to the authenticated network. Beacon provides a view into these events by aggregating data regarding the historical and real time attributes of an endpoint and relaying those events to the Enterprise NMS or SIM. In addition, the contextual information such as device type, location, and history is complimentary to SIM systems that reside at aggregate points in the network.

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