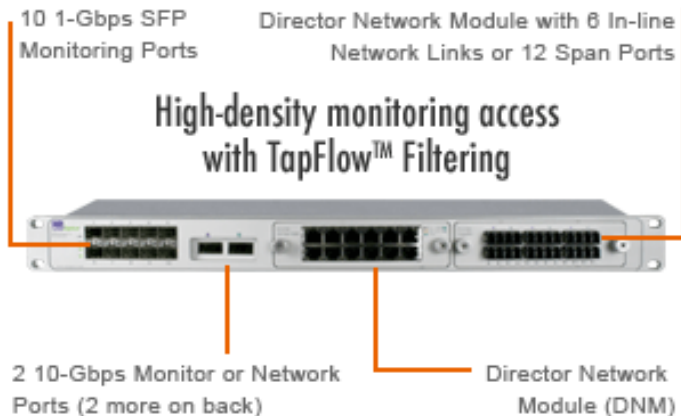


Director™



TapFlow™ Filtering

High-speed, multi-protocol aggregated traffic streams can be challenging for monitoring tools to handle. Often tools use front-end pre-filters simply to strip off traffic-of-interest, such as VoIP traffic for a VoIP performance analysis tool, while discarding the rest of the packets. This simple-sounding operation can consume a significant amount of a tool's processing power because it must handle every single packet on the wire. Director gives monitoring tools these precious processing cycles back because TapFlow does the pre-filtering job for them, selecting traffic by protocol type, IP addresses, port numbers, and even packet payload information, and sending each tool only the traffic of interest it needs to see. For example, Director sends only VoIP packets to the VoIP tool, so the tool spends all of its resources on the job it was designed for, analyzing VoIP traffic. As a result, tools can handle more traffic than before, perhaps becoming capable of monitoring a half-dozen aggregated links when, without Director, it was challenged to keep up with a single link.

