# Network Management
The Mettle SE Method

Design Philosophy

Mettle SE is designed to be the hub of your IT infrastructure. Each component in Mettle SE is full-fledged and is capable of playing respective roles in full scale. Implementing Mettle SE in your organisation helps you to adopt Networking Best Practices. This means that your organisation will have an enterprise-grade IT infrastructure from day one as opposed to the "evolution model" which will take longer time to reach the desired quality for the IT enabled services (or never reach at all).
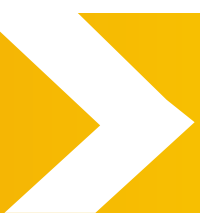
The Vital Support for IT Infrastructure

Mettle SE is being adopted by organisations which count IT infrastructure as a major component of their business system. Technical teams working in various industries appreciate its versatility in meeting various requirements, and its flexibility in integrating it with existing components. Mettle SE is deployed at ISPs, financial services providers, television & media sectors, R&D institutions/universities and business houses. When implemented, your organisation too can follow the adoption of best practices, and maintain a very high quality IT infrastructure. This network management platform is designed to provide very high reliability with predictable performance.

Popular Features/Functions of Mettle SE

Router: Mettle SE comes with a full-fledged router that supports RIPv2, RIPng, OSPF and BGP4+.

Firewall: Stateful packet inspection firewall in Mettle SE allows you to have all layer-3/4 firewalling requirements.

Multiple ISP/WAN links: More than one ISP/WAN links can be terminated at Mettle SE.

ISP bandwidth aggregation: Mettle SE can aggregate available bandwidth from all ISP links and make it available to the LAN. For example, if there are two ISP links with 2mbps each, Mettle SE can combine them, and the LAN will get 4mbps effectively.

Automatic ISP Link load balancing and fail-over: Mettle SE automatically distributes the load across all available ISP links. If any of the links go down, that link will be automatically taken out of the load balancing pool. When the link comes back, it will be added to the pool without any human intervention.

ISP/WAN Link monitoring and capacity planning: Mettle SE comes with a real-time traffic monitoring tool. This will display, in real time, the traffic which is going through the ISP link. This tool can be used for monitoring the usage, verify ISP quality and perform trouble shooting.

Web content scanning and policy enforcement: Every organisation has a policy regarding web usage. This mainly contains a statement regarding the web sites that users are not supposed to visit. Mettle SE helps to enforce this policy transparently (without any participation from the end user). More over, different groups with various privileges can be defined regarding the time slots they are allowed use the Internet, list of sites they are allowed (or not allowed) to visit, etc.

Web Usage Report Generation: Detailed web usage reports are available with Mettle SE. The reports help system administrators to find out which are the most visited web sites, who are the heavy web users, etc.

Authenticated Internet: Normally Internet is provided with open access. With Mettle SE, you can provide Internet based on a user name and password. This will bring in responsibility among users as they can be held accountable for their usage. More over, this helps to provide Internet access to a privileged user, irrespective of his/her location in the office LAN.

Gateway Anti-virus: Majority of virus and trojans enter office LAN from the Internet. Mettle SE has a very effective Gateway anti-virus component which scans entire web traffic and stops virus infected objects that come by. Anti-virus signatures are updates several times a day.

Zero recurring cost: With Mettle SE, anti-virus signatures are free of any subscription. There is no recurring cost for the continued use of it.

VLAN segmentation and LAN management: Segmenting a campus LAN into various VLANs is the first step of creating a manageable LAN. Mettle SE is IEEE 802.11q tagged VLAN-aware. Through VLAN segmentation you can take control over inter VLAN communication and routing.

VPN: It is often required to connect back to the office LAN from a remote location. Mettle SE provides four types of VPN technologies to choose from. Choose any of PPTP, IPSec, PPPoE, or SSLVAN to suit your requirement.

DMZ: If your organisation is planning to host any server to be accessed from public network (Internet), Mettle SE provides an easy and secure mechanism to do this. At the same time you make your servers accessible from out side, you will able to set firewall rules and IDP/IPS to examine the traffic to ensure that only allowed traffic is passing through.

IDS/IPS: This is the industry-standard pro-active technique for trapping a network activity with malicious intentions. This components in Mettle SE examines the network traffic which is passing through. The IDS component of Mettle SE comes with nearly 9000 pre-loaded traffic patterns.

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