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Network Instruments Releases Full Duplex Probe Appliance

New 1U Rack Mount System Built to Passively Monitor and Maintain 10/100 Full Duplex Links at Wire-Speed

August 10, 2004 – Minneapolis, MN – Network Instruments LLC, the industry leading developer of distributed, user-friendly, and affordable network management, analysis and troubleshooting solutions, today released the new Full Duplex Probe Appliance specifically designed to passively monitor and maintain 10/100 Full Duplex links at wire-speed. The 1U system is rack mountable and utilizes a 100Mb Full Duplex TAP to ensure complete, passive analysis. With the new Full-Duplex Probe, IT administrators can eliminate the dependence on a SPAN or mirror port, reduce switch load and ensure data integrity.

“The Network Instruments Full Duplex Probe Appliance is a more effective, more efficient method of monitoring full-duplex links and eliminates three major drawbacks of using a SPAN or mirror port,” said Paul Georgeson, Senior Hardware Engineer for Network Instruments. “First, the port has to aggregate both directions of the conversation into a single stream to port to the analyzer. If total utilization exceeds 50% or 100Mb, packets can disappear inside the switch. Second, the SPAN port puts an additional and unnecessary load on the switch. Third, if the switch becomes too busy with its primary tasks, the analyzer port receives a lower priority and delivers packets incorrectly. In this case, what looks to be a problem, may not even be an issue. With the Network Instruments Full Duplex Probe, data integrity and load is never a concern.”

The Full Duplex Probe Appliance works with the award-winning Observer console to offer detailed views of full-duplex links, with over 30 real-time statistics, packet captures, and a complete Expert Analysis system with over 500 Expert events. Real-time statistics include total and individual link bandwidth utilization, top talkers, and VLAN analysis. The Appliance also decodes over 500 protocols, includes support for the industry’s largest memory buffer (4GB), and offers nanosecond resolution. This hardware unit contains the new Network Instruments Advanced Expert Probe software to perform packet captures and Expert data processing at the probe, greatly reducing network analyzer traffic. By incorporating the 100Mb Full Duplex TAP, IT administrators can insert and remove the appliance without any disruption to the network.

“At Network Instruments our family of remote probe appliances continues to grow – in fact, this is our third new hardware probe this year,” said Douglas Smith, president of Network Instruments. “The Full Duplex Probe was built at the request of many of our smaller enterprise level customers needing a solution built specifically for 10/100 links. With the addition of the Full Duplex Probe Appliance, Network Instruments has hardware remote monitoring options for every network type, size, and configuration.”

Like all Network Instruments products, the 10/100 Full Duplex Probe is designed utilizing the company’s Distributed Network Analysis (NI-DNA™) architecture. NI-DNA ensures complete scalability and full integration with the Observer console. Pricing for the Full Duplex Probe Appliance begins at \$4995.00 and includes a 100Mb Full Duplex TAP for passive analysis. The Full Duplex Probe Appliance reports to any Expert Observer, Observer Suite or RMON compliant console.

About Network Instruments

Network Instruments is the industry leading developer of distributed, user-friendly, and affordable network management, analysis and troubleshooting solutions. The award-winning Observer family of products combines a comprehensive management and analysis console with high-performance remote Probes to provide integrated monitoring and management for the entire network (LAN, 802.11 a/b/g, Gigabit, WAN). All Network Instruments products are designed utilizing our Distributed Network Analysis (NI-DNA) architecture. With NI-DNA, the Observer solution set simplifies network troubleshooting and management, optimizes network and application performance and scales to meet the needs of any organization. Founded in 1994, Network Instruments is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota with offices in London, Paris and throughout the USA, with distributors in over 50 countries. More information about the company, products, innovation, technology, NI-DNA, becoming a partner and NI University can be found at www.networkinstruments.com.