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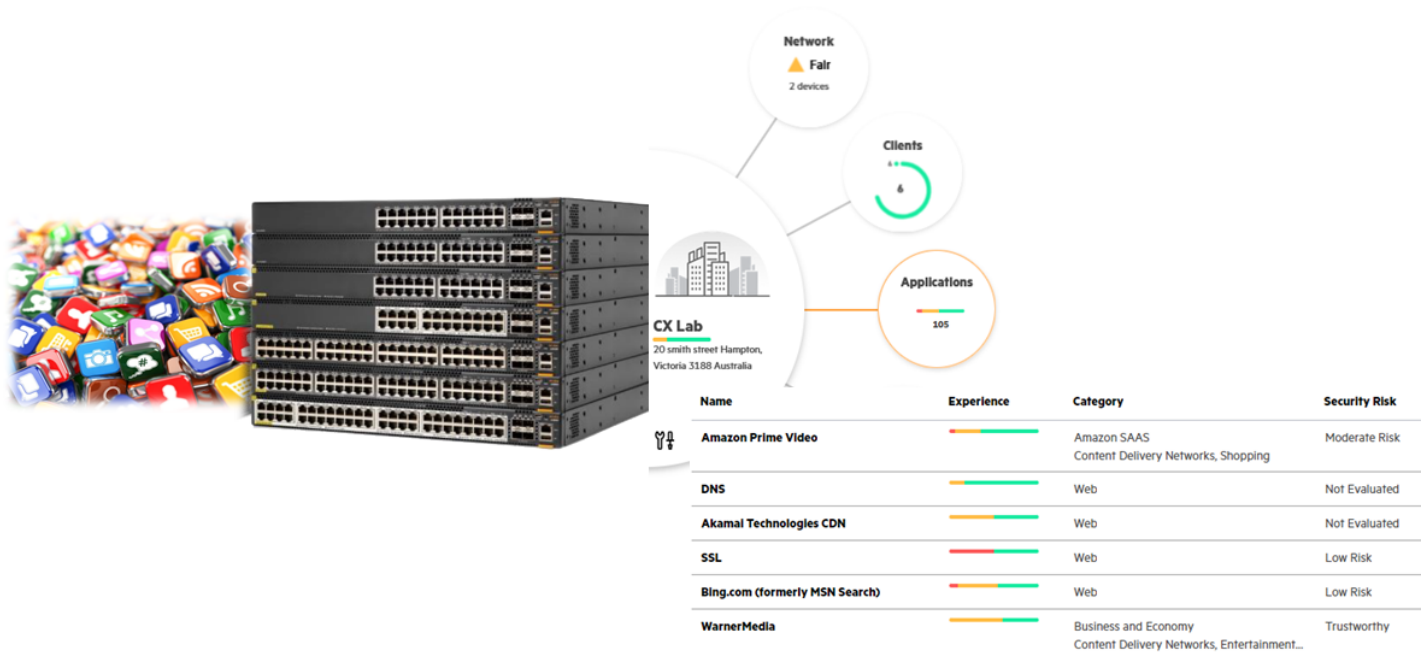
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1.1 Revision History

DATE	VERSION	EDITOR	CHANGES
12 Oct 2024	0.1	Ariya Parsamanesh	Initial creation
20 Oct 2024	0.2	Ariya Parsamanesh	Added application URLs

2 Application Recognition with CX Switches

The Application Recognition and Control (ARC) is a relatively new feature in CX switches in which the switches perform Deep Packet Inspection (DPI) of the user traffic. Once the traffic is identified it then can be monitored and controlled. Currently it is supported on 6300 and 6400 switch series and for the latest iteration of the feature, you need to use 10.14.x firmware. In this technote I'll demonstrate ARC configuration and its application visibility information in New Aruba Central.



The advantages of ARC with Aruba Central are:

- It provides full layer 7 visibility of application (over 3,700) and various categories
- Display of application TLS version and certificate expiry date
- View connection establishment statistics
- Application based policy enforcement
- IPFIX integration to display flow statistics that can be exported to IPFIX collectors.
- Application summary card shows Top Application Categories
- Time travel support to display applications used at specific date and time.

2.1 Things you need

We need the following.

- Aruba 6300 or 6400 CX switches with 10.14.x firmware.
- Aruba Central account as IPFIX collector
- Foundational subscription for the switch.

2.2 Assumptions

- Here the CX switch is already added to Aruba Central account and has a valid subscription.
- The switch is configured for basic connectivity and is managed by Aruba Central.

3 Application Recognition Configuration

ARC feature uses DPI to identify the network apps and provides visibility and statistics to the administrator. The DPI engine runs on each line card in case of 6400 switches or stack member for 6300 series switches. It will process the first few packets of a TCP/UDP flow to identify the application. Even though IPFIX is not required for app-recognition to work, it is needed to report the flow statistics to the network administrator, IPFIX must be enabled since it exports the flow info to external/internal collector.

Traffic Insight (TI) is an internal IPFIX collector that monitors data collected from flow exporters like IPFIX and report. It can track multiple monitor requests simultaneously and displays it in the Switch WebUI and provides that info through APIs that Aruba Central uses.

Note that IPFIX is an open standard that is supported by many networking vendors. Except for a few additional fields added in IPFIX, the formats are nearly identical to Netflow.

Before we start, one should disable the following two feature

- IP Source lockdown – this is used to prevent IP source address spoofing on a per port basis
- IP Source lockdown resource extended – this is used to dynamically extend IP source lockdown hardware resources

It should be noted that, for Application visibility, one just need Aruba Central Foundational subscription for the switches, but Advance subscription is needed for Application control that includes generating client tags and building policies.

3.1 App Recognition Modes

There are two modes, one being the **default** mode and **Fast** mode. The main difference between the two is the number of packets required to recognise the applications. The default mode takes about 6 packets while the fast mode takes about 2 packets which results in 50mSec faster time to recognise an application.

Note that with Fast mode, the following application info will not be captured while it is captured with the default mode.

- TLS attributes
- DNS reason code
- URL

3.2 Port Level App Recognition with Fast Mode

ARC can be enabled on a port level and on a role level. Here are the 6300 configuration you need to enable ARC at port level. Note that One does not enable it on the uplink ports. When using Fast mode, the Application name, category and descriptions are identified.

```
flow-tracking
  enable
!
app-recognition
  enable
  mode fast
!
interface 1/1/4-1/1/5
  description clients-ports
  no shutdown
  no routing
  vlan access 150
  app-recognition enable
exit
```

Here is a quick show command to check if ARC is operational.

[illegible]

ABP Session Limit Exceed Action : Drop New Flows

```
Failure Reason      : flow tracking oper status disabled
```

Interface	User-config	Port-access-config	Oper-status
E1/1/1	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
E1/1/2	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
E1/1/3	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
E1/1/4	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
E1/1/5	Enabled	Disabled	Disabled
E1/1/6	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled

Notice that the operational status is disabled. That is because IP source lockdown is enabled by default that needs to be disabled.

```
primary1-Stack(config-flow-tracking)# enable
```

```
primary1-Stack(config-flow-tracking) #
```

```
primary1-Stack(config)# no ip source-lockdown resource-extended
```

```
primary1-Stack(config-flow-tracking)# enable
```

Let's check ARC again and this time, its operation status is enabled as shown below.

Application Recognition Global Configuration

```
Operational status      : Enabled
```

```
Operational Mode      : Fast
```

Application Recognition Port Configuration

Interface	User-config	Port-access-config	Oper-status
1/1/1	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
1/1/2	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
1/1/3	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
1/1/4	Enabled	Disabled	Enabled
1/1/5	Enabled	Disabled	Enabled
1/1/6	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled

One can check the feature pack that indicates that we can use Application based Policy and recognition.

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=====

Feature	Subscription Status	Feature Status
Application Based Policy	active	allowed
Audio Video Bridging	active	unsupported on SKU
Application Recognition	active	allowed
MACsec extensions for WAN	active	allowed
Reflexive Policies for Port Access GBP Clients	active	allowed
Reflexive Policies for Port Access Clients	active	allowed

Now a client (10.150.0.46) is connected to interface 1/1/5, the flows should be visible with “show ip flow” command.

[illegible]

```
primary1-Stack#
```

HPE **Aruba** **Central**

SITE

CX Lab

Network and connectivity information about this site.

Network

▲ Fair
1 device

Clients

1

Applications

0

CX Lab

20 smith street Hampton,
Victoria 3188 Australia

Applications

Any (0) Applications (0) Websites (0)

Search

0 items

Name	Category	Security Risk	Usage
No data to display			

3.3 IPFIX and Traffic Insight Configuration

As explained in the previous section, we need to configure IPFIX so that the flow information is available to Aruba Central using the API. To summarise

- ARC is applied and enabled on client-facing ports
- IPFIX is enabled for both client-facing and uplink ports
- IPFIX export app information and details to Traffic Insight which is an internal IPFIX collector

Traffic Insight supports 5 monitor types for 6300 CX switches: raw flows, topN flows, application-flows, DNS onboarding latency and DNS average latency.

Here we are creating the following monitors for traffic insight TI-01 profile, note that we have two TopN flows and that TopN-2 is “group-by” app-id. We’ll see the difference in the show output commands. Finally you can have a maximum of 5x monitors defined in a traffic-insight like we do have here.

```
traffic-insight TI-01
  enable
  source ipfix
  monitor TopN-1 type topN-flows entries 20
  monitor TopN-2 type topN-flows entries 20 group-by appid
  monitor apps type application-flows
  monitor dns-avg-latency type dns-average-latency
  monitor dns-ob-latency type dns-onboarding-latency
```

You should note that there are three parts to Flow command

1. Flow Exporter >>
2. Flow Record >>
3. Flow Monitor

The flow Exporter and flow Record gets referenced in the flow Monitor which then gets applied to the interfaces. Then it is the flow Exporter that references Traffic Insight (internal IPFIX collector) that displays the information.

```
flow exporter app-vis-export
  description Export app data to central insight
  destination type traffic-insight
  destination traffic-insight TI-01
  template data timeout 30
  transport udp 2055 <<<<< you don't need this but gets added to the config

flow record app-vis-record
  description Record ipv4 flows for app visibility
  match ipv4 protocol
  match ipv4 version
  match ipv4 destination address
  match ipv4 source address
  match transport destination port
  match transport source port
  collect application name
  collect application dns response-code
  collect forwarding-status
  collect application https url
  collect application tls-attributes
  collect counter bytes
  collect counter packets
  collect timestamp absolute first
  collect timestamp absolute last

flow monitor app-vis-monitor
  cache timeout active 30
  exporter app-vis-export
  record app-vis-record
```

Now we have to apply the flow monitor app-vis-monitor to our uplinks and client access interfaces as shown below.

```

interface lag 256
  description to-core-sw
  no shutdown
  no routing
  ip flow monitor app-vis-monitor in
  vlan trunk native 1
  vlan trunk allowed all
  lacp mode active

interface 1/1/4-1/1/5
  no shutdown
  no routing
  vlan access 150
  app-recognition enable
  ip flow monitor app-vis-monitor in

```

3.4 IPFIX, Traffic Insight and Aruba Central Testing

Once this is done the flow information should get displayed in CLI, the local WebUI of the switch and Aruba Central. We'll start with the output of the CLI commands which you can execute using remote console through Aruba Central.

```

primary1-Stack# show traffic-insight TI-01 monitor-type topN-flows TopN-1
Name      : TopN-1
Group By   : None
Entries    : 20
Filter By  : None
Running Statistics Timeout : 600
Dataset    : Running Statistics

```

Rank	srcip	dstip	ipproto	srcport	dstport	appname	Bytes
1	23.199.68.130	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	65353	abc-au	74991092
2	202.7.223.140	10.150.0.46	udp	443	51680	unknown	39219367
3	23.199.70.163	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	49540	akamai	17658164
4	199.232.210.172	10.150.0.46	tcp	80	49705	ms-edge	9982134
5	10.150.0.46	202.7.223.140	udp	51680	443	unknown	4825227
6	151.101.1.140	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	49623	reddit	3615832
7	104.97.188.138	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	65396	news-au	1353159
8	10.150.0.46	23.199.68.130	tcp	65353	443	abc-au	1096568
9	216.239.38.120	10.150.0.46	udp	443	58673	google-gen	1092148
10	151.101.129.140	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	49621	reddit	917547
11	142.250.70.206	10.150.0.46	udp	443	52205	google-gen	904636
12	151.101.81.91	10.150.0.46	udp	443	51934	fastly	810995
13	23.60.148.139	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	65403	news-au	776176
14	104.71.131.91	10.150.0.46	udp	443	57848	akamai	729269
15	204.79.197.220	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	49603	bing	681901
16	204.79.197.220	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	49548	bing	668993
17	104.71.131.91	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	49549	microsoft	576709
18	10.150.0.46	34.120.195.249	udp	55839	443	unknown	527923
19	99.86.212.44	10.150.0.46	tcp	443	49246	https	510930
20	142.250.70.230	10.150.0.46	udp	443	59282	google-gen	481372

```

primary1-Stack#

```

Note the difference between the two topN-flows outputs. As stated earlier, TopN-2 is configured with “group-by” appid and here we see it sorted by App Id. This is to illustrate the flexibility of traffic insights.

```

primary1-Stack# show traffic-insight TI-01 monitor-type topN-flows TopN-2
Name      : TopN-2
Group By   : appid
Entries    : 20
Filter By  : None
Running Statistics Timeout : 600

Dataset    : Running Statistics
Rank  appid  Bytes

```

```

1      2537      76195357
2      4         48423797
3      1284      18925604
4      4355      10289007
5      943       5251133
6      1479      4917244
7      2199      2555752
8      68        2415562
9      547       1804050
10     2660      955342
11     2821      833683
12     968       701214
13     2531      547357
14     2652      505734
15     2599      360347
16     2524      348312
17     32        342595
18     1288      324168
19     247       309203
20     2484      262064

```

```
primary1-Stack#
```

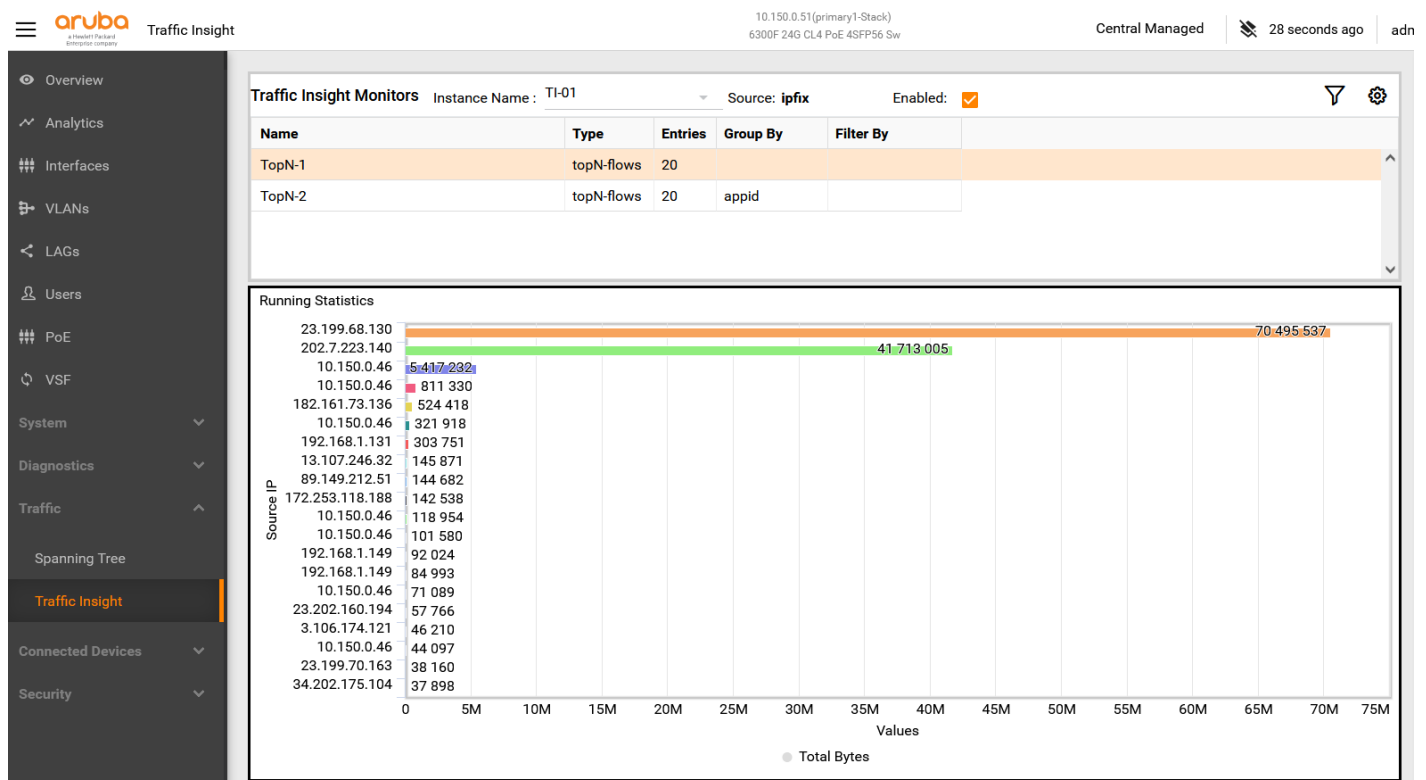
One can also use “filter-by” option either on its own or along with “group-by” like this example.

```

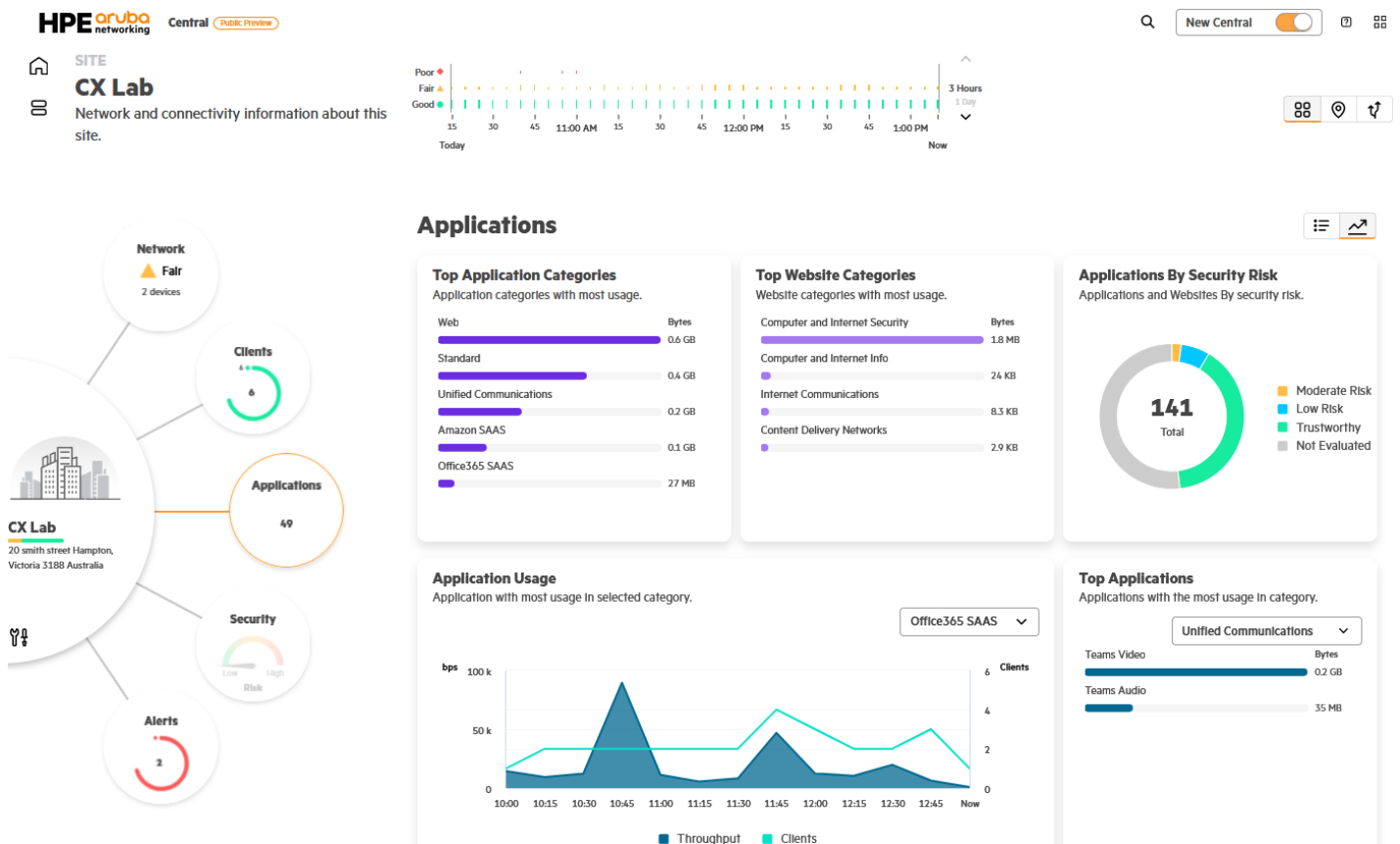
traffic-insight TI-example
enable
source ipfix
monitor mon1-example type topN-flows group-by appid filter-by dstport 443

```

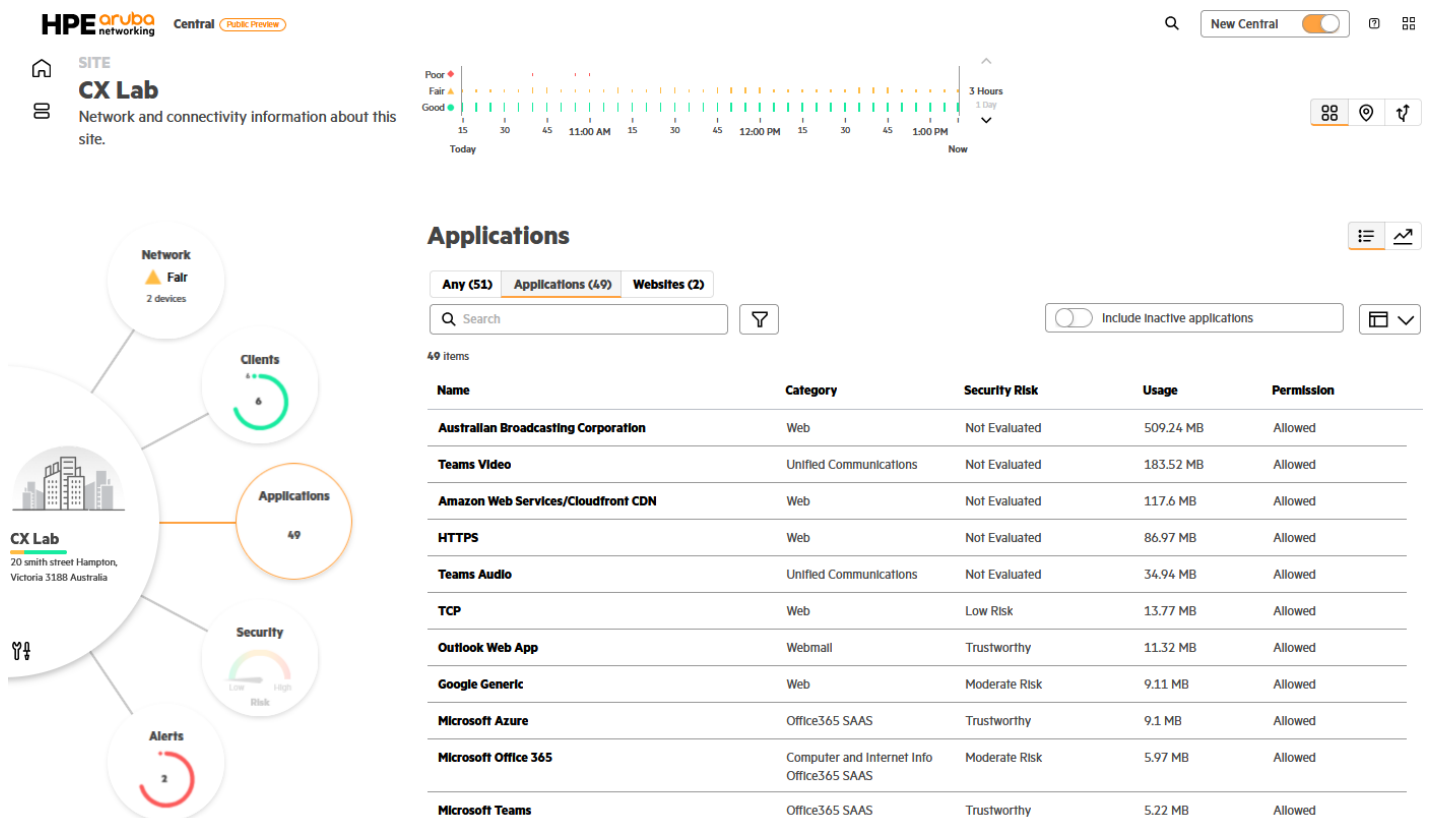
Next we browse to it and after login you need to go to Traffic Insight as shown below.



Soon after this info should also be visible in the New Central.



Note that Web site categories and application security is performed by DPI/WebCC functionalities on APs and gateways and not CX switches. Application Visibility can also be viewed from the Client context. And here is the table view where you can sort and search for specific application, etc.



3.5 Port Level App Recognition with Default mode

Here we'll change the application recognition mode from fast to default. This is so that we can get more information from the DPI than the 5x tuple, like the URL and TLS attributes of the flow.

```
app-recognition
  enable
  mode default
```

With this change we can do a quick check with the following command to ensure it is using default mode.

```
primary1-Stack# sh app-recognition
```

```
Application Recognition Global Configuration
Configuration status      : Enabled
Operational status       : Enabled
ABP Session Limit Exceed Action : Drop New Flows
Operational Mode          : Default
Failure Reason            : NA
```

Application Recognition Port Configuration

[illegible]

Now that we have enabled default mode, we should be able to see the TLS attributes and URLs.

```
primary1-Stack# show traffic-insight TI-01 monitor-type application-flows apps ?
app-details      Shows traffic insight flows with application details.
client-role      Shows role assigned to the client.
denied           Specifies traffic insight flows that are denied
permitted        Specifies traffic insight flows that are permitted
tls-cert-visibility Shows traffic insight flows with application TLS Certificate Visibility.
tls-visibility    Shows traffic insight flows with application TLS Visibility.
url-details      Shows traffic insight flows with application URL details.
```

This is to display the TLS information.

```
primary1-Stack# show traffic-insight TI-01 monitor-type application-flows apps tls-visibility
Name      : apps
Type      : application-flows
```

client_mac	src_ip	dest_ip	app_name	tls_version
next_protocol	bytes (Rx+Tx)			
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	172.172.255.218	microsoft	TLSv1.2
-	28293			
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	10.150.0.255	Unrecognized	-
-	243			
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	52.167.163.114	windows-marketplace	TLSv1.2
HTTP/2	5732			
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	142.251.221.67	google-gen	-
-	9407			
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	89.149.212.51	https	TLSv1.3
-	624246			
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	54.153.189.86	amazon	TLSv1.2
-	130988			
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	54.253.69.181	nielsen	TLSv1.2
HTTP/2	2898			
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	54.174.200.5	amazon	TLSv1.3
-	25333			
<Output removed>				

Total Traffic	: 142927808 (bytes)			

Encrypted Traffic : 142927808 (bytes)
Percentage of Encrypted Traffic : 100.000000

primary1-Stack#

This is to display Server certificate information.

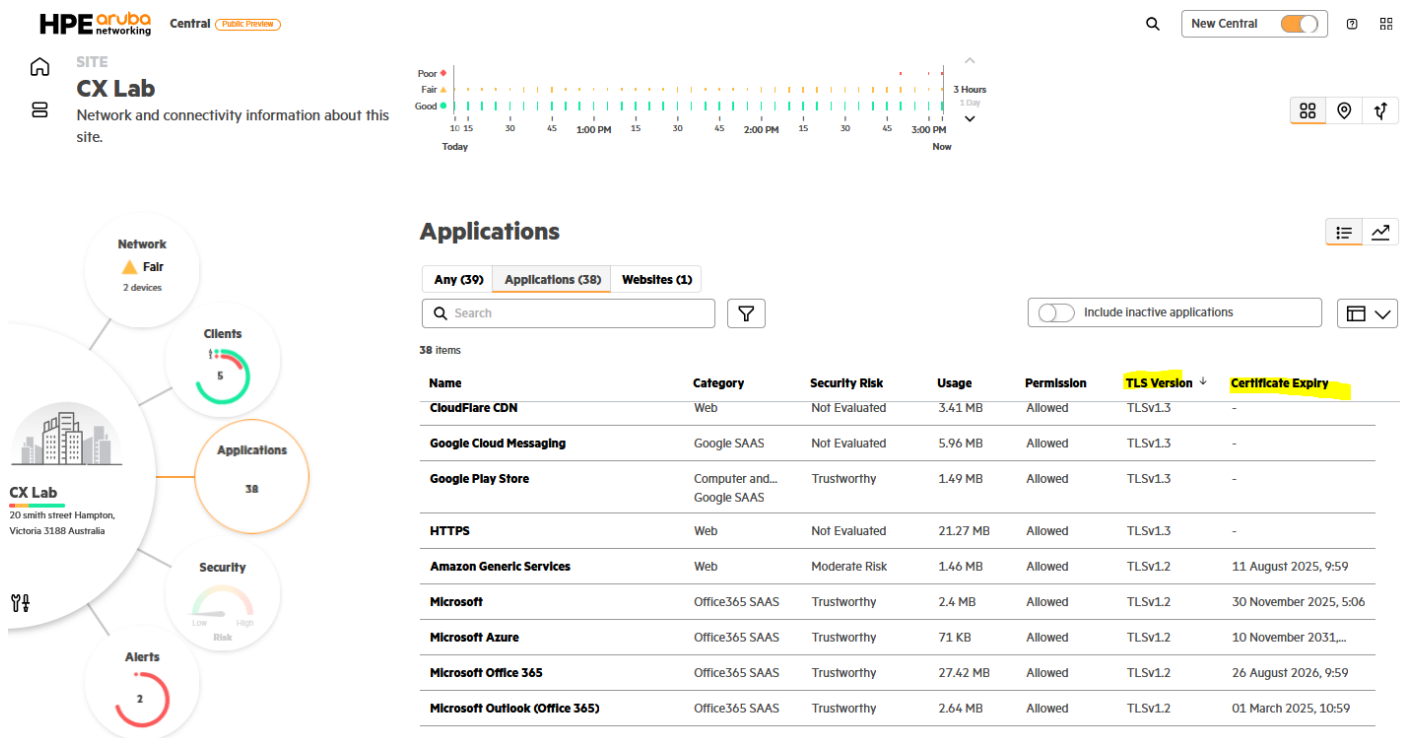
```
primary1-Stack# show traffic-insight TI-01 monitor-type application-flows apps tls-cert-visibility
Name      : apps
Type      : application-flows
```

client_mac	src_ip	dest_ip	app_name	cert_issuer
cert_issued_date	cert_expiry_date			
(DD/MM/YY HH:MM:SS)	(DD/MM/YY HH:MM:SS)			
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	18.155.88.113	amazon	-
-	-	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	104.19.158.19	cloudflare	GlobalSign Root
CA 15/11/23 03:43:21	28/01/28 00:00:42	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	131.253.33.237	bing	-
-	-	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	204.79.197.239	ms-edge	Microsoft Azure
RSA TLS 16/07/24 11:56:27	11/07/25 11:56:27	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	23.34.236.111	news-au	DigiCert TLS RSA
SHA256 06/12/23 00:00:00	05/12/24 23:59:59	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	23.60.148.139	news-au	DigiCert TLS RSA
SHA256 06/12/23 00:00:00	05/12/24 23:59:59	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	34.124.209.251	simpli-fi	DigiCert Global
G2 TLS R 07/11/23 00:00:00	07/12/24 23:59:59	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	69.173.151.100	rubiconproject	DigiCert TLS RSA
SHA256 30/07/24 00:00:00	03/04/25 23:59:59	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	172.64.149.180	cloudflare	-
-	-	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	13.107.21.239	ms-edge	Microsoft Azure
RSA TLS 16/07/24 11:56:27	11/07/25 11:56:27	-	-	-
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	23.34.236.194	pubmatic	DigiCert TLS RSA
SHA256 26/11/23 00:00:00	26/11/24 23:59:59	-	-	-

<Output removed>

primary1-Stack#

Here is the New Central view.



We can also get the geo location of the applications

Customize Columns

Select or re-order columns to narrow down information.

Columns

- ☐ Last Used
- ☒ Permission
- ☐ TLS Version
- ☐ Certificate Expiry
- ☒ Server Location

Reset to Defaults **Cancel** **Apply**

And once you apply the new customised columns, you get the geo locations.

Applications

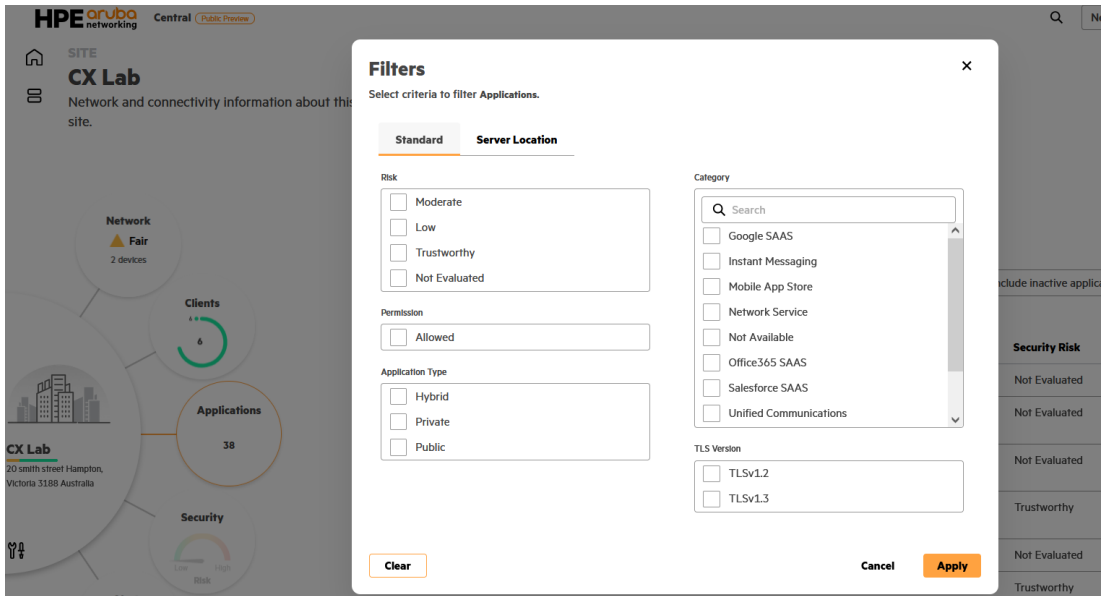
Any (39) Applications (38) Websites (1)

Search

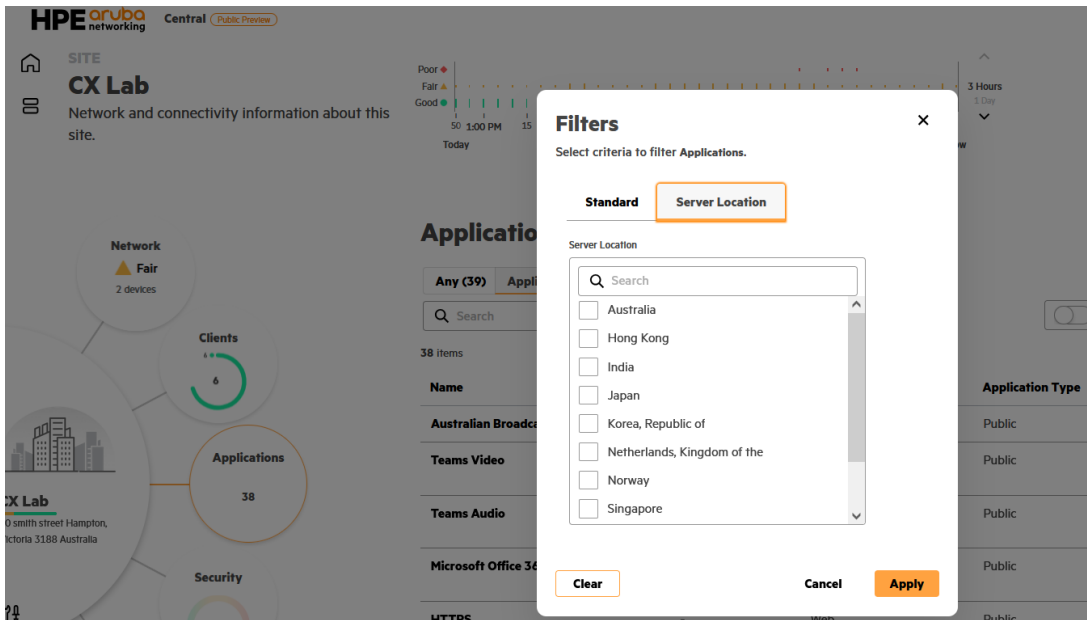
38 items

Name	Server Location	Category	Application Type	Security Risk	Usage	Permission
Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Australia	Web	Public	Not Evaluated	2.18 GB	Allowed
Teams Video	Australia Japan, United...	Unified Communications	Public	Not Evaluated	248.2 MB	Allowed
Teams Audio	Australia Japan, United...	Unified Communications	Public	Not Evaluated	83.02 MB	Allowed

There is also a comprehensive filtering options that gives you 2x options. One Standard and the other based on the application server geo-location. The standard option is shown below



And here is the Server location option that quickly allows you to filter on a specific location.



Finally you need to be aware of the capacities for the exact switch model when you are configuring Traffic Insight. You can use the following command to check.

```
primary1-Stack# show capacities traffic-insight
```

System Capacities: Filter TRAFFIC_INSIGHT	
Capacities Name	Value
Maximum number of Traffic-insight application flow cache entries	75000
Maximum number of Traffic-insight application flow table entries	2000
Maximum number of Traffic-insight instances	1
Maximum number of Traffic-insight monitors	5
Maximum number of Traffic-insight TopN monitor reports	100
Maximum number of Traffic-insight TopN monitor reports per monitor	20
Maximum number of Traffic-insight raw flow cache entries	8000
Maximum number of Traffic-insight raw flow table entries	5000

3.6 Application URLs

To show the URL info we need to use the diagnostic mode with the following CLI commands.

```
diagnostic
diag-dump flow-tracking basic
```

```
primary1-Stack# diagnostic
primary1-Stack# diag-dump flow-tracking basic
```

```
=====
[Start] Feature flow-tracking Time : Mon Oct 7 16:53:47 2024
=====
```

```
-----
[Start] Daemon ipfmd
-----
```

```
=== IPFMD Global data ===
```

```
=====
IPFM Global Configuration : ENABLED
MQTT Publisher Status : CONNECTED
```

```
=== IPFMD Global FLOW Data ===
```

Client MAC	SRC IP	DST IP	SRC Port	Dst Port	Proto	VRF	Agent	State	App Id	App URL
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	192.168.1.131	63470	53	17	1	0	READY	32	ping.chartbeat.net
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	23.60.148.119	10.150.0.46	443	63910	6	1	0	READY	2537	collector.abc.net.au
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	69.173.158.92	49353	443	6	1	0	READY	2527	prebid-server.rubiconproject.com
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	54.153.189.86	49587	443	6	1	0	READY	968	deliver.oztam.com.au
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	142.250.70.238	55027	443	17	1	0	READY	943	
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	192.168.1.131	10.150.0.46	53	63470	17	1	0	READY	32	ping.chartbeat.net
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	192.168.1.131	10.150.0.46	53	61918	17	1	0	READY	32	play.google.com
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	142.250.70.142	57328	443	17	1	0	READY	943	
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	44.207.247.4	10.150.0.46	443	65482	6	1	0	READY	968	ping.chartbeat.net
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	23.199.68.130	65353	443	6	1	0	READY	2537	abc-iview-mediapackagestreams-2.akamaized.net
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	52.167.163.114	63903	443	6	1	0	READY	1111	*.prod.do.dsp.mp.microsoft.com
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	202.7.223.140	51680	443	17	1	0	READY	4	
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	13.107.5.93	63906	443	6	1	0	READY	2821	*.exp-tas.com
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	192.168.1.131	50036	53	17	1	0	READY	32	play.google.com
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	89.149.212.51	10.150.0.46	443	65356	6	1	0	READY	68	infinity-c32.youborangs01.com
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	172.253.118.188	64659	5228	6	1	0	READY	2484	mtalk.google.com
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	202.7.223.140	10.150.0.46	443	51680	17	1	0	READY	4	
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	54.174.200.5	63901	443	6	1	0	READY	968	ping.chartbeat.net
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	172.253.118.188	10.150.0.46	5228	64659	6	1	0	READY	2484	mtalk.google.com
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	23.202.160.194	65333	443	6	1	0	READY	2537	res.abc.net.au
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	89.149.212.51	65356	443	6	1	0	READY	68	infinity-c32.youborangs01.com
28:d2:44:52:c2:38	10.150.0.46	192.168.1.131	64542	53	17	1	0	READY	32	ping.chartbeat.net
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	54.174.200.5	10.150.0.46	443	63901	6	1	0	READY	968	ping.chartbeat.net
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	54.153.189.86	10.150.0.46	443	49588	6	1	0	READY	968	deliver.oztam.com.au
94:60:d5:da:5a:20	23.199.68.130	10.150.0.46	443	65353	6	1	0	READY	2537	abc-iview-mediapackagestreams-2.akamaized.net

From the CLI we can use this command to show the TopN apps based on app id.

```
primary1-Stack# show traffic-insight TI-01 monitor-type topN-flows TopN app-details
```

```
Name : TopN
Group By : appid
Entries : 20
Filter By : None
Running Statistics Timeout : 600
```

Dataset	Running Statistics			
Rank	appid	appname	appcategory	Bytes
1	2537	abc-au	web	87673731
2	4	unknown	standard	21757299
3	32	dns	network-service	264830
4	943	google-gen	web	155878
5	2484	gcm	web	106618
6	68	https	web	72267
7	0	Unrecognized	Unrecognized	69351
8	968	amazon	web	43857
9	205	tcp	network-service	23255
10	2821	microsoft	web	13914
11	562	windows-update	web	372

3.7 Best Practices

Here are the best practices as published in user guide.

- Use it for wired clients, IP Phone an PC/laptop connected to the IP Phone is also supported.
- Use ARC Default mode if you want URL and TLS attribute information.
- Also check [this video](#) for Scalability and Performance information.