

# NetAccountant™

## Policy-based Usage Accounting

### Features

- Policy-based tracking of bandwidth and transactions
- Usage-based accounting, billing, and reporting tools
- Provides service level management guarantees and tiered services

### Introduction

As more and more data travels over public networks, there is a growing interest in offering tiered services to preferred customers, employees and those willing to pay for premium service. Network Service Providers want to offer Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and prevent any single user from overrunning a resource for which they are only paying a portion of the cost. In all cases, network service providers want to account for network usage by customer according to easy-to-understand policies.

Allot Communications delivers a complete system for tracking of network usage. The NetAccountant is part of the Allot Policy Based Networking system that integrates bandwidth management, load-balancing, accounting, and cache redirection in a single system. By deploying this type of integrated solution, network managers can account and bill for network usage according to the same policies that define and enforce network bandwidth allocation.

Using the Allot NetAccountant, network managers

can create reports that provide a full history of customer account activity. Advanced tools provide capabilities for analyzing specific application-level traffic flows as well as long-range traffic usage patterns.

### Accounting Services Environment

The NetAccountant provides solutions for many different network environments. ISPs, Web content providers, and enterprise managers can use the NetAccountant to provide capabilities for tracking customer usage of the network by user, applications, and services.

Corporate network managers can use the NetAccountant to analyze network usage in order to improve bandwidth distribution on the network and analyze actual costs of the network services. With the NetAccountant, the usage of the entire network system can be analyzed allowing network managers to remove unwanted applications, slow down less critical applications and improve the performance of time-sensitive applications.

NetAccountant: NetEnforcer Device ac-pri. Weekly\_121101\_1024.rpt

File Edit View Tools Help

Sort report by: Time Resolution

Weekly Report

Mon Nov 5 10:00:00 2001 to Mon Nov 12 10:00:00 2001

| Time Resolution      | Client            | Server                 | Service            | Inbound Traffic | Outbound Tra... | Virtual Channel |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 06 12:53 to 06 12:54 | fw.lot.com        | images.rambler.ru      | IP/TCP:80          | 0               | 64              | Web Direct      |
| 06 12:53 to 06 12:54 | mail.lot.com      | 192.117.100.99         | SMTP               | 664             | 4771            | Mail            |
| 06 12:53 to 06 12:55 | 216.189.216...    | fw.allot.com           | IP/TCP:63746       | 1181            | 564             | Web Direct      |
| 06 12:53 to 06 12:56 | fw.lot.com        | 128.2.191.208          | HTTP-authenticated | 3472140         | 89152           | Web Direct      |
| 06 12:53 to 06 12:56 | fw.lot.com        | 64.240.146.93          | HTTP-authenticated | 1706418         | 47104           | Web Direct      |
| 06 12:53 to 06 13:06 | Gateway.mut...    | mail.allot.com         | IP/TCP:25          | 1086697         | 45972           | Mail            |
| 06 12:53 to 06 20:22 | fw.lot.com        | n101.audiogalaxy.co... | IP/TCP:21          | 80492           | 83361           | FTP             |
| 06 12:53 to 07 15:59 | ac-dev.allot.c... | fw.allot.com           | IP/TCP:64260       | 9437259         | 6562570         | Fallback        |
| 06 12:53 to 08 16:52 | fw.lot.com        | 192.116.187.182        | HTTP-authenticated | 893318          | 93565           | Web Direct      |
| 06 12:53 to 11 09:41 | dmz.lot.com       | 185.132.185.36         | DNS                | 0               | 52632           | DNS             |
| 06 12:53 to 11 09:41 | dmz.lot.com       | 185.132.185.37         | DNS                | 0               | 52890           | DNS             |
| 06 12:53 to 11 09:41 | fw.lot.com        | 185.132.185.36         | DNS                | 0               | 36120           | DNS             |
| 06 12:53 to 11 09:41 | fw.lot.com        | 185.132.185.37         | DNS                | 0               | 36550           | DNS             |
| 06 12:53 to 11 17:59 | fw.lot.com        | errol.relum.org        | IP/TCP:22          | 124500          | 63176           | Fallback        |
| 06 12:53 to 11 18:48 | fw.lot.com        | 203.189.216.14         | HTTP-authenticated | 4939084         | 725591          | Web Direct      |
| 06 12:53 to 11 20:27 | fw.lot.com        | 64.12.24.34            | IP/TCP:5190        | 34046           | 50208           | AOL             |
| 06 12:53 to 12 07:07 | dmz.lot.com       | dns.netvision.net.     | DNS-Tcp            | 25787           | 7696            | Fallback        |
| 06 12:53 to 12 09:49 | fw.lot.com        | 203.153.203.114        | HTTP-authenticated | 587976          | 449387          | Web Direct      |

Weekly\_121101\_1024.rpt opened. (Traffic data in Bytes) Sort: Time Resolution 34 / 22376 recs

Figure 1. The accounting reports can include fields such as the time period for the session, the Virtual Channel policy, clients, servers, and services.

Service providers can use the accounting services to measure specific customer usage of bandwidth and resources. Based on this information, customers can be billed for actual bandwidth used. In this way, service providers can create multiple service offerings and bill different rates for these tiered services.

Customers, who only occasionally need higher bandwidth, can now get services customized for their needs allowing them to receive and pay for bandwidth only as needed.

Network managers can further utilize the reporting services of the NetAccountant to view problem areas in the network. This includes the ability to produce reports on under or over utilized links, servers and applications.

### Reporting Services

The NetAccountant provides reports that display information in an easy-to-understand format (See Figure 1). Users have the flexibility to define, sort, filter and display reports according to policies defined on the Allot NetPolicy setup using categories such as:

- Client and server addresses
- TCP and UDP port numbers
- Time Period
- Application content including HTTP URL, Web content type, pages, and files

### Scheduling Reports

NetAccountant provides tools for scheduling the collection and generation of daily, weekly, or monthly reports that fit the needs of your business.

### Exporting Information

NetAccountant can be accessed via any standard Web browser and will supply tools for filtering, sorting, and viewing data through any browser screen. In addition, it allows network managers to export accounting data to ODBC and RADIUS-compliant applications such as Excel, Lotus 1-2-3, and Microsoft Access.

### Summary

Allot Communications' NetAccountant provides an integrated, policy-based solution for tracking network bandwidth and transactions. Through its usage-based accounting, billing, and reporting tools, NetAccountant allows network managers to understand their network characteristics and provide customized reports. Through an integrated system of bandwidth management, accounting, server load-balancing, cache redirection, and network monitoring, the Allot System provides a single solution for delivering policy based services in today's network environment.

### Ordering Information

| Part No. | Product  |
|----------|--|
| S001850  | NetAccountant™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-101/128, AC-101/512 |
| S002850  | NetAccountant™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-201/2M, AC-201/10M  |
| S003850  | NetAccountant™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-301                 |
| S004850  | NetAccountant™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-401                 |
| S006850  | NetAccountant™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-601                 |
| S007850  | NetAccountant™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-701/C and AC-701/F  |

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