

Link Aggregation Taps

Link aggregation taps are used when you have more than one link to monitor. For example, if you want to monitor the traffic to and from two separate servers. Instead of using multiple taps, a single link aggregation tap can be connected to both servers. The link aggregating tap combines the traffic from these links and sends the stream out one or more monitoring port.

Figure 69 shows a link aggregation tap configured to monitor numerous servers. Notice that this link aggregation tap also includes multiple regeneration ports.

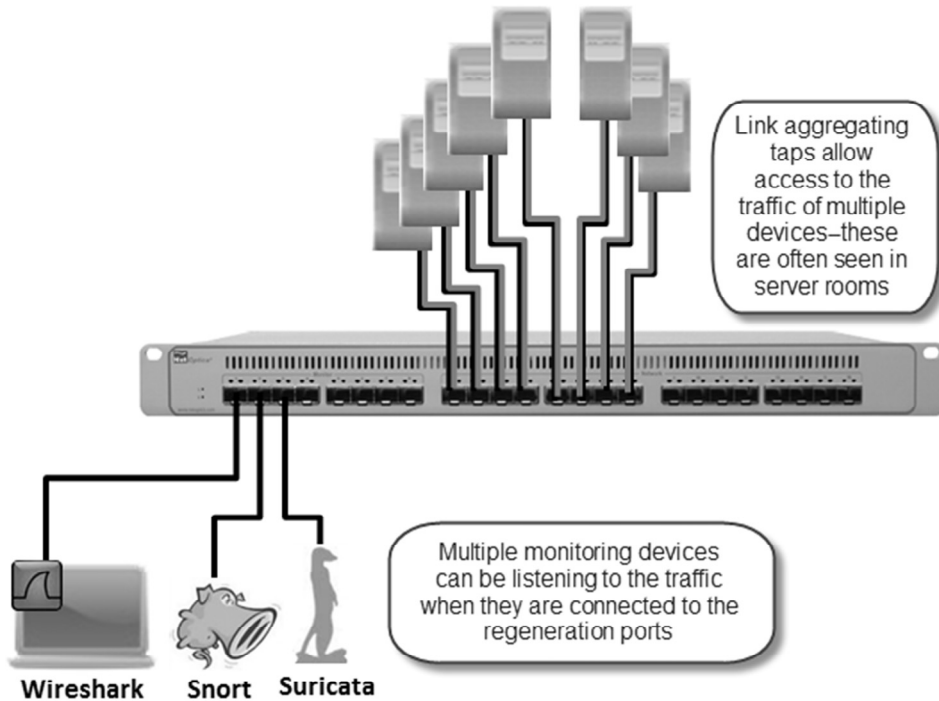


Figure 69. Net Optics Link Aggregation tap (www.netoptics.com)

Intelligent Taps

Intelligent taps can make decisions on inbound traffic, provide timestamps for each packet received, filter packets and more. The features available depend on the intelligent tap solution. Net Optics is a global manufacturer of passive access with network taps, aggregator taps, regeneration taps, converter taps and bypass switches. For more information, visit www.netoptics.com.

Using Analyzer Agents for Remote Capture

Analyzer agents are used by distributed analyzers. These agents are typically software programs that are loaded on switches to enable them to capture traffic from all ports and send the data to a management console. Analyzer agents may enable you to manage switched traffic from a central location. Unfortunately, however, you might get caught up in a proprietary solution or find that this type of feature makes the switch too expensive. For more information on remote capture methods, see *Capture Traffic Remotely* on page 121.