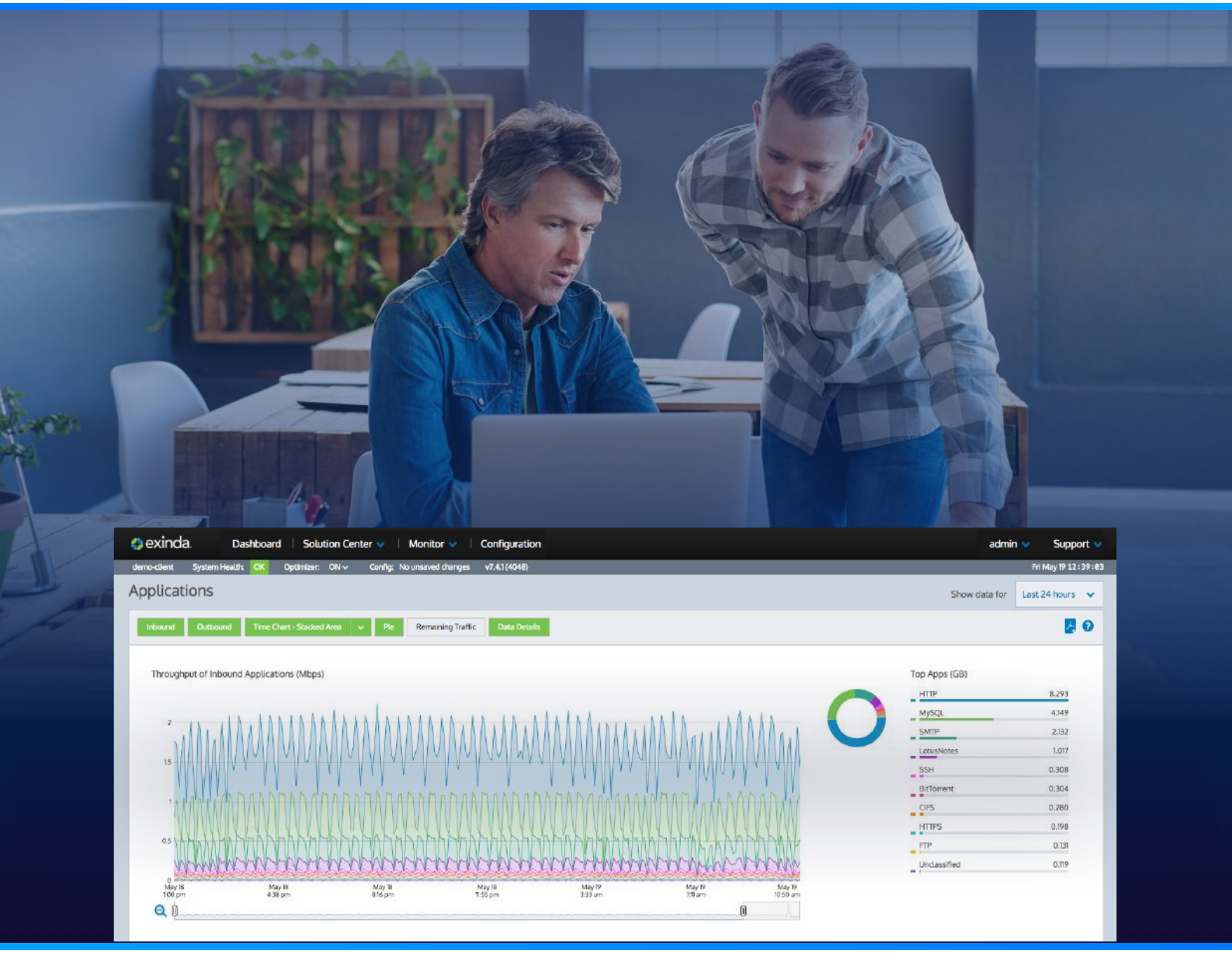
DATASHEET

exinda Network Orchestrator

Considering an alternative for Symantec/Blue Coat PacketShaper



Exinda Network Orchestrator is a price comparable alternative for End-of-Life Symantec/Blue Coat PacketShaper customers

GFI Software™

> Changing vendors from your initial PacketShaper deployment is an opportunity to compare network and performance management alternatives.
>
> Allot Secure Service Gateway (SSG) has been tagged as a potential transition product for the discontinued Symantec PacketShaper (Blue Coat PacketShaper) line of products.
>
> Exinda Network Orchestrator, which has a comparable price point, is an alternative to consider. Exinda combines the features of your legacy packetshaper, along with more comprehensive reporting, application identification and granularity of network control.

Product focus

Allot SSG, as its literature indicates, straddles security and network management. It performs functions in both categories, such as anti-malware anti-phishing, as well as network/application performance.

Exinda Network Orchestrator is purpose-built to enable a network manager or other IT professional charged with the role of managing the performance of your network and applications.

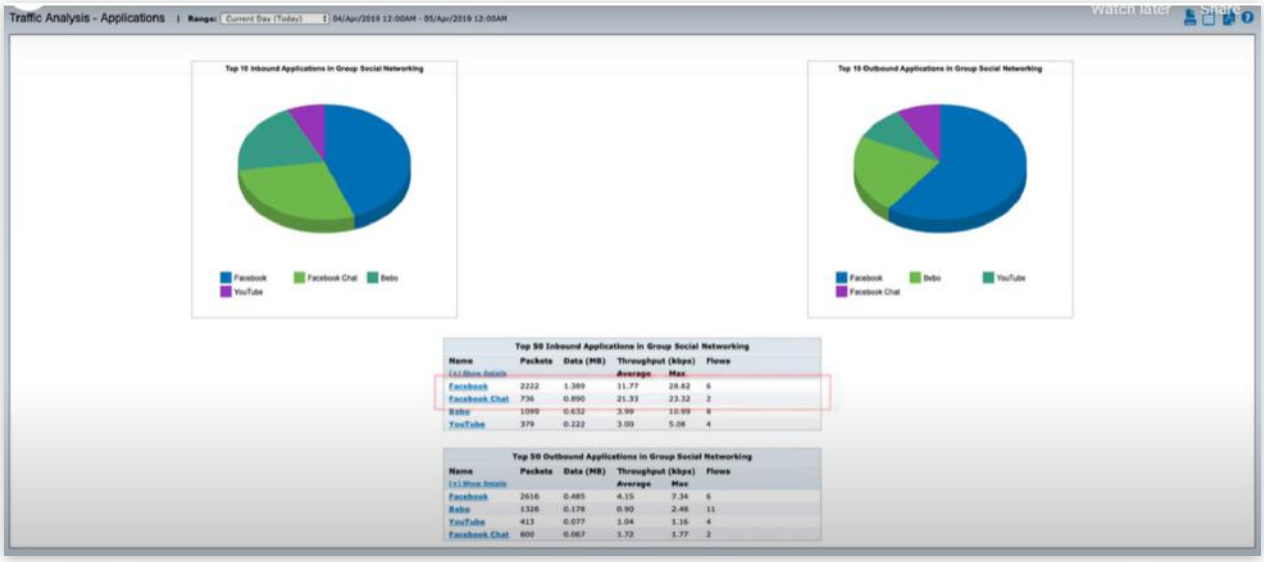
This singularity of purpose delivers three main differences with Allot, when looking at network and application performance management.

1.  Reporting
2.  Proactive network management tools
3.  AI-powered network management

1 Reporting

Out of the box: Exinda comes with a comprehensive set of reports and over 3000 application signatures, enabling network managers to understand and communicate network/application performance issues. WIth Allot SSG, reporting is an additional module which must be purchased.

Granularity and variety of reports: Exinda offers more depth and breadth in reporting. For instance, with Bandwidth utilization reports, Exinda lets you examine utilization by department, by application, by person, by time. It also offers more depth in reporting on sub-applications, for example, seeing Facebook Messenger as a separate app from Facebook. You gain the ability to differentiate an employee using an application for marketing purposes and an employee “bandwidth hogging” your WAN.

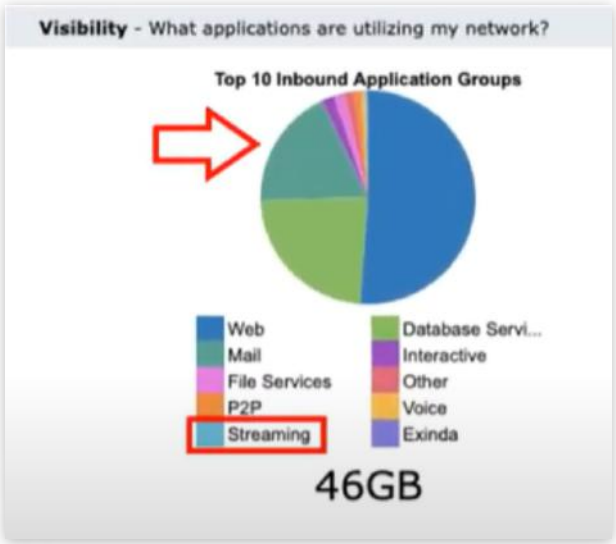


View sources of recreational traffic and applications with greater granularity

[1:44 Exinda Benefits Dashboard]

Application Performance Metrics: With Exinda, you can set your own service level agreement or SLA, for the performance of an application. That score is an aggregate of various metrics, such as network delay, jitter, server delay, round trip time and network loss. This gives you the ability to be proactive rather than reacting to the help desk call coming in reporting the problem.

If an application approaches your pre-set threshold, you will receive a warning and a report showing what network metrics contribute most to the jeopardized target.



See instantly what applications are using bandwidth.

[0:37 Using the Exinda traffic optimization wizard]

VoIP metrics: Exinda has a focused approach to VoIP management. Allot does not offer this focus.

VoIP performance gives you reports on inbound VoIP call quality. It rates calls based on "Mean opinion Score" or MOS in three categories of quality: Good, Tolerable, or Bad calls.

Exinda automates MOS ratings by looking at network dependency conditions which would cause the user rating of Good (MOS 4-5) Tolerable (MOS 3) and Bad (MOS 1-2)

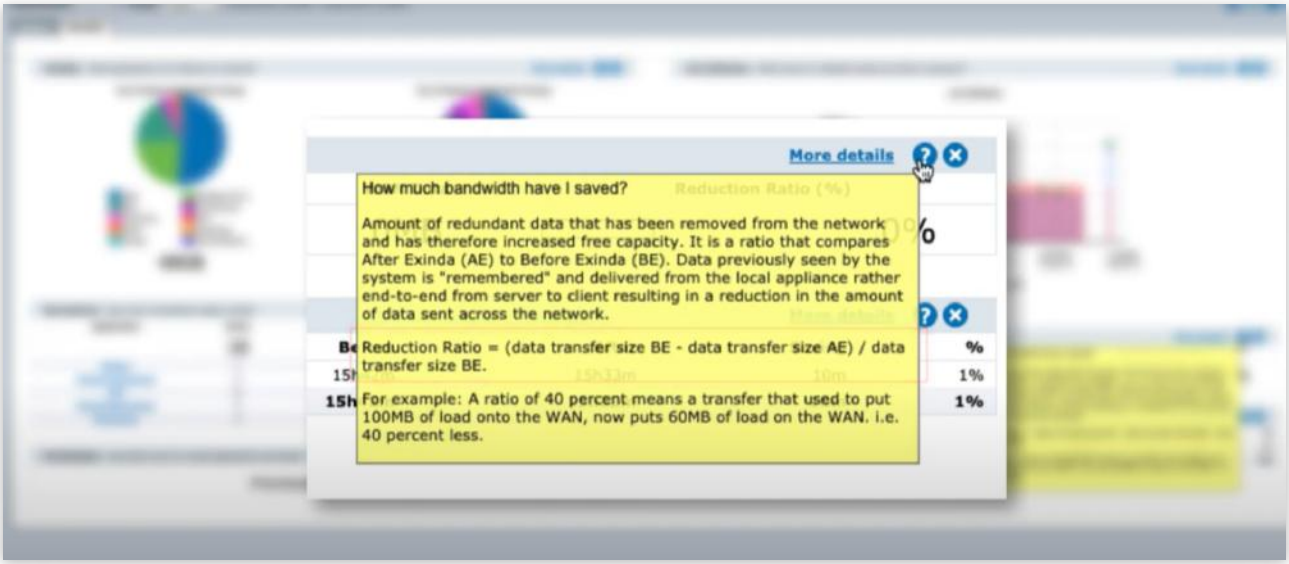
② Proactive network management tools

Network managers can see and set policies for traffic and applications with Exinda. It also gives the ability to speed up or slow down traffic and applications based on their priorities. Two examples of these tools are application acceleration, and data caching.

Application acceleration: Exinda recognizes multiple traffic and application types (e.g., HTTP, SSL, MAPI, CIFS, LotusNotes, FTP, SAP, SQL). With traffic characterized, it examines an application's or protocol's performance based on its key metrics. For important traffic/applications, it re-assigns bandwidth if it detects degradation of the metrics to mitigate latency and packet loss. This is an example of Exinda's focus on VoIP technologies and applications.

Allot solutions do not include the technology that allows to optimize traffic with the objective to mitigate the latency or throughput losses.

Data caching: Application and traffic protocol recognition helps Exinda decide when to "accelerate" certain traffic; it also helps Exinda decide when to hold or cache lesser important traffic to let higher priority traffic through. This data reduction tool uses technologies such as data compression and byte-caching.



As Exinda helps you save bandwidth, report on savings with easy-to-use reports.

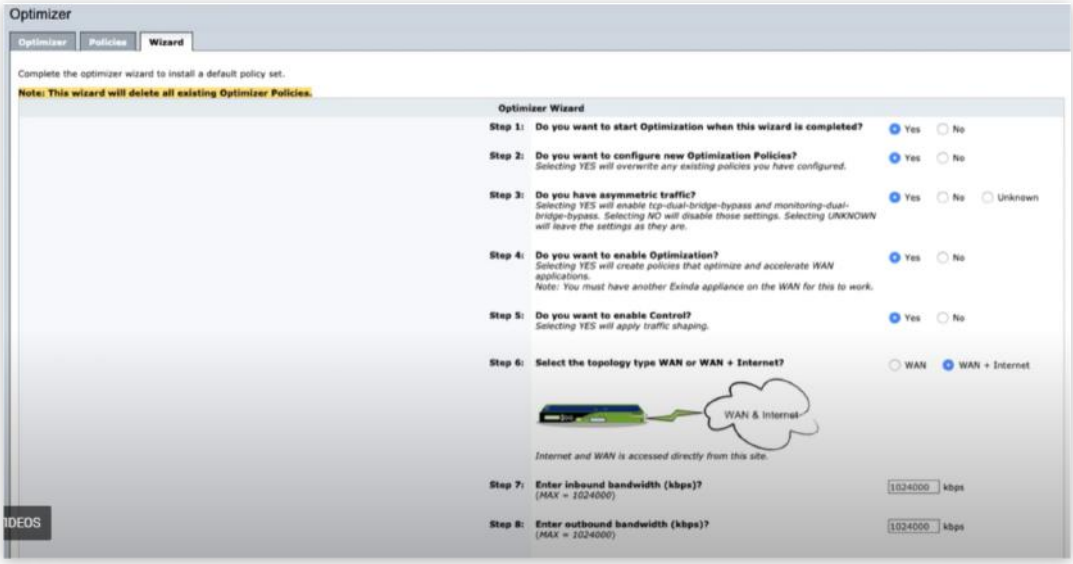
[2:05 Exinda Benefits Dashboard]

③ AI-Powered network management

Set-up with network discovery and configuration: Initial product configuration is simple with Exinda. Once installed, Exinda's configuration wizard completes an auto-discovery and suggests settings based on it. Rather than configuring each element and policy from scratch, Exinda's starting suggestions get you up and running quickly, which you can then tweak to your own personal environment and "what works best".

MORE NEXT PAGE

scroll to continue...

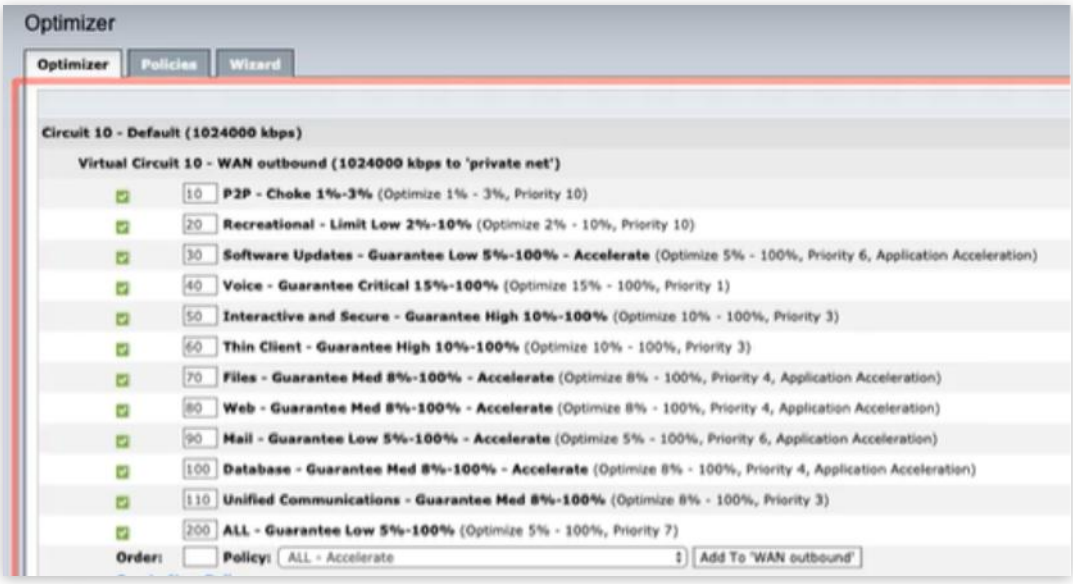


The optimization wizard helps you make decision to improve application performance

[1:10 Using the Exinda traffic optimization wizard]

Application Performance Score: Exinda lets you set a target, like a service level agreement or SLA, for the performance of an application. The score is an aggregate of various metrics, such as network delay, jitter, server delay, round trip time and network loss. If your application approaches a pre-set threshold, you receive a warning and report with an analysis of what network metrics are degraded and contributing most to the jeopardized target.

Furthermore, the artificial intelligence engine provides suggestions of what actions to take to improve the Application Performance Score.



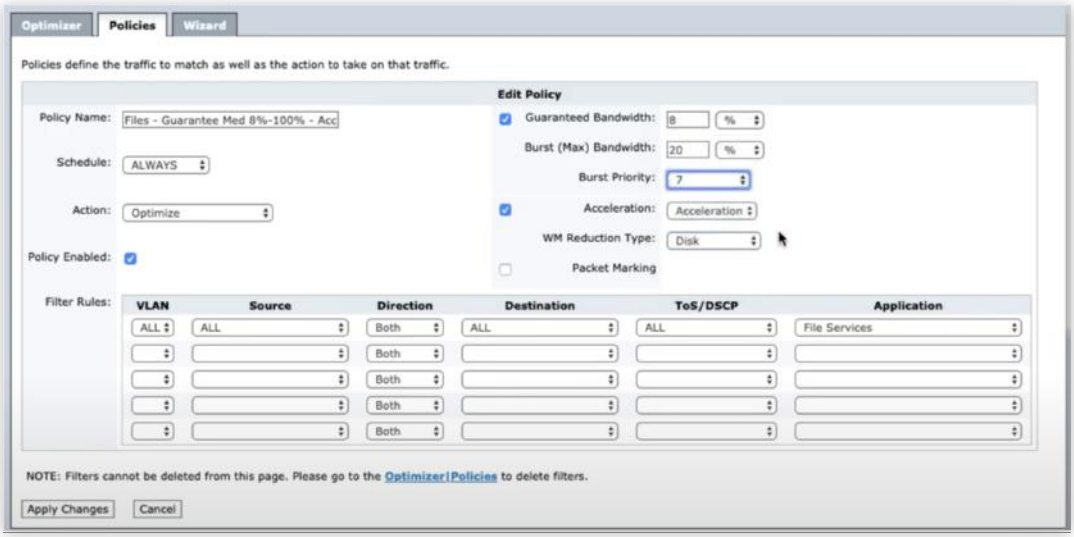
Exinda's optimization wizard makes suggestions on thresholds to automatically improve your application performance

[1:18: Using the Exinda traffic optimization wizard]

Dynamic Policies: Static policies enforce quality of service (QoS) by ensuring priority applications always have a set amount of bandwidth available to them. However, you rarely have one priority application.

Dynamic policies address this. They give your network the adaptive flexibility as if you were monitoring and making changes every minute of the day.

For example, let's say you have Office 365 as a priority application. You assign 30% of your bandwidth for it. If Office 365 does not need the 30% at any given time, dynamic policies can re-allocate unused bandwidth on the fly to other applications that may need it.



Take control of an application's configuration--change the guaranteed or burst bandwidth and assign priorities.

[1:27: Prioritizing Network Bandwidth for a Single Application]

With this feature you are using your available bandwidth for optimum performance, rather than "throwing more bandwidth at it". Without management, this additional bandwidth would be consumed as well, and you'd be back to square one.

With Exinda, you can also enable dynamic allocations by application, time of day, and department.

Free Demo

Using the Exinda Benefits Dashboard

- Understand what's consuming inbound and outbound bandwidth
- See effectiveness of prioritizing key application
- Drill down to detail on application network usage

Free ebook

Exinda NW & App Performance for dummies

- Meet Bandwidth challenges
- Optimize application performance
- Deliver top service levels

Free Demo

Exinda application and traffic optimizer

- Identify what applications matter most
- Use best practices to set priorities for application traffic
- Throttle back lower-priority apps while ensuring high-priority apps get the bandwidth they need

GFI Software™