TippingPoint®

TippingPoint Network Access Control and Microsoft Network Access Protection Comparison

APPLICATION NOTE

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Introduction

TippingPoint Network Access Control (NAC) provides customers with the ability to recognize a new endpoint, identify the users of the endpoint, and understand the posture of the endpoint, in order to determine an access policy. By providing options for authentication, posture assessment, and access enforcement, customers can build the appropriate solution given their network architecture and security priorities.

Microsoft's Network Access Protection (NAP) also serves to control access to network resources based on identity and posture. As a Microsoft NAP partner, TippingPoint is providing additional value beyond Microsoft's functionality to create a layered security approach. There are a number of differences regarding TippingPoint NAC and Microsoft NAP that should be analyzed by any interested party to determine the appropriate security solution.

Operation

Microsoft NAP operates by analyzing a certificate of health regarding an endpoint to determine access rights in the network. NAP enforces health requirements by inspecting and assessing the health of client computers, limiting network access when client computers are deemed noncompliant, and remediating noncompliant client computers for unlimited network access. NAP enforcement occurs at the moment client computers attempt to access the network through network access servers, such as a virtual private network (VPN) server running Routing and Remote Access, or when clients attempt to communicate with other network resources such as DHCP or 802.1X.

TippingPoint NAC expands beyond Microsoft's access protection by providing customers several options regarding authentication methods and authentication services, posture assessment choices, and enforcement capabilities. By providing support beyond Microsoft Domain users, TippingPoint adds additional layers of security to centrally set and manage access policies for the variety of users and devices attempting network access. By doing so, TippingPoint provides customers a complete endpoint security solution regardless of network entry, user-type, or device type.

Comparison Chart

	Microsoft NAP	*TippingPoint-NAC*
Identification		
User Domain Authentication	✓	✓
Machine Domain Authentication	✓	✓
MAC		✓
Captive Web Portal Login		✓
Operating Systems		
Microsoft XP	Only with Service Pack 3	✓
Microsoft Vista	✓	✓
Microsoft 2000		✓
MAC OS X		✓
Linux		✓
Posture Assessment		
Personal Firewall	Windows Security Center	✓
AV	Windows Security Center	✓
Antispyware	Windows Security Center	✓
Antiphishware	Based on 3rd Party Support	✓
Browser	Based on 3rd Party Support	✓
VPN Client	Based on 3rd Party Support	✓
Hard Disk Encryption	Based on 3rd Party Support	✓
Peripheral Device Control	Based on 3rd Party Support	✓
Peer-to-Peer Applications	Based on 3rd Party Support	✓
Enforcement		
DHCP	✓	✓
802.1X	✓	✓
Inline		✓
VPN	Integrated with Win2K8 Server	Virtually Any Using Inline Enforcement Behind VPN
Guest Access Features		
Captive Web Portal		✓
Self-Guest Creation		✓
Guest Administrative Roles		✓
Auto-account expiration		✓
Auto-account deletion		✓
Reports		
Filter by MAC, IP, Username, Posture Result		✓
Export to PDF, CSV, XLS		✓
Posture Result Details		✓

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