TribalHub

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Members Only Monthly Report *(page 1 of 2)*

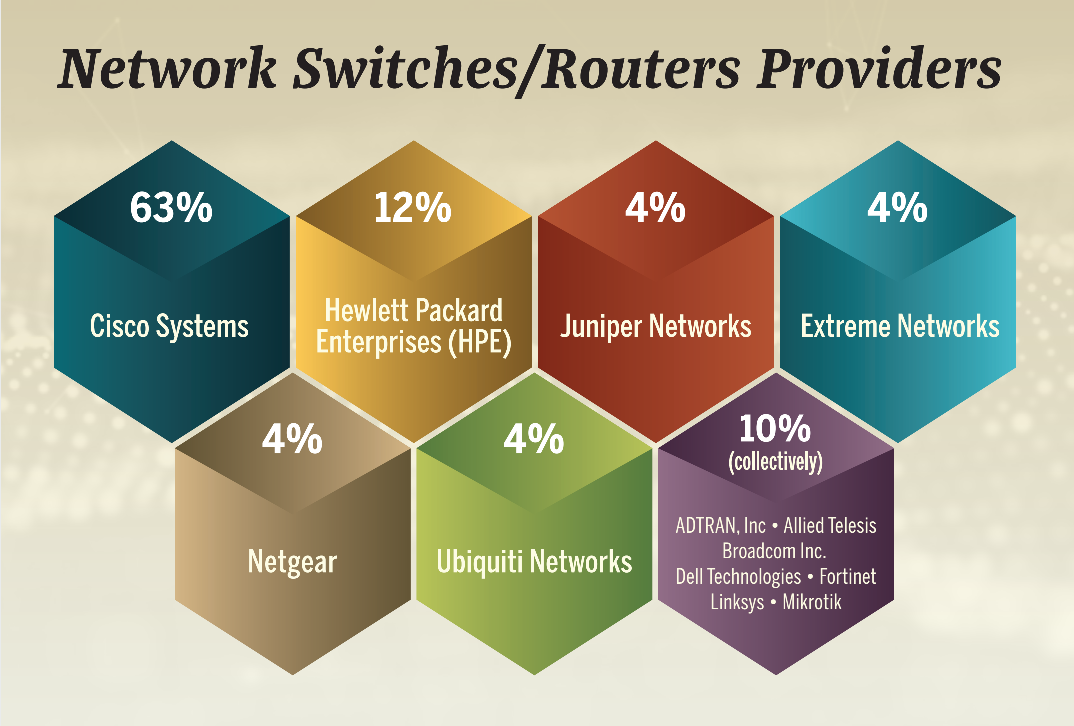
Network Switches/Routers Providers

Insider's Insight

from TribalHub's Executive Officer, Mike Day

Located deep inside the data centers and data closets of every network are switches and routers. They are the device connectors and aggregators of enormous amounts of data and information requests. They are the "postman of the network", making sure that every bit of information is directed and delivered correctly. The network switches inside each individual network are also a part of a much larger world-wide network of connected switches and routers, which is what makes the internet work. Switches and routers vary in size and capability by purpose. Home routers can cost less than $100, but typically have only four to eight connections and limited ability. Business grade edge switches typically have 12 to 24 ports to connect devices to, and greatly enhanced ability to secure and manage larger amounts of data. The largest switches normally sit within an organization's data center, and they can handle hundreds (and some thousands) of individual connections. Based upon their size and capabilities, these core switches range in cost anywhere from tens of thousands of dollars to hundreds of thousands.

Hidden and secured behind locked doors in data centers, the network switches and routers in each organization go mostly unnoticed to all but the IT employees of an organization. Meanwhile, all of the organization's data and communications are passing through this equipment. Every organization's dependence on switches has required that redundancy and failover be built in network designs, increasing the cost and complexity.



{ Results are available in the TribalHub Information Portal and are based on tribes who have responded to our outreach inquires. }

Like every technology, the capabilities of switches and routers continue to advance. The ability to handle more network traffic, more securely and efficiently is a continual march forward for these devices. The ability to converge network switches with traditionally separate storage and computing technologies continues to advance and expand in the market. Software defined networking and creating virtual switches is rapidly expanding and transforming the industry as well.

It is certainly not the most exciting topic to cover in our Industry Insight, but it is nonetheless a critical part and investment of every tribal organization's network. Much like always building a house on a solid foundation, the foundation of the network is truly the network switches and routers.

As the graphic shows, most tribes have standardized their network on well known brands and companies. Given the importance of this equipment and technology in successfully operating your services and businesses, this is not surprising. The desire to standardize on a single familiar and dependable product line has also made it difficult for new products/ brands to enter the Native American market.

TRIBALHUB

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Members Only Monthly Report *(page 2 of 2)*

Network Switches/Routers Providers

How is the Shoalwater Bay Tribe utilizing network switches and routers technology?

SHOALWATER BAY TRIBE
NAMPS CH' AATS

The Shoalwater Bay Tribe is in the southwest corner of Washington state along the shores of Willapa Bay where the Shoalwater Bay Indian Reservation is located. There are currently 413 tribal members, of which 73 live on the 1,100 acre reservation. The tribe also owns the Shoalwater Bay Casino, runs their own wellness center, convenience store/fuel station and police department.

TribalHub reached out to Jim Schaeffer, IT Director for the Shoalwater Bay Tribe to inquire about the network switches and routers technology in use by their tribe. Currently they are using Juniper EX 4600 and 4300 switches for core switching. They are also using Watchguard M200 (Core) Firewall and Watchguard M370 (Edge) Firewall for routing (internal and external). Across their entire network (WAN) they are managing approximately 500 devices or active ports. They have 13 seperate buildings and have storage arrays in 2 main distribution frames included in their entire network. Their largest facility contains roughly 110 posts/devices. Their gaming property is not supported by this IT department. As of today they have not implemented and have no interest in implementing a hyper-converged network solution. Their Core Switches are less than 3 years old and they're not looking to replace those for at least another five years. No maintenance program is in use on the switches and routers because support contracts were purchased through Juniper.

Keeping Your Tribe Safe: Milestone

milestone

Network Hardening is Critical for Video Management and Security Systems

Developing and implementing security measures and best practices is known as "hardening." Hardening is a continuous process of identifying and understanding security risks and taking appropriate steps to counter them. The process is dynamic because the threats and the systems they target are continuously evolving.

Most hardening information focuses on IT settings and techniques, but it's important to remember that physical security, education, and awareness, are also a vital part of hardening. For example, use physical barriers to servers and client computers, and make sure that things like camera enclosures, locks, tamper alarms, and access controls are secure. Actionable steps for hardening a video management system include:

- Understanding what components need to be protected
- Hardening surveillance system components including servers, client computers, and devices
- Documenting and maintaining software updates and security settings for each system
- Training and investing in the right people and skills — including the supply chain

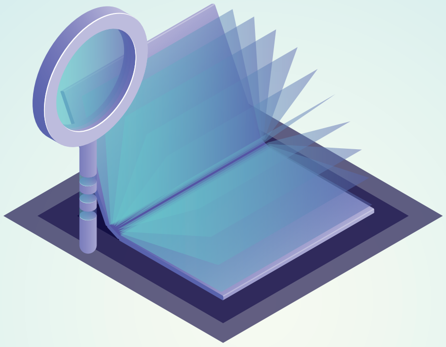
For more information on video management performance and security, please visit https://www.milestonesys.com/

Are you taking full advantage of your TribalHub Membership?

Contact your Membership Representative, Jeremy at **jeremy@tribalhub.com** for a **FREE DEMO** on how to best utilize all the benefits and discounts available through your TribalHub membership!

Tips on Maximizing Your Membership

Login to the TribalHub searchable database today and begin:



- Connecting with your peers- decision makers at tribal casinos, governments and health centers
- Learning more about what technology products and solutions are in use at other tribal properties
- Searching for specific vendor or product information
- Finding out more information on which organizations are serving or representing tribes

Now more than ever, having access to a database of your peers at tribal organizations and enterprises across the nation is invaluable.