

# NetSecOps: Aligning Networking and Security Teams to Ensure Digital Transformation

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# Introduction

For many years, EMA has observed signs that enterprises are trying to improve alignment between their network infrastructure and operations teams and their information security and cybersecurity teams. EMA market research has revealed increased collaboration between these groups. Also, vendors introduced solutions that facilitate this collaboration. For instance, network performance management vendors have started offering security solutions based on their existing intellectual property. In conversations with IT leaders, the importance of this collaboration comes up again and again. EMA refers to this expanding focus on network and security collaboration as NetSecOps.

Collaboration between network and security groups has always been important. One group is responsible for enabling communication, and the other is responsible for protecting that communication. Security has always been a part of building and operating networks. “I believe that everyone is responsible for security,” a director of network engineering and operations for a \$7 billion healthcare enterprise recently told EMA. “It’s not just the security team’s job to do security. Network engineers need to develop security-oriented solutions.”

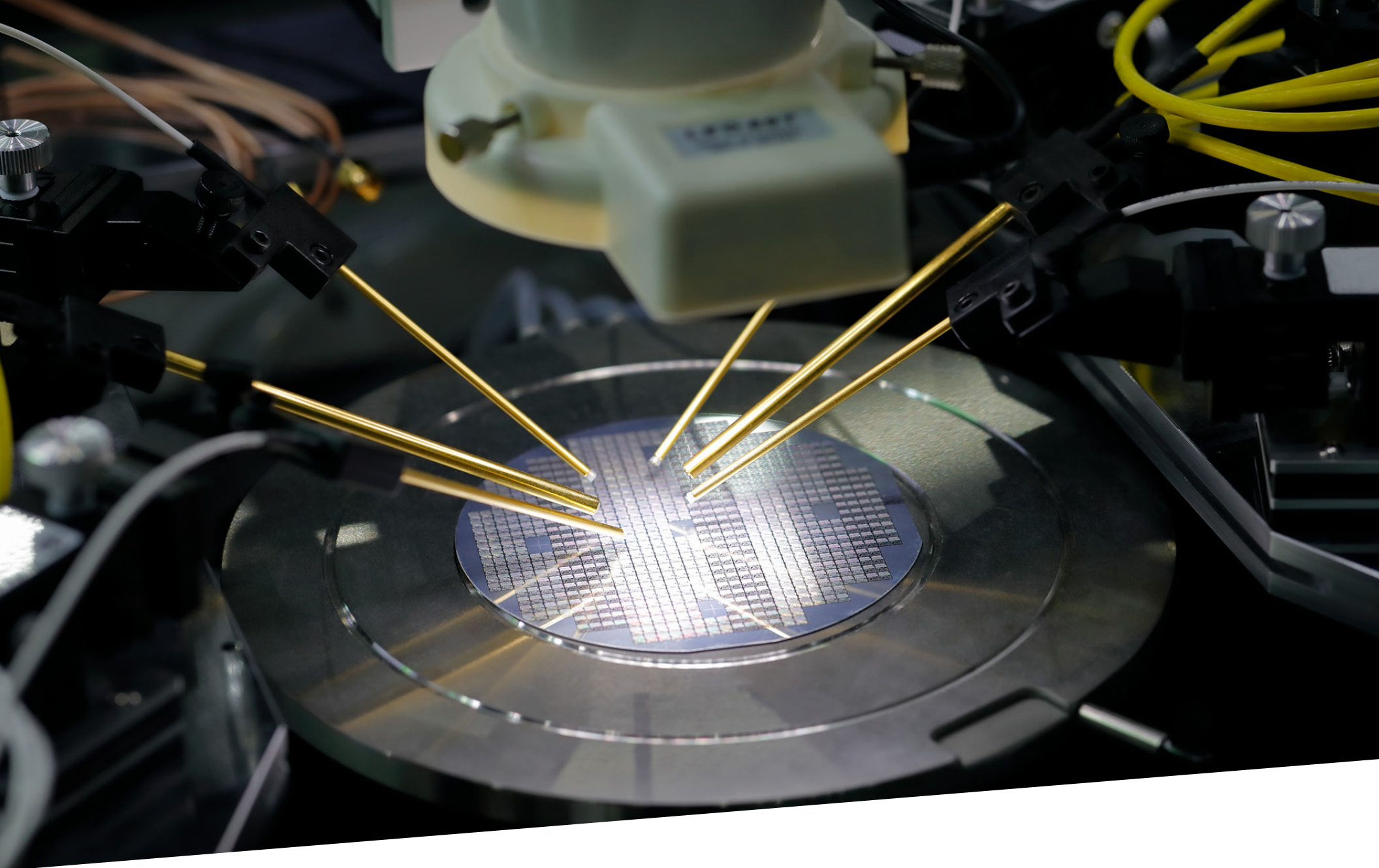
The importance of this partnership has only increased as companies adopt new architectures that open potential security vulnerabilities, such as hybrid, internet-based networks, public cloud, the Internet of Things, and work-from-anywhere connectivity.

Unfortunately, these NetSecOps partnerships are not easy. Security teams and network teams are focused on opposing mandates. Each group views the other group as an impediment or source of trouble. “When the network team is building something and working on a deadline, they see the security team as a roadblock to hitting a milestone, especially if leadership is pushing them to run things tightly,” said a network security architect at a \$2.5 billion software company.

As digital infrastructure becomes more distributed and hybridized, connectivity between applications, data, users, and devices must be highly available, high-performing, and completely secure. Network and security teams need to work together to ensure this hybrid architecture. With that in mind, EMA sought to understand the nature of NetSecOps partnerships. This research summary reveals the highlights the results of a detailed online survey of technology professionals and in-depth interviews with several stakeholders in billion-dollar enterprises. The following key findings will be explored throughout this document.

## Key Findings

- More than 75% of network and security teams have increased their level of collaboration in recent years.
- NetSecOps partnerships primarily lead to faster resolutions of security issues, reduced security risk, and improved operational efficiency.
- Only 39% of organizations believe they have been completely successful with NetSecOps collaboration.
- Data quality and authority issues, cross-team skills gaps, budget issues, and architectural complexity are the chief roadblocks to NetSecOps collaboration.
- The security team’s need to analyze network traffic data drives NetSecOps collaboration in 83% of organizations.
- 97% of organizations are trying to consolidate network packet capture infrastructure that will be shared by networking and security.
- 90% of organizations believe network packet brokers are important to NetSecOps collaboration.
- 80% of organizations are interested in consolidating onto a single network traffic monitoring and analysis tool shared by network and security teams.
- 75% of network teams shared data from their DDI management solutions with security teams.
- 91% of organizations believe that automation tools are important to facilitating NetSecOps collaboration.



EfficientIP DDI Solutions Enable NetSecOps  
Collaboration for STMicroelectronics

The network and security teams at STMicroelectronics (ST), an \$10.2 billion semiconductor manufacturer (2020 revenue), use DDI management solutions from EfficientIP to improve their collaboration.

ST originally adopted EfficientIP's SOLIDServer DDI (DNS, DHCP, and IP address management) solution to unify these core network services. The DIT organization chose EfficientIP after a series of requests for proposals and proof-of-concept implementations.

Aldo De Luca, network security manager for ST's manufacturing networks told EMA that his company needed a DHCP service that could manage hundreds of thousands of IP addresses across its manufacturing networks and its globally distributed enterprise network. "[EfficientIP] was the most scalable for DDI," he said.

## Streamlining Zone-Based Firewall Rule Creation

ST launched a global initiative to reduce security risk by eliminating manual rules management in the zone-based firewalls that control traffic between the various subnets in the company's network.

"We are working with EfficientIP to integrate their DDI solution with our [firewall] environment," De Luca said. "We want to have zone-based security with our firewalls, so we wanted to classify every subnet in our manufacturing network and establish rules for zone communication."

The integration will allow network administrators, who are the most familiar with the various subnets in the network and the types of devices that are connected to those subnets, to classify each new subnet within EfficientIP's IPAM tool. These classifications will automatically push new rules to the company's firewalls, ensuring that the zone-based firewall rulesets are accurate and up to date. De Luca said this integration makes it easier to transfer the knowledge of the network team to the security team that is responsible for firewall rules management.

"We plan to apply this integration to other things in the future. It will enable future microsegmentation projects, network access control," he told EMA. "It gives the teams a foundation for working together in the future, not just on security, but for network automation, too."

## Expanding EfficientIP Investment with DNS Security

More recently, ST adopted EfficientIP's DBS Guardian Security solution to help secure the company's migration to the cloud. DNS is a common vector for malicious attacks in general. When enterprises move services to the cloud, malicious actors can compromise those services via DNS spoofing, DDoS attacks, and other methods.

"We are moving part of our IT to the cloud, and we needed some extra security threat prevention and data leak prevention," De Luca said.

EfficientIP has been an excellent vendor partner, he said. When ST first began working with EfficientIP, the DDI vendor was an agile, early-stage startup. Over the years, EfficientIP has matured, becoming more structured along presales, sales, customer support, and professional services.

"However, they have kept their initial startup agility while transforming. They have a very high level of quality processes, they listen to our requests, and continuously improve," De Luca said.



**25**  
YEARS

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