Nectar Perspective: Industry Leading Network Pre-Assessment Tool That Simulates Voice Calls in the Cloud for Microsoft Skype for Business Online

From the Enterprise to the Cloud and Beyond: easy-to-deploy, advanced network pre-assessment capabilities give visibility into key voice quality metrics in the Microsoft cloud.

As a sophisticated enterprise Unified Communications (UC) customer, you already know that moving your UC infrastructure to the Microsoft cloud or any other hosted UC environment, makes sense because hosted communications services can provide great flexibility and significant savings in capital and operating expenditures. Additionally, Microsoft Skype for Business Online allows you to connect users anytime—from virtually anywhere—via access to presence, instant messaging, audio and video calling, rich online meetings, and extensive web conferencing capabilities.

In terms of next steps, however, you realize that moving to a hosted UC provider is not without potential risks. Because the user experience is your single greatest value driver, you need to make sure that your enterprise network can handle the transition, and that users will continue to have the same quality experience with cloud-based conference calls and online meetings as they do within your premise-based enterprise environment. Doing nothing is not a risk you are willing to take. And using one of those free network pre-assessment "lite" tools can be just as risky if it doesn't provide the deep assessment, active monitoring, and diagnostics you need to help ensure an optimum end-user experience post deployment.

Enter Nectar Perspective for Skype for Business Online, customizable software that provides advanced capabilities for network pre-assessment, voice quality troubleshooting, and real-time problem identification and resolution—so you can identify and remediate potential UC traffic and/or quality issues prior to deployment in the Microsoft cloud.

A POWERFUL UC COLLABORATION

Perspective Provides 'Peace of Mind' with Advanced Network Pre-Assessment for Skype for Business Online

Nectar's vast history of providing advanced software solutions to monitor and manage multi-vendor on-premise, hybrid and cloud UC environments is why Nectar was named a 2016 Microsoft Partner of the Year finalist. Further, Nectar was the first, and is still one of only three certified IT Pro Tools Partners for Skype for Business.

Certified for

Skype for Business

Nectar's Perspective network pre-assessment tool, in combination with the Skype for Business Online methodology, ensures optimal QoS settings throughout your enterprise network. Beyond the enterprise network, Perspective gives visibility into key voice quality metrics in cloud environments where QoS is enforced (such as Express Route connections) or in the public Internet, where QoS cannot be maintained.

Designed for both short-term pre-deployment assessments and ongoing active monitoring, Perspective for Skype for Business enables IT professionals to:

- Generate synthetic transactions to match expected VoIP traffic patterns;
- Identify issues that can affect VoIP quality;
- Perform load and stress testing; and
- Receive alerts for violated thresholds.

Perspective's advanced capabilities for the Microsoft cloud provide:
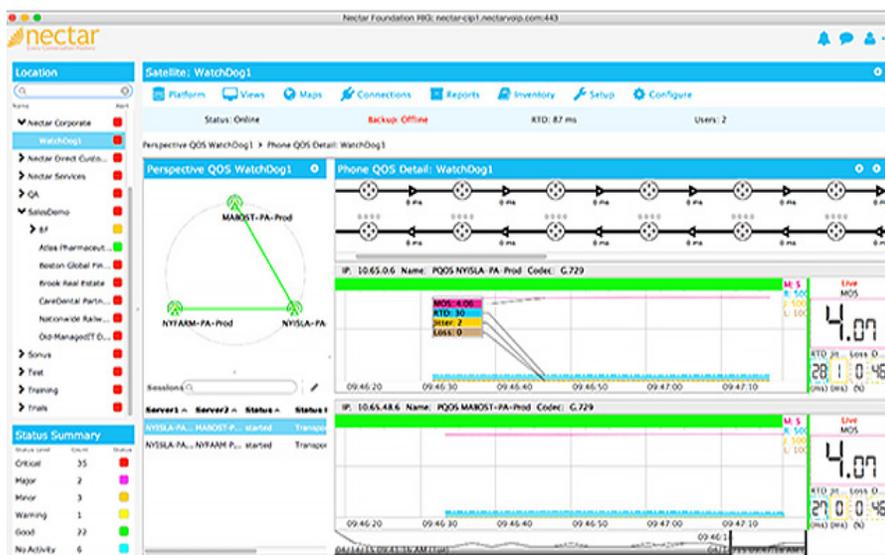
Pre-Deployment Assessment

- A single assessment engagement can pre-determine voice quality on both the internal enterprise network, as well as from enterprise end-points to the Microsoft cloud network.
- It can simulate actual voice traffic to the Microsoft cloud prior to deployment

Active Monitoring

- It can monitor voice quality and proactively identify user-impacting network events after users have been deployed in the cloud.

"Gaining an in-depth understanding about network performance in real time would empower information technology (IT) professionals managing networks for enterprises to take timely and corrective actions in ensuring high-quality communicative performance. Of all the proactive network management and monitoring solutions available in the market, Frost & Sullivan identifies Nectar's proprietary Nectar for Skype for Business/Lync as the industry's most comprehensive UC management and monitoring solution."

OLGA YASHKOVA, PROGRAM MANAGER-COMMUNICATIONS TEST & MEASUREMENT PRACTICE MEASUREMENT & INSTRUMENTATION FROST & SULLIVAN

FROST & SULLIVAN

How Perspective for Skype for Business Online Works

Nectar's Perspective for Skype for Business Online is a real-time, synthetic traffic generation system that simulates voice traffic patterns for pre-deployment network assessment and post-deployment proactive and passive monitoring. Utilizing an advanced suite of codecs, Perspective delivers an advantage in network pre-assessments, voice quality troubleshooting, and proactive problem identification through its unique ability to generate RTP and UDP traffic. These traffic patterns can include a single source to multiple destinations (hub), multiple sources to multiple destinations (spoke), and/or a full mesh of traffic. Unlike most traditional synthetic engines, Perspective truly simulates a customizable voice and video experience, so it can detect degradation stemming from Round Trip Delay (RTD), jitter, packet loss and/or path change and its effects on MOS (Mean Opinion Score).

nectar
Every Conversation Matters™

Every Perspective deployment includes two primary components: the controller/collector and agents.

Controller/Collector

The controller is an application that manages the assessment and aggregates the data for reporting purposes. Perspective for Skype for Business Online supports a multi-tenant controller so an MSP can run simultaneous assessments for a variety of customers, with segmented results and reporting.

Perspective Agent (PA)

Perspective Agents generate synthetic traffic. Traffic can represent a variety of codecs that include, but are not limited to G711, G729, and G722. The PA can support up to 50 simultaneous sessions. Agents can be either software only or deployed on a small Intel NUC device (plug & play appliance).

Perspective for Skype for Business Online offers flexible deployment topologies that include on-premise, hosted or cloud, and hybrid enterprise environments. Whatever the environment, Nectar has the advanced tools to test your network's ability to effectively handle complex UC traffic, as well as confirm that the network connections between enterprise locations and the cloud can support anticipated voice and collaboration traffic.

Configurable Synthetic Testing Capabilities

The Perspective for Skype for Business tool offers a variety of testing options, including:

- Stress tests that increases voice sessions to determine the point at which the quality starts to degrade;
- Continuous QoS tests which initiates a session that will provide alarm alerts for a QoS threshold breach;
- Network trace technology that monitors and generates alarms for route path and Differentiated Services Code Point (DSCP) changes; and
- Codec tests to verify that different codecs are working properly.

Simulates a True Voice Experience

Nectar's advanced QoS packet-marking technology is designed to assist in identifying missing or misconfigured QoS network settings, network bandwidth issues, voice quality issues, and network path changes that may contribute to a negative voice quality experience. Any issue automatically generates an alarm.

The Smart Choice for Ensuring a Quality UC Deployment in the Microsoft Cloud

Because hosted UC offers the potential for tremendous value to the enterprise, Nectar is spearheading the delivery of unparalleled network assessment tools for Microsoft Skype for Business Online partner organizations. Regardless of other vendor or technology platforms operating within the same network environment, Nectar's full suite of software provides seamless insight, metrics, and root-cause analysis of issues that may affect voice quality and the overall user experience. With Nectar, IT professionals can deploy, support, and manage multi-vendor UC environments from the enterprise to the cloud and beyond.

About Nectar Services Corporation

Nectar is a global market leader. The company provides the most comprehensive monitoring and diagnostics software solutions for Unified Communication services, enabling IT and operation organizations to proactively ensure the end-user experience. Nectar's flagship Unified Communications Management Platform (UCMP) improves visibility and service delivery across integrated voice, video, and data application solutions by providing unique and critical performance information. Nectar provides monitoring and diagnostics for millions of enterprise endpoints to more than 1,400 enterprises in over 86 countries—including the largest global banking, search engine, healthcare, and manufacturing organizations in the world. Visit www.nectarcorp.com for more information.

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