VMware Edge Network Intelligence

Introduction
VMware Edge Network Intelligence™ (formerly Nyansa Voyance) is a vendor-agnostic artificial intelligence for IT operations (AIOps) solution focused on the enterprise edge that ensures end user and internet of things (IoT) client performance, security, and self-healing through wireless and wired LAN, SD-WAN and secure access service edge (SASE).

The solution employs machine learning (ML) algorithms and modern big data analytics to process high volumes of data from a wide range of network, device and application sources. In doing so, VMware Edge Network Intelligence auto-discovers end user and IoT devices, automatically establishes baselines, understands every single client interaction and monitors for deviations to provide actionable insights that operations teams can proactively remediate.

Benefits
Rich client experience
Manage a distributed and secure enterprise deployment with a client experience that eliminates IT visits. Get deep visibility into client’s wireless or wired state and proactively manage end user and IoT device issues across the entire network stack.

Proactive remediation
Employ fault detection, isolation and remediation using ML algorithms to tackle application problems caused by wireless and wired LAN, WAN, network services, security services and application. Remediate faults isolated with each application performance measured at vantage points between distributed workforce and distributed cloud applications.
Application assurance
Assure performance of over 3000 applications with objective actionable data isolating faults. Identify the worst-performing clients, the number of clients affected and detect systemic issues, such as the number of sites impacted.

Operational simplicity
Address exponential growth in end-user and IoT devices with auto-discovery, baselining and monitoring. Assure IoT device operations with utilization, risk and performance quantified by automatic device discovery, inventory, baselining and monitoring.

Rich API support
Utilize API for seamless integration with enterprise tools and workflows, increasing agility for IT Ops and helping drive enterprise automation.

VMware Edge Network Intelligence Components
VMware Edge Network Intelligence has three components:

Cloud Analytics Engine/Private Cloud Appliance
This component can be hosted in the cloud and is referenced here as Cloud Analytics Engine, or deployed on-premises as Private Cloud Appliance. It runs machine learning algorithms to perform auto-discovery, automatically establishing a baseline, monitoring for deviations, and analyzing historical trends with the output shared through the UI or integration through the platform API. Historical trends and baseline data from aggregated analysis is held for two years.

Crawler/Analytics Edge
This component collects data from different sources and is deployed on-premises in the branch, campus, or data center. When VMware Edge Network Intelligence is deployed with VMware SD-WAN, the collection is done inline by the VMware SD-WAN Edge and is referenced here as Analytics Edge function. When VMware Edge Network Intelligence is deployed in a standalone mode, the component doing the collection is called the Crawler. The Crawler or the Analytics Edge function within VMware SD-WAN Edge performs deep packet inspection on all traffic, network application identification, and correlation of traffic with user information. This information is analyzed and correlated locally. Only metadata trends and analytics are sent to the Cloud Analytics Engine for use by all levels of IT staff, from the help desk to the CIO. No packet data is stored by the Crawler or the Analytics Edge function within the VMware SD-WAN Edge.

Client App
The VMware Edge Network Intelligence Client App is designed as a self-help tool for end-users to determine what’s causing application slowdown issues, and as a remote diagnostic tool for enterprise administrators to baseline and diagnose remote issues. The Client App is an optional component of VMware Edge Network Intelligence that can be installed in end-user devices. The app has a simple user interface to determine if a remote users’ problem in accessing applications is due to the local Wi-Fi, broadband service, VPN connectivity or the application provider. The app performs a series of low-impact tests and reports the results to the user. Additional tests can be configured in VMware Edge Network Intelligence, including tests for VPN-reachable sites.

Cloud Analytics Engine/Private Cloud Appliance deployment options
The Cloud Analytics Engine is hosted in the cloud by VMware, taking away the responsibility of managing the lifecycle for this component of the solution. The Cloud Analytics Engine can also be deployed on-premises as Private Cloud Appliance. Both
deployment options have feature parity except that the on-premises version can be deployed as a single tenant only.

**Crawler/Analytics Edge deployment options**
The functionality delivered by the Crawler is being integrated into all models of VMware SD-WAN Edge devices. Two options are available for data collection:

- Legacy approach with Crawler for standalone deployment
- Crawler functionality integrated into the VMware SD-WAN Edge when deployed with VMware SD-WAN (Analytics Edge).

![Figure 2: VMware Edge Network Intelligence Crawler/Analytics Edge deployment options](image)

**Data sources**
VMware Edge Network Intelligence collects data from a variety of sources. They include:

- Network packet information from switch port organizer (SPAN), Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), domain name system (DNS) and Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS)
- Wi-Fi and wired access network metrics
- Client app installed on end user devices
- Unified communication and other critical applications
- IoT device transactions

**Crawler specification**
The Crawler VM software requires:

- VMware ESXi v.5.5 or higher
- Xeon quad core processor with 20GB of storage
- 4 virtual processor cores, and 4GM of virtual RAM
• Single 10 Gbps copper or fiber NIC and a single 1 Gbps copper or fiber NIC for high-speed connectivity to enterprise access network

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* 1G copper, 10G copper, 10G SR/LR SFPs supported
** 40G SR/LR QSFP optics supported

### Analytics Edge specification

Analytics Edge functionality is supported on the following models of VMware SD-WAN Edge:

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1. Maximum SD-WAN performance without VNF on Edge 840 is 4 Gbps; however, the maximum allowed bandwidth license is 2 Gbps.
For hardware and VMware SD-WAN specific details, refer to the VMware SD-WAN datasheet.

**Client App specifications**
The Client App can be installed using a device management platform such as VMware Workspace ONE. Supported platforms are Windows 10 and macOS X.

**Software subscription and hardware purchase details**
VMware Edge Network Intelligence has the following license components.

- A software subscription license is sold per-node for a 1-year, 3-year or 5-year term. A node here refers to switch, SD-WAN Edge or access points. The software node license can also be purchased as a license to install the Client App on end-user devices.

- If the Cloud Analytics Engine is deployed on-premises, then the hardware component for purchase also requires a private cloud appliance.

VMware Edge Network Intelligence purchase is easier with VMware SD-WAN deployment. VMware SD-WAN Enterprise, VMware SD-WAN Premium, VMware SD-WAN WFH, and VMware SD-WAN WFH Pro licenses entitle users to VMware Edge Network Intelligence software node license and Client App installation on end-user devices.

**Third-party/technology integrations**

- **Applications**: Zoom, Cisco UCM, Skype for Business, Citrix, ASCOM, GE Patient Monitoring

- **Network Access Control (NAC) and identity systems**: Cisco ISE, Aruba/HPE ClearPass, FreeRADIUS, Microsoft RADIUS

- **Security threat control platforms**: Cisco’s Platform Exchange Grid (pxGrid). VMware Edge Network Intelligence (formerly Voyance) is a certified solution on the Cisco pxGrid ecosystem

- **Wireless LAN**: Cisco, Aruba/HPE, Juniper MiST, Extreme Networks, Meraki, VMware SD-WAN Edge Wi-Fi

- **Wired LAN**: Cisco, Juniper, HPE, Alcatel-Lucent

- **ITSM/CMDBs**: ServiceNow native integration, Slack

- **SIEM**: Splunk and others via extensible VMware Edge Network Intelligence platform APIs

For more information about VMware SASE, visit sase.vmware.com.