IPSWITCH

Flow Publisher v1.0
Getting Started Guide

Get started with WhatsUp Flow Publisher.

IPSWITCH
WhatsUpGold

CHAPTER 1

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Welcome

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Welcome to Flow Publisher

WhatsUp Flow Publisher makes it possible for network managers to deploy an inexpensive solution to collect flow based data from networked devices that have no NetFlow based capability. Flow Publisher is a lightweight agent that processes raw network traffic, extracts flow data, and exports NetFlow v1, v5, and v9 records, enabling real-time traffic analysis, monitoring, alerting and reporting. This Flow Publisher Getting Started guide provides an overview of the steps required to deploy the Flow Publisher.

Tip: More detailed information about determining which network traffic to monitor and deploying the Flow Publisher is available in the *Flow Publisher Deployment guide* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/ta1deploy).

About Flow Publisher

The WhatsUp Flow Publisher is a lightweight agent that can be deployed to collect flow data from routers, switches, servers and other points of interest in the network. The Flow Publisher provides flow data and associated statistics for devices that do not support the NetFlow protocol, or where using a NetFlow enabled device to acquire the data is cost prohibitive and exports the flow data to Flow Monitor. After the Flow Publisher captures network data, it's configured to transmit the IP traffic information to WhatsUp Flow Monitor to analyze and report on network traffic patterns and bandwidth utilization in real-time.
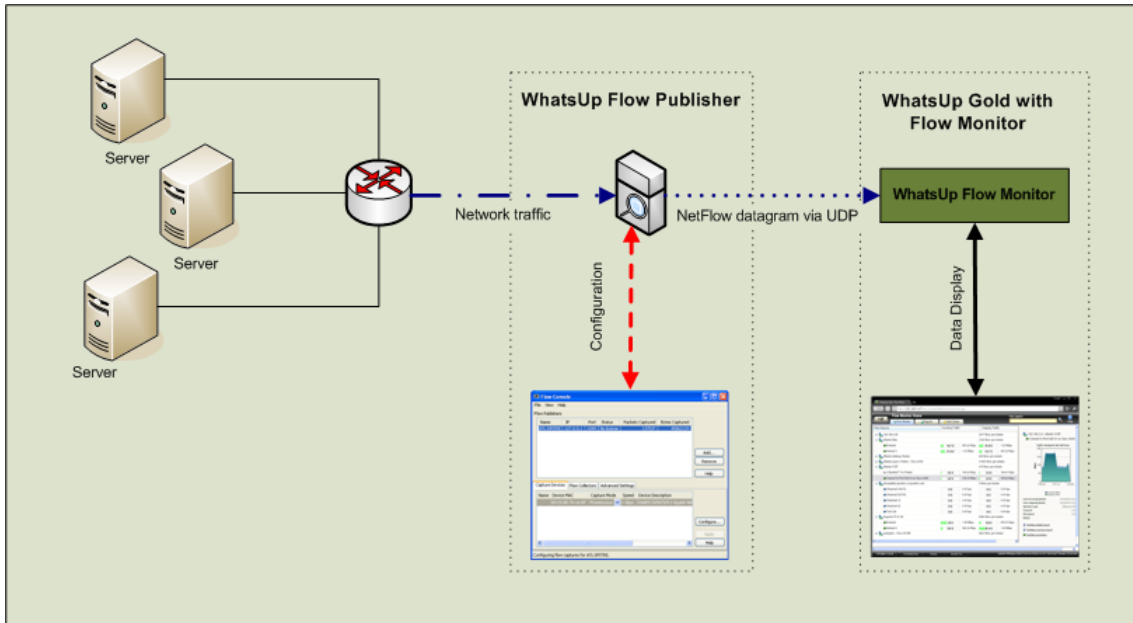
Deploying

In This Chapter

Deploying Flow Publisher

Deploy the Flow Publisher to collect NetFlow statistics from a server, network device, or network segment.

You must make the following decisions to ensure that the network traffic is delivered to the capture interface:

- Determine the network traffic on which you want to collect NetFlow statistics.
- Choose the method to use to copy and forward the traffic to the Flow Publisher capture interface.

After these decisions are made and the network traffic has been copied to the capture interface, the Flow Publisher can be configured using the Flow Console.

STEP 1: Prepare the Network

Deciding where to gather NetFlow data

Using the Flow Publisher to collect NetFlow data provides flexibility in choosing from which network, sub-net or segment you want to collect NetFlow data. You can collect NetFlow data from any point in the network where you can copy and forward network traffic to the Flow Publisher, so instead of being determined by the location of NetFlow enabled hardware, the decision as to where to gather NetFlow data is determined by where you would like to know more about your network.

Copying network traffic to the Flow Publisher

After you have determined the network traffic for which you want to capture and generate NetFlow statistics, you must determine how to copy the traffic to the Flow Publisher capture interface.

The options for copying network traffic are to:

- Capture traffic from a server's local interface.
- Mirror traffic from a network device such as a switch to a Flow Publisher capture interface.
- Use a network TAP to copy the desired network traffic to a Flow Publisher capture interface.

See *Copying Traffic to the Flow Publisher* in the *Flow Publisher Deployment guide* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/ta1deploy) for more information.

STEP 2: Install and Configure Flow Publisher

Download and Install

Download Flow Publisher from WhatsUpGold.com. If you are evaluating, the installation program includes the evaluation license and activates automatically.

Before installing, you must ensure that the following prerequisites are met:

- Download and install WinPcap on the server hosting Flow Publisher.

For more information on specific installation steps, consult the Flow Publisher release notes. The release notes are available at **Start > Programs > Ipswitch WhatsUp Flow Publisher > Release Notes** or on the *WhatsUp Gold web site* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/wug14guides).

Configuring the Flow Publisher

Configuring the Flow Publisher is accomplished by:

- Adding the Flow Publisher to the Flow Console
- Verifying the capture device settings
- Configuring the capture interface
- Adding Flow Monitor as a collector.

Starting the Flow Console

The Flow Publisher must be configured from a Flow Console. You may install a Flow Console on a remote desktop or you may use the Flow Console that is installed with the Flow Publisher. To start the Flow Console from the start menu:

Click **Start > All Programs > Ipswitch WhatsUp Flow Publisher > Flow Console**.

Adding a Flow Publisher to a Flow Console

Before you can configure the Flow Publisher, you must add the publisher to the Flow Console. Use the Add button on the Flow Publisher section of the Flow Console to add the Flow Publisher to the Flow Publisher list on the Flow Console. See *Adding a Flow Publisher to a Flow Console* in the *Flow Publisher Deployment guide* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/ta1deploy) for more information.
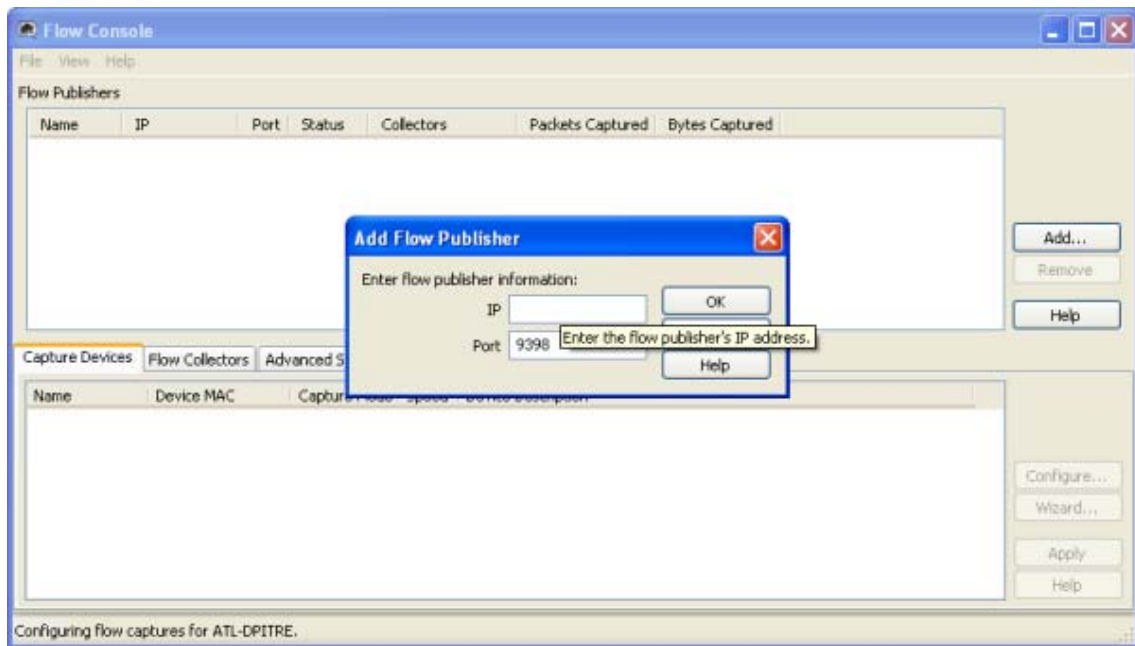

Configuring the Flow Publisher capture device

To configure the Flow Publisher capture device use the Capture Devices tab of the Flow Console. There are several configuration options that are available for identifying traffic direction based on the type of traffic received by the capture device. You can configure the Flow Publisher to capture the incoming and outgoing traffic for the local server, a network device that is mirroring traffic, or a network segment using a network TAP. Click **Wizard** to launch the Flow Capture Device Wizard, a wizard that provides a streamlined means of configuring a capture device.

See *Configuring the Flow Publisher capture interface* in the *Flow Publisher Deployment guide* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/ta1deploy) for more information.
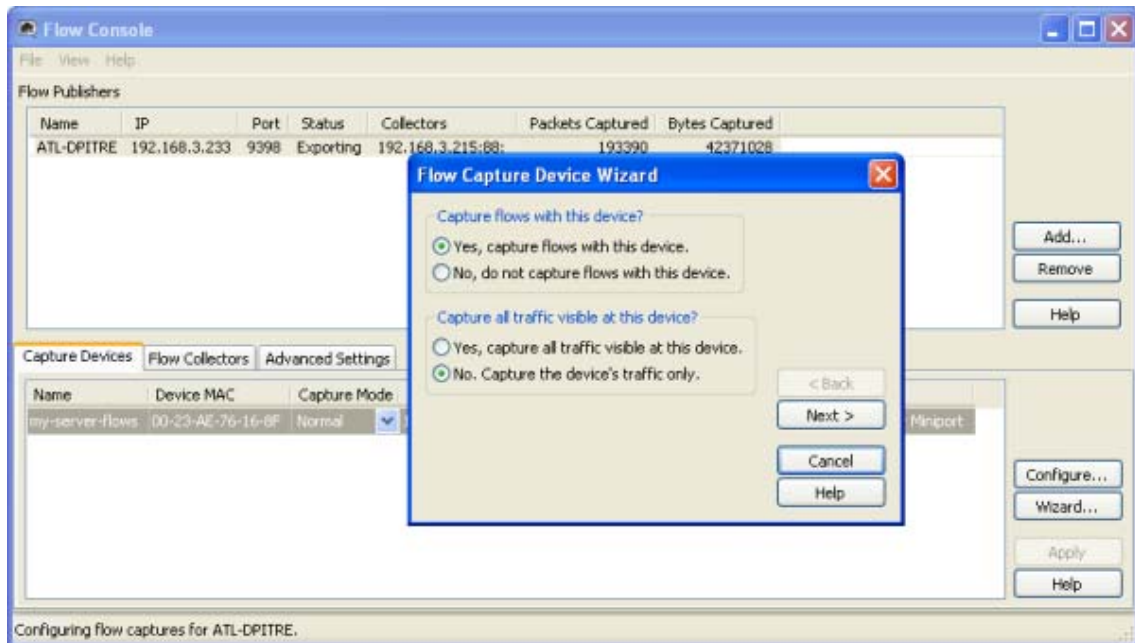
Adding a Flow Collector to a Flow Publisher configuration

You can add a collector from the Flow Collectors tab of the Flow Console. When you add a collector, it is associated with the selected Flow Publisher. To configure Flow Monitor as the collector, enter the IP address for the server hosting WhatsUp Gold and Flow Monitor in the IP field of the Add Collector dialog. See *Adding a Flow Publisher to a Flow Console configuration* in the *Flow Publisher Deployment guide* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/ta1deploy) for more information.
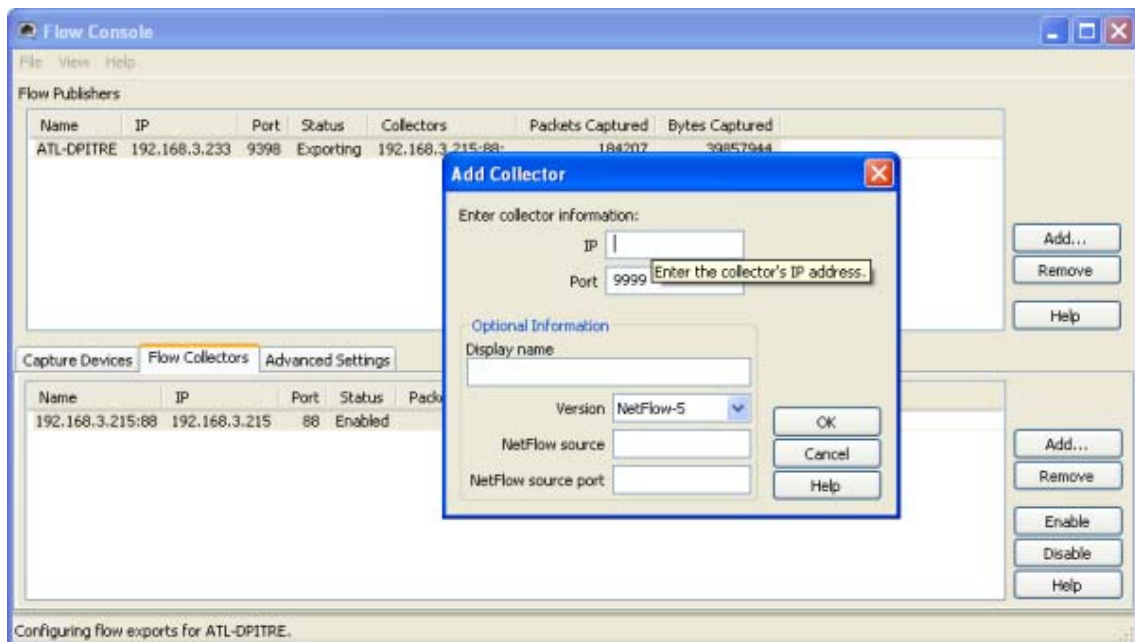
STEP 3: Configure Flow Monitor as a Collector

The information that Flow Monitor collects is influenced by the location of the flow sources relative to firewalls or other devices that perform network address translation (NAT). In short, the data is dependent on what and how the source sees. Carefully consider which routers or other Flow-enabled devices you want to configure to export flows to Flow Monitor to ensure that you see the type of data that you want to see.

Configuring Flow Publisher as a Flow source is a two-step process that requires:

1   Setting up Flow Monitor to listen for Flow data on the appropriate port.
2   Setting options for the Flow source in Flow Monitor.

See *Configuring WhatsUp Flow Monitor* in the Flow Monitor Help for more information.

STEP 4: Manage Flow Publisher

Flow Publishers are managed from the Flow Console, a graphical interface that provides the ability to restart Flow Publishers, enable and disable Flow Collectors, set display options, and manage Flow Publisher configurations. The Flow Console is installed with each publisher or can be installed separately. You can manage all of the publishers on a network from a single Flow Console. See *Managing the Flow Publisher* in the *Flow Publisher Deployment guide* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/ta1deploy) for more information.

More Information

In This Chapter

For more information and updates

Following are information resources for WhatsUp Flow Publisher. This information may be periodically updated and available on the Flow Publisher web site.

- **Release Notes**. The release notes provide an overview of changes, known issues, and bug fixes for the current release. The notes also contain instructions for installing, upgrading, and configuring Flow Publisher. The release notes are available at **Start > Programs > Ipswitch WhatsUp Flow Publisher > Release Notes** or on the *WhatsUp Gold web site* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/TrafficAnalyzer1relnotes).

- **Application Help for the console and web interface**. The console and web help contain dialog assistance, general configuration information, and how-to's that explain how to use the features. The Table of Contents is organized by functional area, and can be accessed from the main menu or by clicking **Help** in the console, or the **?** icon in the web interface.

- **Additional Flow Publisher guides**. For a listing of current guides and help files available for Flow Publisher, see the *WhatsUp Gold web site* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/wug14guides).

- **Licensing Information**. Licensing and support information is available on the *MyIpswitch licensing portal* (http://www.myipswitch.com/). The web portal provides enhanced web-based capabilities to view and manage Ipswitch product licenses.

- **Knowledge Base**. Search the Ipswitch Knowledge Base of technical support and customer service information. The knowledge base is available on the *WhatsUp Gold web site* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/wugTechSupport).

- **Support community**. Use the WhatsUp Gold community site to interact with other WhatsUp Gold users and share helpful application information on the forums, view KBs and documentation, submit new product ideas, access the script library, and keep up with the latest news on the blog. The wugSpace support community for WhatsUp Gold is available on the *WhatsUp Gold community site* (http://www.whatsupgold.com/wwc14forumsmore).

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