Installing and configuring a Network Instruments probe

Use this chart to help you through the typical process of installing and configuring your Network Instruments probe. Start at the top and follow the path down for your probe. It is divided into two parts: what to do in the server room and what to do from the Observer analyzer system.

Do you know where you want to put your probes for the best visibility?

In the Server Room, your probe is a…

- GigaStor Expandable
- GigaStor Upgradeable
- NI hardware probe for LAN, WAN, SAN, or wireless
- Software probe on your own hardware

Mount it in the rack. Some racks may require the special U-bracket.

Connect the cables for monitoring devices (TAP or SPAN/mirror port)

Install the RAID drives in the correct location matching their stickers

Configure the LOM port if you’re using it

Configure the video options

Set the IP address

Change the probe’s name

Does the hardware meet the minimum requirements?

Install the probe software

Reserve system memory

Set the probe to run as a Windows service

See the page number listed in the Probes & GigaStor User Guide rev. 7 for full details about each step. More advanced configuration options are also covered in the user guide.
Do you know what a probe instance is and how to use one?

From the Observer analyzer

Connect to the probe

GigaStor probe
- Rename the active instance
- Configure the GigaStor buffer and statistics buffer for the active instance
- Create at least one passive instance, but preferably one for each user
- Schedule when the GigaStor active instance captures packets
- Analyze data from your GigaStor using a passive instance

Non-GigaStor probe
- Rename the local probe instance
- Create at least one probe instance for each user of this probe
- Confirm the adapter speed, ToS/QoS, and sampling for the probe instance
- Schedule when a packet capture should occur
- Start a packet capture
- Analyze the packet capture

NetFlow probe
- Create a NetFlow Trending instance
- Configure Network Trending settings
- Start Network Trending
- View the statistics in the Network Trending Viewer

When creating a probe instance for the first time, you should accept the default settings as they will work for most users in most situations. You can always change the probe instance settings at a later time. See the “Software Probes” section in the Probes & GigaStor User Guide for full details about all settings available for your probe.