What is FireScope Cloud Advisor?

FireScope Cloud Advisor is a game-changing SaaS based platform that analyzes the risk involved in migrating a business service to cloud.

What is a business service?

A business services is a combination of applications and infrastructure that delivers a specific user experience or business function to an internal or external customer.

How does Cloud Advisor discover a business service?

FireScope CA listens to the URLs and application calls being requested by users to discover service entry points. It can also listen for specific application protocols or port traffic, such as LDAP or Oracle applications, to discover infrastructure service entry points. From either starting point, the solution analyzes aggregate network traffic between virtual and physical servers to follow transactions through their downstream dependencies. Additional virtualization, storage and network discovery scans complete the picture by mapping the virtual and physical dependencies.

How does Cloud Advisor identify risk for each business service?

Cloud Advisor uses a unique algorithm to rank each business service that is accessed by unique client users, number of servers supporting the business service and the impact it can have on other business services. The combination of all these factors provides ranking and displays risk for migrating a business service to cloud.

Is there any potential security risk by deploying Cloud Advisor?

Cloud Advisor's approach simply listens to aggregate network traffic to determine the dependencies between applications and systems that are communicating in order to fulfil user requests following the transaction from user to database and beyond. Cloud advisor then analyzes through our risk engine the dependencies and provides a report with risk analysis. Due to this approach, we do not require ports with known vulnerabilities to be opened on servers, nor do we require administrative privileges.

I'm concerned about port mirroring producing too much data or impacting the network

In a typical implementation, we work with you to select the right mix of discovery methodologies to ensure the right level of discovery detail while minimizing impact. For example, we typically only utilize port mirroring on specific switches, such as those right in front of a web farm. For the rest of the environment, we would use a combination of NetFlow/sFlow to complete the picture. Additionally, with port mirroring we can be selective as to which interfaces are mirrored to further reduce impact.

Port mirroring really provides us one benefit over NetFlow – detection of the urls being requested. NetFlow/sFlow only contains aggregate data (I liken it to reading your cell phone bill), which is preferable in most situations and has a low overhead.

How is Cloud Advisor deployed?

Cloud based delivery enables Cloud Advisor to be rapidly deployed providing deeper visibility and mapping of business services. Cloud Advisor offers on-premises deployment or cloud based SaaS deployment.

What do I need to know about my Services before beginning discovery?

In short, nothing. For many competing solutions, you have to tell the solution where to start with each service (e.g. provide a url or server) and know a significant amount about the application's architecture. FireScope DDM can detect which urls are being requested by users, providing you a list of what we have automatically identified as potential services. Once you select the services you care about discovering, the solution does the rest.

Can FireScope CA map my custom applications?

Absolutely! At the network level, application architecture becomes moot. Web servers talk to application servers, application servers talk to database servers, regardless of whether they are written in Java, .Net or any other language. Because FireScope is looking at how different systems are communicating with each other, this allows it to discover any service topology, regardless of platform, architecture or whether they are commercial or custom.

What versions of NetFlow and sFlow are supported?

FireScope Cloud Advisor supports NetFlow v1/v5/v7/v8/v9, sFlow v2/v4/v5 and IPFIX.

What if I don't want to or can't use agents?

It's important to understand that there is some system configuration data that simply can- not be accessed without a command being run on a server, such as running processes or how many CPUs are installed. If you don't need this level of detail, then the agent can be skipped entirely.