CNA-8000 SNA Gateway

Channel SNA Gateway

Do you have an aging Cisco CIP that is no longer supported, functioning as an SNA gateway? How about an IBM 3174 or 3172 gateway (also not supported)? Perhaps you have a Memorex Telex or Visara 1174 gateway controller that has also reached end of life? How about a 3745/3746 with SDLC lines or Token Ring connections supporting SNA controllers?

Well there is a current alternative that supports FICON channel interfaces for host connectivity and is capable of supporting dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of downstream SNA platforms. Introducing the Visara CNA-8000 SNA Gateway.

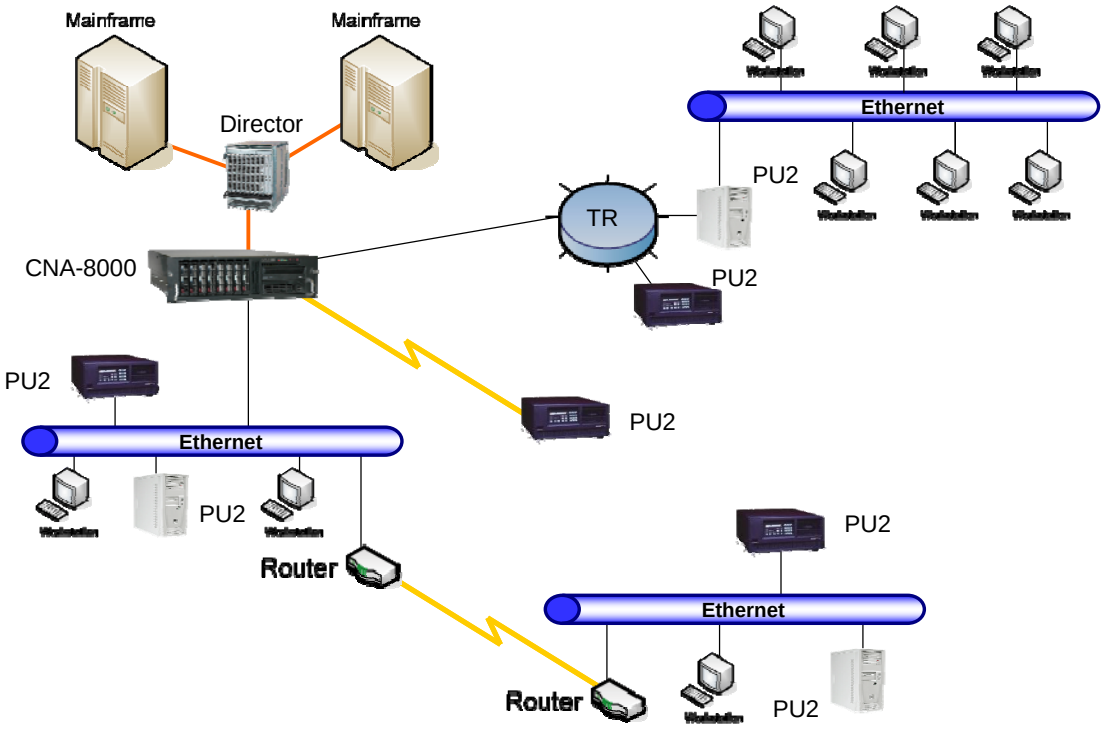
The Visara CCA-3074 Solution

The CNA-8000 SNA Gateway appliance is an enterprise class high availability solution. Both FICON and ESCON channel attachments are available allowing connectivity to nearly every mainframe environment. Support for over 4000 downstream SNA platforms and more than 16,000 TN3270E desktops can be provided through a single platform over a combination of network interfaces that includes Ethernet, Token Ring, and SDLC. Dynamic reconfiguration and redundant hardware within the platform assure a high reliability. The CNA-8000 comes in a convenient 3U platform that can be rack mounted.

Features

- Support for up to 4000 Downstream SNA Platforms
- Ethernet SNA Support (up to 10 interfaces with speeds to 1 Gbps)
- Token Ring SNA Support (up to 4 interfaces with speeds to 100 Mbps)
- SDLC SNA Support (up to 16 interfaces with speeds to T1/E1)
- Integrated DLSw Support
- FICON and ESCON Channel Connectivity
- XCA Technology to VTAM
- Support for up to 16,000 TN3270E Clients
- TN3270E session encryption support

- Configure and Manage Through a Secure Browser Connection
- Dynamic Reconfiguration
- High Reliability



Support for SDLC Lines

Still have a need to support one or more SDLC lines? The CNA-8000 can support up to 16 SDLC lines, for PU2 traffic. (For support of PU4 traffic see the Visara FEP-4600 product.) Traffic is interfaced to the host using XCA VTAM definitions and Switched Major node definitions. Lines can be configured as point-to-point or multidrop. Up to four Quad SDLC interface cards may be installed in the CNA-8000 allowing for support of up to 16 lines. The CNA-8000 is capable of providing clocks when needed allowing for the elimination of some modems or modem eliminators for locally attached platforms.

Support for Token Ring Attached Platforms

Do you still have a need to interface Token Ring attached platforms to the host? Perhaps you still have a 3745 or 3746 to provide this connectivity or a Cisco CIP that is no longer supported. The CNA-8000 can provide connectivity for thousands of Token Ring attached platforms through up to four Token Ring interfaces, each capable of operating at speeds up to 100 Mbps.

Integrated DLSw Support

The CNA-8000 supports integrated DLSw traffic through Ethernet connections. This feature may allow you to eliminate LLC traffic across your backbone in the data center. With FICON or

ESCON on the host side and Ethernet IP traffic on the network side, communicate to remote DLSw attached SNA nodes.

If you still have remote 1174 platforms in your network, it is also possible with the CNA-8000 to communicate directly to those 1174s with DLSw, thus eliminating LLC traffic at the remote location as well, all while maintaining higher throughputs offered by Ethernet networking over IP routed networks.

Reliability

The CNA-8000 runs on a hardened Enterprise class server platform. The following redundant hot swappable hardware ensures high availability of the system.

- Multiple Fans – five fans provide sufficient cooling even if one or more were to fail.
- Dual Power Supplies – each capable of being independently wired into its power source, allowing for the use of dual mains. Each power supply is fully capable of supporting the entire system by itself.
- Mirrored RAID Hard Drives – provides for the failure of one drive without affecting the operation of the platform.

In addition to hardware reliability, the CNA-8000 also supports the use of restore points. A restore point allows you to save a snapshot of the server software and configuration, which can be restored at a later date if needed, in case the current software and configuration gets changed accidently or due to some other unfortunate incident. Restore points are automatically created whenever a code update is performed.

Dynamic Reconfiguration

The CNA-8000 utilizes XCA gateway technology to interface PU 2 traffic to VTAM. Using XCA gateway technology, SNA nodes can be added, modified, or removed as needed without ever needing to take the gateway down. For the TN3270E gateway feature, clients can be added, changed, and deleted as needed, also without a need to take the gateway down.

A Drop-In Solution

The CNA-8000 was designed with product transition in mind. By supporting a variety of interfaces and features, the CNA-8000 is capable of providing a drop-in solution for the product it is replacing, eliminating the need to touch remote, downstream platforms in most cases.

On the host side, changes when replacing a CIP, 3172, or 3745 are normally very minor, usually involving the definition of a new XCA definition or the tweaking of an existing definition. Replacing a 3174 or 1174 gateway involves migrating the definitions from Local Channel definitions to Switched definitions.

When supporting TN3270E clients, the CNA-8000 feature set includes specific options to maintain compatibility to the 1174, the CIP, and most other TN3270 gateways.

Migration Path Forward

The broad feature set supported by the CNA-8000 allows you to implement a product, compatible to the older gateway products, but offering the latest in features to allow you to transition in the directions that you need to go, and allows you to move at your own pace.

Migrate from ESCON to FICON and support both channel interfaces at the same time if needed. Migrate from Token Ring to Ethernet or SDLC to Ethernet with a product that supports all of the necessary interfaces at the same time. Transition your TN3270 desktops to use encryption as needed at your own pace. Often you can make configuration changes that can be put into affect without taking an outage on the gateway platform.

In Conclusion

The CNA-8000 provides a good migration path from older gateway platforms to provide the needed FICON channel connectivity for today's mainframes, the continued offloading of the TN3270 and SNA gateway functions, while providing compatibility to the older platforms and network interfaces to minimize transition time and effort. All of this while providing a modern administrative interface on a high performance, high availability enterprise platform.