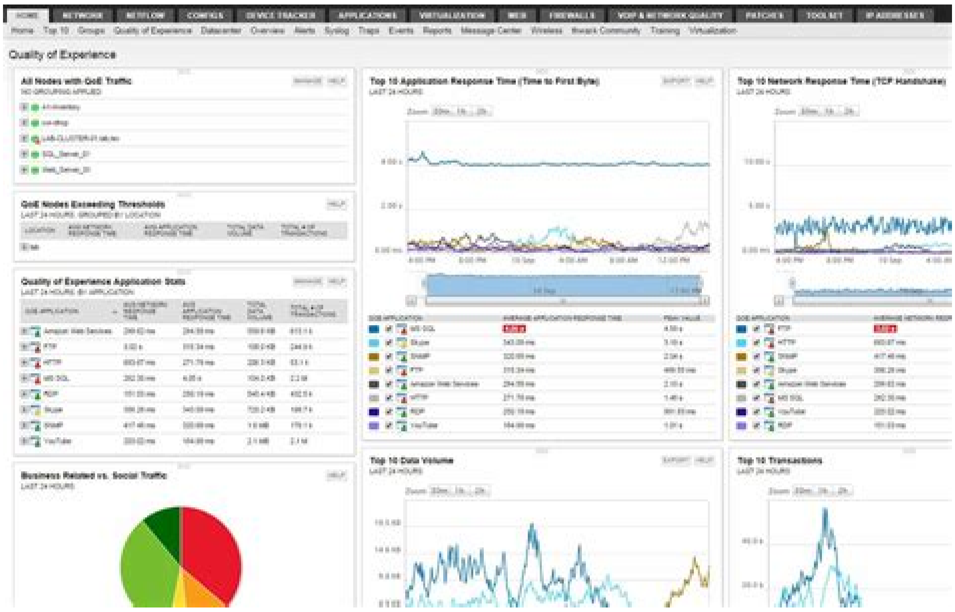
Solarwinds Orion Network Performance Monitor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Wireless
thwack Community
Training
Virtualization
Quality of Experience
All Nodes with QoE Traffic
QoE Nodes Exceeding Thresholds
Quality of Experience Application Stats
Business Related vs. Social Traffic
Top 10 Application Response Time (Time to First Byte)
Top 10 Network Response Time (TCP Handshake)
Top 10 Data Volume
Top 10 Transactions

SolarWinds Orion Network Performance Monitor (NPM) is a powerful network management tool designed to provide organizations with comprehensive visibility into their network performance and health. As networks become increasingly complex, with a growing number of devices and applications, IT teams require robust solutions to ensure optimal performance and quick issue resolution. SolarWinds NPM helps achieve this by offering a suite of tools and features that enable real-time monitoring, reporting, and analysis of network traffic and performance.

Overview of SolarWinds Orion NPM

SolarWinds Orion NPM is part of the larger Orion Platform, which is a suite of IT management solutions. This network performance monitor is primarily used to monitor network devices, analyze traffic patterns, and troubleshoot issues. It provides a centralized view of network performance metrics, helping IT administrators maintain a healthy network environment.

Key Features

1. Real-Time Monitoring: SolarWinds NPM offers real-time monitoring of network devices, including routers, switches, firewalls, and servers. This feature allows IT teams to identify performance issues as they occur.

2. Network Insights: The tool provides detailed insights into network performance, including bandwidth usage, latency, packet loss, and device availability. Administrators can drill

down into specific devices to identify bottlenecks or failures.

3. Custom Dashboards: Users can create customizable dashboards that display critical network performance metrics. This allows teams to visualize performance trends and quickly access important data.

4. Alerts and Notifications: SolarWinds NPM includes a robust alerting system that notifies administrators of potential issues before they escalate. Users can set thresholds for specific metrics and receive alerts via email, SMS, or mobile app.

5. Traffic Analysis: The tool can analyze network traffic patterns, helping organizations to understand bandwidth usage across applications and devices. This is crucial for optimizing performance and planning for future growth.

6. Multi-Vendor Support: SolarWinds NPM supports a wide range of network devices from various vendors, making it a flexible solution for diverse network environments.

Benefits of Using SolarWinds NPM

Implementing SolarWinds Orion NPM can yield several benefits for organizations looking to improve their network performance management:

1. Increased Uptime: By monitoring network devices in real-time, IT teams can proactively address issues, reducing downtime and ensuring that critical business applications remain operational.

2. Enhanced Troubleshooting: The detailed insights provided by SolarWinds NPM allow for quicker identification of issues, reducing the time spent on troubleshooting and minimizing the impact on end-users.

3. Improved Resource Allocation: Traffic analysis helps organizations understand how bandwidth is being utilized, enabling better allocation of resources and optimization of network performance.

4. Cost Savings: By preventing network outages and optimizing performance, organizations can save on costs associated with downtime, lost productivity, and expensive troubleshooting efforts.

5. User Satisfaction: A well-performing network leads to improved user experience, resulting in higher satisfaction among employees and customers.

System Requirements and Installation

Before installing SolarWinds Orion NPM, it's essential to ensure that the system meets the necessary requirements. Here’s a breakdown of the requirements:

Hardware Requirements

- Processor: Dual-core CPU (recommended quad-core or higher)
- RAM: Minimum of 4 GB (8 GB recommended for larger environments)
- Disk Space: At least 20 GB of free disk space (more may be needed depending on the number of nodes monitored)
- Network Interface: 1 Gbps or higher

Software Requirements

- Operating System: Windows Server 2012 or later
- Database: Microsoft SQL Server (2012 or later)
- Browser: Latest version of Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Microsoft Edge

Installation Process

1. Download the Installer: Obtain the SolarWinds Orion NPM installation package from the SolarWinds website.

2. Run the Installer: Execute the installer on the designated server.

3. Follow the Wizard: The installation wizard will guide you through the setup process, prompting you to accept the license agreement, select components, and configure the database.

4. Configuration: Once installed, configure the initial settings, including network discovery, alerting, and dashboard setup.

5. Finalize Installation: After configuration, the system will finalize the installation, and you can begin using SolarWinds NPM.

Network Discovery and Setup

After installation, the next critical step is discovering devices on the network and setting up monitoring.

Device Discovery

SolarWinds NPM provides an automated device discovery feature that scans the network and identifies devices to be monitored. Here’s how to perform network discovery:

1. Access the Discovery Wizard: In the SolarWinds interface, navigate to the Network

Discovery section.

2. Specify IP Ranges: Enter the IP ranges or subnets you wish to scan for devices.

3. Select Device Types: Choose the types of devices to discover, such as routers, switches, or servers.

4. Run the Scan: Initiate the discovery process. SolarWinds NPM will search the specified IP ranges and catalog the devices it finds.

5. Review Discovered Devices: Once the scan is complete, review the list of discovered devices and select which ones to monitor.

Setting Up Monitoring

Once devices are discovered, the following steps can be taken to set up monitoring:

1. Add Devices to Monitoring: Select the desired devices from the discovery list and add them to the monitoring system.

2. Configure Monitoring Settings: Customize the monitoring settings for each device, including specific metrics to monitor, alert thresholds, and polling intervals.

3. Set Up Alerts: Create alerts based on critical performance metrics, ensuring that the right team members are notified in case of issues.

4. Create Custom Dashboards: Design dashboards that display the most relevant performance data for your team, providing a quick overview of network health.

Best Practices for Using SolarWinds NPM

To maximize the effectiveness of SolarWinds Orion NPM, consider the following best practices:

1. Regularly Update Software: Keep your SolarWinds NPM installation up to date to benefit from the latest features and security updates.

2. Monitor Key Metrics: Focus on monitoring essential metrics like bandwidth usage, device uptime, and response times to ensure network health.

3. Utilize Custom Dashboards: Leverage custom dashboards to provide visibility into network performance, tailored to the specific needs of your team.

4. Conduct Regular Network Audits: Periodically review your monitoring setup to ensure all critical devices are covered and that alert thresholds are still relevant.

5. Train Your Team: Ensure that your IT staff is trained on how to use SolarWinds NPM

effectively, so they can take full advantage of its features.

Conclusion

SolarWinds Orion Network Performance Monitor is a comprehensive solution for organizations looking to enhance their network performance management. With its robust feature set, real-time monitoring capabilities, and user-friendly interface, SolarWinds NPM enables IT teams to maintain optimal network performance and quickly resolve issues. By implementing best practices and leveraging the tool's capabilities, organizations can achieve significant improvements in network uptime, user satisfaction, and overall efficiency. In today’s fast-paced digital landscape, investing in a solution like SolarWinds NPM is essential for maintaining a competitive edge.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is SolarWinds Orion Network Performance Monitor?

SolarWinds Orion Network Performance Monitor is a comprehensive network monitoring tool that provides real-time visibility into network performance, allowing IT professionals to detect, diagnose, and resolve network issues quickly.

What are the key features of SolarWinds Orion NPM?

Key features of SolarWinds Orion NPM include network performance monitoring, automated network mapping, customizable dashboards, alerting and reporting capabilities, and deep packet inspection for detailed analysis.

How does SolarWinds Orion NPM handle network outages?

SolarWinds Orion NPM uses advanced alerting mechanisms to notify users of network outages in real-time. It provides detailed diagnostic information to help IT teams quickly identify and resolve the root cause of the outage.

Can SolarWinds Orion NPM monitor cloud environments?

Yes, SolarWinds Orion NPM can monitor cloud environments by integrating with various cloud services and providing visibility into cloud-based resources alongside on-premises network devices.

Is SolarWinds Orion NPM scalable for large enterprises?

Absolutely, SolarWinds Orion NPM is designed to be highly scalable, accommodating large enterprises with thousands of devices while maintaining performance and providing

comprehensive monitoring capabilities.

What types of devices can SolarWinds Orion NPM monitor?

SolarWinds Orion NPM can monitor a wide range of devices including routers, switches, firewalls, servers, virtual machines, and various types of networked hardware across multiple vendors.

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Solarwinds Orion Network Performance Monitor

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