



Network Monitoring The Must Haves

Network Monitoring - The Must Haves

The definition of [Network monitoring](#) no longer confines to just setting up a solution that is capable of garnering information from the network. With the corporate world looking at IT as that critical function having a say on day-to-day business, the choice of a network monitoring solution must factor-in the business aspects such as increased employee productivity and saving on infrastructure costs, besides the obvious need of the solution having to aide the business with all the 'must-have' functionality either built-in or by way of facilitating useful plug-ins. No two networks are same and so it is only fair to expect a network monitoring solution to work on a 'one size fits all' principle in the not-so-perfect IT world.

When we talk about IT directly impacting the business, it could be anything from a seemingly simple problem like a web page taking eternity to load or a poor LAN connectivity, to more serious ones like an important email from a prospect not making it to your inbox, a CRM database crash, or even dealing with a mischief-maker within. While these issues can be addressed by a variety of vertical solutions in the market, there is nothing like the convenience of a single-point access to visualize the entire network to manage the fault, performance, configuration, and security or the other resources within. While a wide range of IT functionality fit into the 'network monitoring' umbrella, it is important to look for the 'must-haves' to help align your IT with the business goals. . It serves to keep in mind that to an administrator, network performance, security, [fault management](#), and reliability are not mutually exclusive. A solution that serves all of these on one platter, keeps the administrator and his network happy! Anything more is a welcome bonus!

The must-haves

Let us take a closer look at the main concerns of an administrator and what data he will mine for in the minutiae of information gathered by the solution :

- Automatic Discovery
- Smart Classification & Mapping
- Indepth Performance Monitoring
- Security Management
- Intelligent Alerting
- Solution's Scalability

Automatic Discovery

With the corporate networks getting more complex due to huge and distributed infrastructure, automatic discovery leaves little room for manual errors. Constant upgrades and additions to the network is nothing new and this calls for a provision to initiate a discovery on demand too. So, a solution must be capable of automating the discovery and it must also accommodate a forced discovery.

Smart Classification & Mapping

The infrastructure to be managed include network devices, servers, applications, and other resources on the network. Different parameters determine the health of performance of these resources on the network. Classification of the infrastructure based on the type, and provision to map or logically group devices like clustered environments or geographically distributed resources, empowers the administrator and helps him visualize his network and manage.

