



EYE OF THE STORM NETWORK MANAGEMENT FROM ENTUITY

Administrators are undoubtedly spoilt for choice when it comes to network management and monitoring, as there is a plethora of products on the market. All aim to offer a similar set of features, but in our experience some are difficult to install and overly complex, and, whilst providing a wealth of information about network devices, offer few tools to make any sense of it all.

Entuity's Eye Of The Storm (EYE) focuses keenly on these problem areas and aims to deliver a management solution that is simple to use and yet offers extensive network analysis and device monitoring capabilities, combined with fault notification and detailed inventory related facilities.

When it comes to presenting all this information, many products fall down as reporting is often a weakness, but EYE provides the tools to customise the reports that specifically target different audiences.

We found installation on our test Windows Server 2003 platform straightforward, although we would recommend using a dedicated system, as EYE listens on a number of ports for functions such as trap receipt, database, web server access and event management, and these need to be kept dedicated.

The whole process takes less than fifteen minutes, after which you run a simple configuration utility that sets details such as database and log

directories, SSL communications with the EYE server, licensing and port configuration. Again, this is a swift process, and on completion you can leave EYE to get on with discovering the network, which it runs both automatically and on demand.

EYE is designed to monitor hubs, switches and routers, along with application services at Layer 4. However, it goes much further than many competing products, as along with taking a full inventory of the network, it also identifies how each device is interconnected, and builds a map showing their relationships with each other.

Furthermore, as it gathers real-time performance data from each device, it can pinpoint problem areas and provide timely alerts. EYE doesn't simply alert administrators to problems regardless of their type, but helps identify the root cause and the impact it's likely to have on business operations.

During testing we found the main EYE web management interface very intuitive, with it offering easy access to all functions. The EWC (early warning centre) is where most of the action takes place, as this provides up-to-date performance data and alert prioritisation. The component view shows all discovered devices and applications where you can, for example, view all ports on the selected device and pull up graphs showing real-time utilisation, faults, errors and traffic volumes.

Applications can be viewed separately

where you can see their status and response latencies. If, for example, a server failed, EYE will also clearly list the associated applications this would have an impact on. The Bulletin Board provides a quick view of all outstanding problems on selected devices, along with their impact, plus a list below of all errors in time order.

The source where the fault originated can be further interrogated, so you can view its inventory details and areas such as port availability and status.

Real-time and historical reporting is a particularly strong point of EYE and it addresses all areas, including fault reporting and analysis, inventory and network utilisation, while report scheduling and automatic distribution is supported.

Essential reports provide predefined templates and cover all aspects of network monitoring, whilst Flex reports can be endlessly customised to cover a range of requirements, such as inventory queries.

Eye of the Storm shows clearly that network management and monitoring doesn't need to be a dark art. It's simple to install and use, and yet it provides a wealth of information about network behaviour, backed up with excellent reporting facilities. **NC**

Product: Eye Of The Storm
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Telephone: 020 7444 4800
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