



## Eye of the Storm version 5, from Entuity

**E**ye of the Storm from Entuity may have an eccentric name, but there is nothing off-centre about its network management capabilities.

Capable of monitoring network infrastructure devices such as routers, switches, hubs, and applications at Layer 4, it can handle enterprise-level networks without demanding excessive resources.

The software's minimum hardware requirements are modest; a 2GHz CPU with 1Gb of RAM and 15 GB hard disk space will do for a small network, but the requirement for disk space can grow rapidly since data can be held for up to six months for many devices. Versions are available for Microsoft Windows 2003 Server, Red Hat Enterprise Linux ES version 3 and Sun Solaris version 10. Management clients can be run on any PC with an Intel Pentium processor rated at 1GHz or more running Internet Explorer 6.0

Using a browser-based web management interface with Java components, the software offers a simple but clear interface to all aspects of the system. A major requirement of any monitoring system is that it should provide warnings of changes and potential problems in good time. The Early Warning Centre's three components answer this requirement; a Java application, it provides real-time reporting of alerts and performance. The Component Viewer provides extensive

device information and performance data with the ability to drill-down to the system resource level to obtain detailed information on such things as CPU utilisation. A key item here is that it can also provide details of any hosts connected by port, of each device, enabling the identification of affected applications in the event of problems. Its ability to produce line graphs simply by dragging and dropping items of interest onto the Attribute Grapher can be used to compare performance measures for two or more devices at a time. The Bulletin Board shows problem events in chronological order for any selected device and has a help system that can provide on the spot detailed advice for any selected event. The Connectivity viewer feature shows the state of the connections between selected devices as a graphical display, and offers detailed status displays for each device.

Eye of The Storm's previous releases have been good at providing early warnings of problems within the network, but problems on the borders were less easy to identify. Changes here can cause performance issues that can be hard to pin down. This new release can monitor changes at the periphery, identifying new devices by MAC address and reporting changes in traffic flow caused by increased user numbers or port speed changes. Particularly useful where there are remote installations that can install their own equipment, so this is a welcome

new addition to the troubleshooting armoury.

Management reporting can be a weak point in this type of application, but Eye of the Storm has strength in depth here. Pre-defined reports covering network utilisation, fault reporting and hardware inventories are provided. Key performance indicator reports covering device availability, port utilisation and packet corruption are available and can provide valuable details of trends over time. Summary reports produce management overviews of network performance down to the individual device level, while the Flex Reports feature allows reports to be customised to suit individual needs.

Producing highly detailed information on all aspects of the networks under its control is only half the task. The other half is to avoid swamping the administrator with statistics. By providing reporting and analysis features that are concise, Eye of the Storm can be used not only to monitor and control the network and its resources, but also to provide the data needed to inform management decisions on important issues such as future capacity planning and Service Level Agreements. **NC**

**Product:** Eye of the Storm - Version 5.0

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**Price:** \$40,000