

OpManager 8 from ManageEngine



PRODUCT REVIEW PRODUCT REVIEW PRODUCT REVIEW

OpManager 8 from ManageEngine stands out from the crowd of SNMP-based network monitoring products, because it provides an extensive set of enterprise level tools, at a price that makes it affordable for smaller businesses. At its foundation OpManager offers automatic device discovery, network mapping, alerting and reporting. Additionally, centralisation is also a key feature as you can monitor your entire network from a single console.

Ease of use is high on the ManageEngine agenda and we had no problems getting OpManager loaded onto our test system in the lab in a matter of minutes. The routine installed a local copy of MySQL (MSSQL is also supported) for storing details such as inventory and events. The OpManager home page makes light work of deployment, providing quick access to the four key functions of discovery, visualisation, management, and reporting.

For discovery, it fires up a wizard that requests protocol details (a full range is supported, including SNMP) of the monitored networks, and also starts up an auto-scan routine on the specified subnets. After scanning our lab network, OpManager picked up all our Windows Server systems, domain controllers, switches, desktops and printers.

The dashboard opens with an overview of the network that's packed with colourful icons

and graphs, providing quick access to all discovered devices. The new CCTV views allow you to decide what users are allowed to see and you also have business views which uses maps to represent the physical layout of your organisation. Infrastructure views let you check on specific system groups and a smart feature is the ability to integrate Google maps where you can position device icons, for a truly global view of your network. You can also select a device on your Google map and drill down to see its status.

OpManager attempts to identify each device type and place it in the relevant group and we found it did a good job with all our test devices. Providing that SNMP is correctly configured on each monitored device, OpManager can start gathering information straight away. It makes it all very accessible as you can select a device and view an asset inventory, see a real-time snapshot of processor, memory and hard disk usage, and load utilisation graphs of selected components.

You can add monitors to selected systems and these keep an eye on Windows services, URLs, processes or component performance. Define some monitoring intervals and thresholds and OpManager will advise you when anything gets out of kilter. Notification profiles determine what action is taken when an event occurs, and you can choose from simple warning sounds or pop-up windows, sending messages via email, SMS or pager, to

restart selected services. Dependencies are an important feature when monitoring multiple devices, as there's no point generating masses of warnings for each attached device, if a network switch goes down.

OpManager monitors much more than system resources and the list includes syslog services plus applications such as Oracle, SQL Server and Exchange. For the latter, it can keep an eye on a wide range of services and parameters. The Active Directory add-on looks well worth having as it provides plenty of extra information about your Windows domain controllers. For example, the number of used and remaining objects plus traffic related information on replication. Add-on modules are also available for Cisco NetFlow and for implementing network change management controls.

OpManager makes light work of network management and is capable of providing a lot of information about a wide variety of network devices. It can be deployed in minutes and this latest version delivers real time graphs, more WMI monitors and also includes templates for over 650 device types, making it even easier to use. **NC**

Product: OpManager 8

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Price: From £424 excluding VAT, for 25 managed devices