



# SOLARWINDS

## SolarWinds and F5 Help Manage Network Performance and Improve Application Delivery

### Executive Summary

Network managers need to proactively maintain network performance and instantly respond to any network issues that can potentially impact the company and its business units. SolarWinds and F5 Networks have recognized this challenge and tested SolarWinds Orion Network Performance Monitor together with F5's BIG-IP Application Delivery Networking systems in an effort to help mid-size and enterprise businesses proactively manage network performance and improve application delivery. BIG-IP systems can be monitored and configured with SolarWinds' family of network management products, including Orion Network Performance Monitor.

### Challenges

Network managers are challenged to maintain near 100% network uptime despite constantly changing networks in order to keep pace with business requirements. The complexity associated with application delivery across networks is one of the major factors driving network change. Organizations try to address this complexity in many different ways: buying additional bandwidth, installing additional servers, even rewriting applications. Unfortunately, these strategies are usually costly, and result in partial fixes. BIG-IP Application Delivery Networking systems address the underlying problems more directly and effectively. As these network changes take place, network managers need real-time visibility into the health of the network, so they can identify, diagnose, and repair network problems before the business is impacted.

The corporate network of a typical mid-size or enterprise business is an absolute mission critical resource. However, networks are complex systems, composed of many different types of complex devices. Furthermore, changing business requirements means that the network is rarely stable – there are always changes, upgrades, and expansions to perform. Therefore, accurate real-time visibility into the stability and performance of the network is necessary and critical maintaining business continuity.

Network managers employ a broad range of management tools, from home-grown solutions to multi-million dollar enterprise management frameworks, in an effort to gain visibility and control over their network. Typically, home-grown solutions do not scale well, and are easily out-grown by the companies that use them. Consequently, many enterprise management frameworks have been the focal point of larger customers for over 10 years, but these products can take months to implement and dedicated consulting staff to maintain. With their considerable expense to purchase and maintain, network managers are typically disappointed with the return these investments provide.

### Solution

SolarWinds Orion Network Performance Monitor delivers comprehensive fault and network performance management that scales with rapid network growth and expands with network monitoring. Providing visibility into the health of network devices, servers, and applications, Orion ensures users have the real-time information they need to keep their systems running at peak performance. Orion users find that it does not take a team of consultants and months of unpleasant surprises to get Orion up and running. Deploying Orion takes less than an hour, is consultant-free, and is far more intuitive than conventional, complex enterprise network management systems.

#### Increased Network availability and performance

Orion enables network managers to more quickly detect, diagnose, and resolve network performance problems and outages. Orion offer direct real-time health data on F5's family of application delivery products. Orion also provides many out-of-the-box network-centric views that are designed to deliver the critical information a network manager needs.

#### Custom Polling

In addition to the out-of-the-box view available in Orion for F5 products, customer can also use the custom poller to monitor any of the specific SNMP-enabled metrics available on F5 devices.

#### Improved IT Efficiency

Orion is the easiest product of its kind to use and maintain, meaning network managers will spend more time actually managing networks, not supporting Orion.

#### Alignment between IT resources and business needs

Orion's sophisticated alerting, including correlated alerts (e.g., only if X and Y are true), sustained alerts (e.g., only if X is true for Y period of time), and escalated alerts (e.g., Notify Bill, but if he doesn't respond in X minutes, Notify Sue), means that network managers are in touch with the status of mission-critical resources at all times.

### About SolarWinds

SolarWinds provides downloadable, enterprise-class network management software that is affordable, easy to use, and guided by a large and growing user community. Focused on the real-world needs of network professionals, SolarWinds products are simple to try, simple to use, and simple to maintain, while providing the power, scale, and flexibility needed by companies of all sizes. Backing these products is an innovative product development model that combines active user community input with decades of network management experience. More than 50,000 customers from small businesses to the largest enterprises rely on SolarWinds products to take the complexity out of managing their networks. [www.solarwinds.com](http://www.solarwinds.com)