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Network Instruments Observer Offers New Features for Network Troubleshooting and Reporting

Version 12.1 organises application monitoring around business activities and provides enhanced VoIP reporting

Minneapolis, MN – 2 October 2007 – Network Instruments, a leading provider of innovative analysis solutions for in-depth network intelligence and continuous availability, today announced the release of the latest version of Observer. This release provides profiles for organising application performance analysis around business functions, in-depth graphical tracking of specific network conversations down to the millisecond, full decoding for an important financial markets protocol, integration between Network Instruments high-level reporting and forensic solutions, and expanded options for sharing VoIP reports.

“Many of Observer’s features are driven by suggestions from our customers,” said Douglas Smith, president and co-founder of Network Instruments. “The increased customisation offered in Application Analysis and support for financial markets protocols were ideas that came from our financial service customers. In VoIP, where we have developed market-leading Expert analysis capabilities, we expanded reporting making it easier for network engineers to view performance information and call quality metrics over long periods of time, either in an aggregate or call-by-call basis.”

Application Analysis Profiles

Within Application Analysis, network engineers can now create multiple profiles, which allow them to select and monitor a group of network servers and devices within a designated subset. For example, profiles can be set up to monitor multi-tiered applications across a distributed network or application performance by department.

Graphing Time Interval Analysis

Time Interval Analysis provides granular reporting on specific connections over time, displaying performance statistics down to the millisecond. New with version 12.1 is the ability to display Time Interval Analysis statistics graphically. For example, if an end-user complains about an accounting system slowdown, the administrator can use Time Interval Analysis graphs to quickly scan connections from the Oracle database for spikes in response time.

Financial Information eXchange (FIX) Protocol Decode

Requested by several of our financial service customers, the Financial Information eXchange (FIX) protocol is a communications protocol commonly used by financial service, brokerage, and banking firms for transactions involved in buying and selling within financial markets. Observer provides full decode for the FIX protocol.

Observer Reporting Server-GigaStor Integration

The integration of Observer Reporting Server (ORS) and GigaStor combines the high-level reporting of ORS and the in-depth forensic power of GigaStor into a seamless solution. This allows the engineer, upon discovering a problem presented by the ORS, to seamlessly drill into GigaStor to review and analyse network traffic transmitted before, during, and after the problem occurs.

VoIP Reports

Observer offers long-term storage of call detail records (CDRs) for review and trending on an aggregate or per call basis. This allows the engineer to go back in time to review specific calls or aggregated information on multiple calls from a user, group, or across the network. With the functionality being added to Observer’s Trending and Web Reports, performance information and call quality metrics can also be viewed by authorised managers via web browser or e-mail report.

Product Pricing

Network Instruments has added significant enhancements to Observer, but pricing for Observer Expert and Observer Suite remains the same. Observer Expert, now with Application Analysis Profiles and graphical displays of Time Interval Analysis, is £2,895. Observer Suite, with an SNMP console and Web Reporting including expanded VoIP reports, is £3,995. Deployment options for the Observer Reporting Server include: software only, hardware appliance, and combination appliance with Observer Suite to connect directly to probes. The Observer Reporting Server begins at £9,000. The GigaStor begins at £17,995 for a 4TB, two-port configuration. Additional product information is available at www.networkinstruments.co.uk.

About Network Instruments

Network Instruments provides in-depth network intelligence and continuous network availability through innovative analysis solutions. Enterprise network professionals depend on Network Instruments' Observer product line for unparalleled network visibility to efficiently solve network problems and manage deployments. By combining a powerful management console with high-performance analysis appliances, Observer simplifies problem resolution and optimises network and application performance. The company continues to lead the industry in ROI with its advanced Distributed Network Analysis (NI-DNA™) architecture, which successfully integrates comprehensive analysis functionality across heterogeneous networks through a single monitoring interface. Network Instruments is headquartered in Minneapolis with sales offices worldwide and distributors in over 50 countries. For more information about the company, products, technology, NI-DNA, becoming a partner and NI University please visit www.networkinstruments.co.uk or the company's blog www.networkinstruments.com/blog.