

### The Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) has revolutionized how today's networks are monitored and managed.

This Internet standard makes it possible to collect and organize information about almost any type of network-connected device – from servers, switches, routers, software and desktop computers to air conditioning, generators and uninterruptable power supplies. You get a real window into what's happening across the breadth of your network so you can intervene promptly to avoid service interruptions.

To make the “magic” happen, a variety of SNMP software agents and probes are installed on throughout the network segments you want to monitor. A management console then polls the agents and probes at regular intervals to gather information. You can see whether a device is online and available and can even receive alerts when it is performing outside of optimal thresholds.

When you think about the number of devices and applications connected to your network, it is easy to see how the sheer volume of polling information collected

can be daunting at best. It takes a lot of skill to establish appropriate performance thresholds, policies and procedures that will allow you to separate critical information from thousands of routine readings.

When your SNMP monitoring is set up optimally, your management console can automatically determine network device types and apply the appropriate monitoring logic and thresholds to each. That means the alerts and notifications you receive will contain the precise information needed to intervene before a brewing issue escalates and service is interrupted.

A properly configured console also can help you determine how each device is performing compared to historical data, allowing you to spot trends and to make informed decisions about replacement, upgrade, maintenance and repair.

If the health of your network is a priority for your business, look for a service provider who can help you use SNMP information intelligently to benefit your business. You will be able to mitigate risks, protect your operations against service interruptions and make smarter investment decisions.