Shadow IT test IT depts
ManageEngine seeks to help IT get back control

IT organisations are struggling to control the amount of technology that is proliferating throughout their companies as Shadow IT becomes even more pervasive.

Rather than try to put a stop to Shadow IT, the IT department needs to understand and deliver on executing better strategies, says Raj Sabhlok, president of IT management solutions vendor ManageEngine. Lack of such better policies will see IT departments taking a second seat in the organisation as far as technology goes, Sabhlok warns.

ManageEngine can help, now more than ever, as the company’s portfolio undergoes a major revamp. The company highlighted these solutions at a recent ManageEngine Middle East user conference in Dubai.

Sabhlok says ManageEngine’s strategy is focused on the idea that IT needs to move quicker and embrace new technologies faster to bring IT back to where it was a decade ago, where the IT department was the pivot point for technology within a company. Not that anyone seeks to have IT as the sole source for technology, says Sabhlok, because functional areas should be able to pick the best of breed to fit their own specific needs.

“That means if the finance department comes across a financial application they require, they should be able to select that. But you want IT to be the overarching technology entity that can make sure that its being brought into the IT environment properly and its being secured and so forth,” Sabhlok says.

ManageEngine’s help desk offering, ServiceDesk Plus also gets an overhaul. Sabhlok notes the increased application of the help desk concept across functional areas or departments. The help desk has been associated primarily with the IT organisation in the past, where staff can raise technology issues to IT personnel and then follow up online. ManageEngine is now looking at extending that same technology to other departments, Sabhlok says.

ManageEngine’s new network performance management solution, AppManager Plus now goes beyond just a marketing bundle, says Sabhlok. The new solution integrates the essential policies of network performance management to go beyond simple monitoring features such as NetFlow management, network configuration management and firewall management, etc. AppManager Plus essentially integrates five components into one network performance management solution. This is unique within the industry, Sabhlok says, as all these different components have had to be purchased and priced separately. Now it’s a more streamlined process for IT departments to deploy this one application, turn on the services they want, see it one dashboard and do so at a more compelling price point, he adds.

ManageEngine Reports on the other hand brings home the idea of a business intelligence product focused on capturing a lot of the IT management data and enabling the ability to do business intelligence on it so organisations can make smarter decisions around IT, Sabhlok explains.

Sabhlok says ManageEngine is pushing the idea of security as a discipline on its own, as cyber security rises to the top of the mind for organisations, both commercial and government.

BT study explores shadow IT
Technology procurement outside of IT function.