

OpManager Enterprise Edition 9 from ManageEngine



PRODUCT REVIEW PRODUCT REVIEW PRODUCT REVIEW

ManageEngine's OpManager has always been a highly popular network monitoring product for SMBs thanks to its fine blend of features and value. This latest version signals a sharper focus on larger businesses with Enterprise Edition 9 introducing a new architecture for managing geographically distributed networks. OpManager provides a rock solid foundation of automated device discovery, monitoring, mapping, alerting and reporting. The Enterprise Edition introduces ManageEngine's probe-central capability for remote site monitoring and this allows it to easily scale to 50,000 interfaces or 5,000 servers.

Deployment is swift as you load the OpManager central server at your HQ and push the OpManager Probe server to a host system at each of your network locations. A useful feature for growing SMBs is the ability to convert a standalone instance of OpManager Essentials into a probe whenever desired. The probe runs local network discovery tasks along with mapping and fault monitoring and regularly reports back to the central server. To start with, each probe is accessed using its own web interface and a wizard guides you through the creation of a list of access credentials and device discovery, all linking to the central server.

The OpManager central and probe server web interfaces use a common design which we found very intuitive. It provides swift access to the four fundamental OpManager functions of discovery, visualisation, management and

reporting. The central web console has been redesigned and is now even easier to navigate. It opens with a network overview brimming with colour coded icons and graphs providing easy views of device status as well as easy access to each icon.

Multiple dashboards with a selection of widgets can be created and you can integrate Google maps into them to show the physical location of all probes. There's a wealth of other new features too as OpManager 9 introduces IT Workflow Automation; this aims to take the tedium out of general network maintenance and troubleshooting tasks.

Workflows can define sequences of conditions and actions; they are really easy to create from the console. Unlike many competing products, you don't need to have any coding knowledge as the process is entirely drag-and-drop. A wide range of workflow categories is provided, including those used for systems, processes, HTTP and FTP, files, folders, VMware and OpManager itself. Within each category are a set of checks and associated actions so you just select the icons you want, drag them into the workflow design page alongside, customise their values, and arrange them in the desired running order.

Virtualisation support gets a boost as OpManager now monitors Microsoft's increasingly popular Hyper-V as well as VMware. We had both systems in the lab and there were no problems adding these once OpManager correctly mapped the discovered

VMs to the correct host. Once completed, they were available under the Virtualisation console tab.

All standard OpManager system monitoring functions are available for Hyper-V hosts and their VMs so you can keep a close eye on performance, the interface, CPU, memory and disk utilisation. You can add more monitors to selected VMs to watch Windows services, URLs or processes and link them with monitoring intervals, thresholds and notification profiles.

OpManager's Snapshot feature provides quick views of a device's health, availability and alerts. These can be used with both physical and virtual servers. Even better is the fact that OpManager comes with over 50 predefined reports specifically for Hyper-V hosts and their VMs.

The new architecture of the Enterprise Edition makes OpManager highly suited to the task of monitoring large, distributed networks. We found it capable of providing a wealth of easily accessible information from a single, centralised console. Additionally, ManageEngine's pricing structure makes it very affordable. **NC**

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