

Get in-depth insights into application Silos

Introduction

Do you feel helpless when there is an application upgrade in your enterprise? Are you equipped for the triage that follows, when production applications fail? Many enterprise administrators share the same problem. Enterprises depend heavily on IT to drive their businesses. Frequently changing business processes and a heterogeneous application infrastructure make it even more difficult for operations to maintain business critical web applications. This results in unplanned downtimes and poorly performing web applications, which affects business.

The job of IT Managers becomes more difficult as there are different stakeholders in the whole application management scenario. Given that the primary goal for application management in enterprises is to improve business productivity and efficiency, what enterprises need today are relevant and cost effective solutions to ensure that the IT personnel and other participants get relevant information to meet their unique needs.

Some of the common problems faced by SMBs are:

- Inability to pinpoint resources that affect business applications
- Lack of know-how on managing heterogeneous application infrastructure
- Difficulty in meeting user service levels
- Unplanned downtimes due to improper capacity planning

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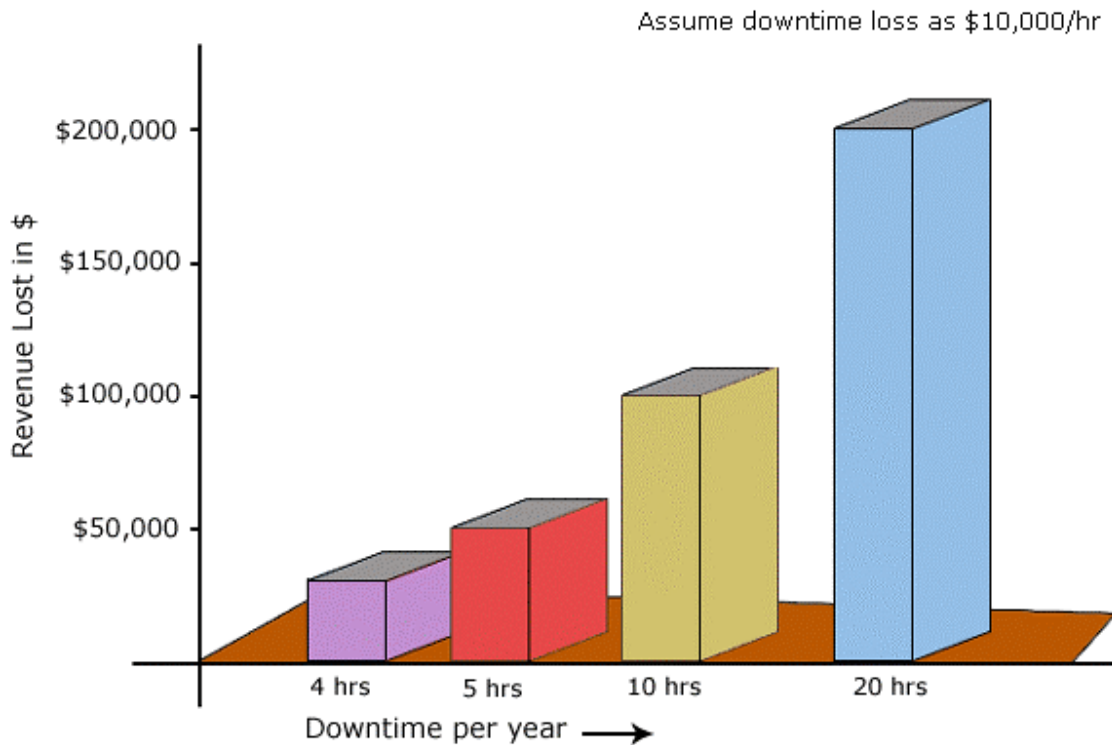


Fig. 1: Cost of downtimes

Administrators dislike traditional application management solutions

If Fig. 1 represents your business, then you need to invest in an application management solution that works to reduce losses caused by application failures. A common misconception is that traditional Application Management solutions are very cumbersome to maintain and cost a fortune. If you still have this misconception, then you need to be guided to the right place.

Why Administrators dread Application Management solutions?

- High cost of traditional software
- Fear of more maintenance overhead
- Not sure of value add

Trend towards Web Applications

The trend of business applications moving away from the traditional mainframe to web enabled applications using AJAX, J2EE, .Net, JSP, PHP etc. have thrown more challenges to application administrators. With a heterogeneous application infrastructure to support,

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application management products need to equip administrators with the right tools so that they gain more insight into these applications.

Consider the case in point:

A pharmaceutical company had trouble servicing their customers

- 08:30 AM: Calls flood their help desk with enquires to make purchases
- 08:40 AM: Help desk is able to complete transactions partially
- 09:15 AM: Network team: Network fine
- 09:45 AM: DBA: Oracle fine
- 10:45 AM: Application Server admin (ASA): Trouble may not be here
- 11:45 AM: Problem identified: One of the App. Servers in the cluster crashed due to poorly configured database connection pools and added to the load on the others
- 12:15 PM: DB connection pool reconfigured, server rebooted, application server brought up. Problem fixed temporarily

Conclusion:

The application server farm could not withstand the increased load. ASA decides to add an extra server to the cluster. The problem was present all the time but got magnified due to increased user access on that particular day.

The incident resulted in lost customers and unknown amount of money in sales.

Siloed Management Strategy adds to the woes

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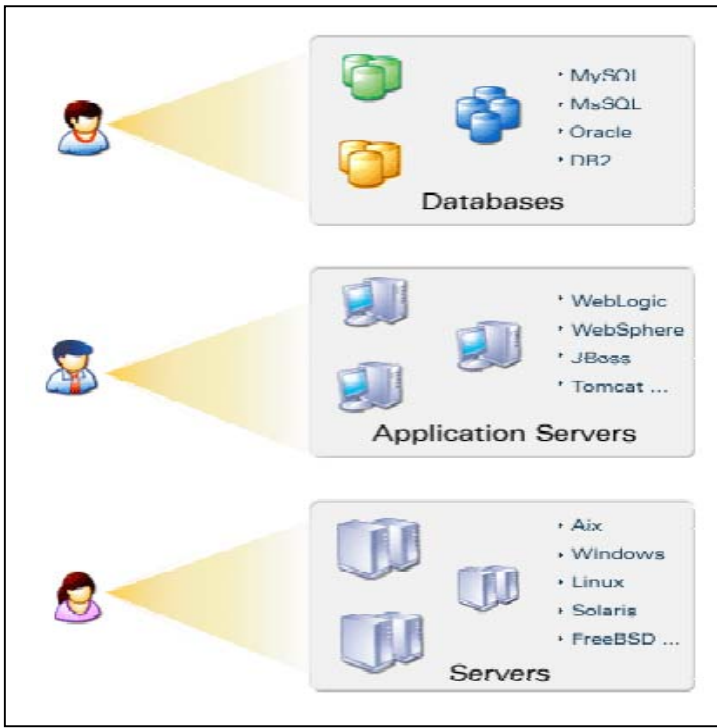
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Lack of visibility between management silos does not help as they just give a sense of false security about the IT infrastructure.



On an individual level specialists like application server administrators, database administrators and server administrators, may not be able to help resolve problems that affect a business application in quick time. They need all-round knowledge and tools that provide insight into the various applications in the server farm.

Traditional Systems Management Tools are not enough

You need tools that help you gain insight into your tiered web infrastructure. Traditional systems management tools could probably say applications are running but fail to give the needed insight on the quality of service. These added insights would help complement existing system management tools and add value to the IT team.

Diving into an Application Management Solution

Application Management solutions need to provide a single console to manage the heterogeneous IT infrastructure. They should help add the much needed business application context to IT resources. This would equip operations with the needed insight to help understand what business processes get affected when resources fail and also to help take proactive measures.

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Typical management solutions should have:

- Performance statistics that are transparent to various stakeholders
- Ability to find the root cause of problems quickly in a heterogeneous environment
- Insights into connectivity between 'N' tiers
- Web Application monitoring from the user perspective
- Ability to baseline application usage trends

Take control

ManageEngine Applications Manager dashboards provide insights into the web application infrastructure and all its supporting systems such as Servers, Web Servers, Application Servers, Database Servers and custom applications. Supplemented by out-of-the-box solutions and an agentless approach, IT administrators can easily manage their business critical applications.

ManageEngine Applications Manager constantly keeps track of resource availability and performance so that end-users are not affected due to poor quality of service. IT operators and administrators can view the critical status of resources and be notified of any problems in real time. With this, real-time monitoring of data centers and IT resources become easy.



Business Infrastructure

Key Benefits of ManageEngine Applications Manager:

- Get a holistic view of your business applications
- Optimize resources by gaining more visibility
- Increase service availability and efficiency
- Get instant gratification with simple web interface and easy deployment
- Meet Service Level Agreements (SLAs) by monitoring service levels
- High ROI

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Summary

Enterprise administrators face a new challenge with complex web infrastructure. They need affordable tools that will help them gain more insight and proactively manage their business critical applications. ManageEngine Applications Manager provides intuitive dashboards and helps add a business context to their heterogeneous application infrastructure. With its simple approach, ManageEngine Applications Manager offers SMBs the option to put in place a comprehensive Application Management solution at an affordable price.

For more details on ManageEngine Applications Manager and how it can help manage your applications and servers, please contact sales@manageengine.com or our website <http://www.manageengine.com/appmanager> For comments on this article contact appmanager-support@manageengine.com

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