The usage demands of mobile devices, cloud computing, virtualization, and other bandwidth-intensive environments have spurred the rapid growth of enterprise networks. IT organizations are looking for efficient ways to manage their expanding networks in what can be a very complex environment. Keeping track of the health of network devices and ensuring that device configurations comply with regulations and internal policies can be difficult and time-consuming. Network administrators are also tasked with keeping costs under control while meeting the performance requirements of end users.

A key strategy for easing the load on busy network administrators is the automation of important day-to-day tasks, such as switch firmware updates, configuration backup, and performance reporting. In addition, enterprise-wide network monitoring and proactive balancing of bandwidth utilization can help administrators optimize performance as well as operational efficiency.

To help simplify the management of Dell-based network environments, Dell OpenManage Network Manager offers a unified console that integrates a comprehensive set of network management tools into a Web-based interface. (For more information, see the sidebar, “Bird’s-eye view.”) It offers a centralized view for configuring, managing, monitoring, and automating critical network requirements.

Running growing networks efficiently can become a difficult and time-consuming challenge. Dell™ OpenManage™ Network Manager makes it easy to automate labor-intensive tasks while monitoring and managing Dell network switches—all from a single console.

**Get control of the network**

Digital information and communication are critical to the daily operation of organizations today—and the enterprise network is what keeps them flowing. Learn how Dell OpenManage Network Manager helps simplify the configuration, monitoring, and management of Dell networking products.

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Providing centralized, Web-based management

Centralized management helps organizations unify network device management in the face of rising costs and declining resources. Techniques that make it easy for administrators to gain control of the enterprise network include simplifying device configuration, tracking the health and performance of network devices, and managing change in the network infrastructure.

These capabilities are delivered through the Web-based graphical user interface (GUI) of Dell OpenManage Network Manager. The management console enables organizations to efficiently troubleshoot network problems and simplify the configuration of Dell-based network environments. Administrators can customize scripts, change report formats, and create dashboards to display trends over time.

Automating a wide range of tasks

Dell OpenManage Network Manager is designed to take the complexity out of many administrative activities. First, a resource discovery wizard helps simplify discovery of IP-based network elements. The wizard automates discovery of network devices, providing detailed device information that administrators can use to create network topology maps.

After device discovery, administrators can view the managed resources and alarms at a glance from the OpenManage Network Manager console, with quick access to a menu of management actions. By clicking on a network switch, administrators can easily view details such as performance alarms, processor and memory utilization, learned Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, and an audit trail of configuration changes. Details specific to each Dell PowerEdge™ server in the network can also be viewed, such as information about the server’s memory, processor, BIOS, and on-board network interface cards.

Active performance monitors enable network administrators to keep tabs on the
Health and performance of their Dell-based network with customizable dashboards for fault, availability, and performance monitoring (see Figure 1). A traffic flow analysis feature enables administrators to get detailed information on the bandwidth consumption of key users, applications, and devices.

ProScan configuration auditing enables administrators to track down and correct configuration problems. Using ProScan, administrators can define configuration rules and periodically scan network devices to help ensure that device configurations are compliant with those rules. Administrators can also compare current configurations to a known good-configuration baseline. To help ensure security compliance, administrators can configure role-based user access to various OpenManage Network Manager capabilities.

Many network operations can be scheduled for single Dell switches or groups of switches. Advanced scheduling capability allows administrators to automate and schedule key tasks such as backup operations and firmware updates.

Proactive alerting helps administrators respond rapidly to network problems (see Figure 2). Administrators can set thresholds for a variety of issues ranging from dropped packets to spikes in bandwidth or processor utilization. Alarms can be sent through an e-mail or a page if a threshold is exceeded.

Enabling a strategic focus
Dell OpenManage Network Manager helps free up time for administrators to work on strategic, forward-looking activities rather than routine management. Tools such as OpenManage Network Manager help organizations lower total cost of ownership (TCO) by proactively monitoring for network problems, automating common configuration actions, and enabling easy firmware deployment. Moreover, these tools help improve network compliance and performance. As a result, network administrators can focus on value-added initiatives that advance business and organizational objectives.

Authors
Odie Cavazos is senior technical marketing engineer for network systems management and wireless at Dell. He has more than 17 years of engineering, development, and technical marketing experience.

Scott McIntyre is the product senior consultant for network systems management at Dell, with more than 20 years of experience developing and marketing enterprise IT management software.

Terry Myers is senior marketing manager for networking at Dell. He has over 25 years of engineering, marketing, and management experience in partner, product, and strategic marketing roles.

Learn more
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Dell network devices: dell.com/networking