

Netmon Professional Edition [REVIEW]

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The Netmon appliance went to work quickly to establish a baseline of network activity and begin identifying network problems.

Augmented by its built-in protocol analyzer, the Netmon appliance pinpointed network trouble spots in our tests by decoding key packets in addition to depicting the problematic network devices and [servers](#). The Netmon device comprehensively monitored network traffic, specific protocols, bandwidth utilization, [TCP/IP](#)-based network services, switches, [routers](#), [routers](#), network printers, UPSes and application performance.

You'll especially appreciate the Netmon appliance if you like solving network problems at a low level. Netmon Professional Edition lacked the application-layer perspective of Extended Technologies.



The device, through its browser-based Visual Network Explorer component, shows network activity in real time. You can display the packet decodes from Netmon's raw packet-level capture facility in a protocol-analysis display utility, such as Ethereal or Wireshark. The vendor says Netmon can decode thousands of protocols.

Netmon detected half/full duplex mismatches, frame collisions and other low-level network issues. The Netmon appliance integrates closely with [Cisco](#) NetFlow to gather statistics from Cisco devices.

The appliance collects [Windows](#) performance statistics to display the status of Windows background services as well as CPU, memory and disk use. It includes a port scanner for monitoring switch and router health, and it examined router Address Resolution Protocol tables to identify new network nodes as they appeared on the network. It also did a good job of keeping a close eye on our event logs and [security](#) logs across multiple servers.

The Netmon device notified us via e-mail or pager when network activity exceeded previously set thresholds. However, it couldn't express threshold interrelationships and time of day/day of week situations in as sophisticated a manner as the other products reviewed.

Netmon's remediation feature can run a Python script or Linux command within the appliance. It does produce uptime/availability reports, bandwidth-use reports and historical reports of network errors. Netmon comes with clear and comprehensive online documentation. It installs in a few minutes.

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