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SolarWinds Network Performance Monitor vs. Paessler PRTG

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Overview

This document compares and contrasts the monitoring capabilities of **SolarWinds®** **Network Performance Monitor (NPM)** compared to **Paessler® PRTG®** (PRTG). The document compares products as of April 2018.

SolarWinds NPM Overview

SolarWinds NPM provides network monitoring that scales from SMB to Fortune 500®. It includes out-of-the-box monitoring for a variety of enterprise-grade infrastructure and is designed to scale both in terms of back-end and UI interaction. NPM has dedicated and automatic analysis that allows it to function with minimal administrative effort—for example, automatic capacity forecasting, automatic dependencies, and advanced, multi-parameter alerting.

Paessler PRTG Overview

Paessler PRTG is an on-premises monitoring solution capable of monitoring networks, systems, devices, traffic, and applications. It provides alerting, reporting, customization, and mapping functionality.

Critical Differences

Feature	Paessler PRTG	SolarWinds NPM
Hop-by-Hop Network Path Analysis	✖ PRTG doesn't offer a hop-by-hop network path analysis. Available is a traceroute hop count sensor showing the number of hops from the probe system to the target system.	✔ NPM includes the NetPath™ feature, which allows the user to specify a path (source and destination) where network slowness or loss of connectivity is experienced. NetPath automatically discovers the path that an application takes regardless of the location (on-premises, in the cloud, or across hybrid networks), analyzes performance, and identifies where problems are occurring and possible root causes.
Dynamic Performance Analysis Dashboard	✖ PRTG does not have a dynamic performance analysis and data correlation dashboard.	✔ SolarWinds PerfStack™ performance analysis dashboard helps to accelerate problem identification and resolution with cross-stack IT data correlation. With PerfStack, users can compare disparate data types side by side, correlate multiple entities on a common timeline, and collaborate across functional teams.

Visibility into Cisco ASA Infrastructure Health and High Availability	✖ PRTG offers sensors for monitoring Cisco® ASA connections, users, and traffic. It does not provide a suite for visibility into infrastructure health and high availability.	✔ NPM includes Network Insight™ for Cisco ASA, automating monitoring of Cisco ASA infrastructure. NPM keeps track of ASA high availability health and monitors VPN tunnel status, usage, and session.
Out-of-the-Box Visualization of F5 Application Delivery Controller Performance	✖ No out-of-the-box F5® Application Delivery Controller performance visualization. Most F5 monitoring requires selecting static SNMP OIDs and configuring parsing. Each SNMP OID that is monitored consumes one additional sensor toward the license count.	✔ NPM includes Network Insight for F5 BIG-IP® DNS and LTM application delivery controllers, including relationship mapping, connection counts, and alerting.
Full Set of Monitoring Metrics Available Out of the Box	✖ PRTG's license is sensor-based (one sensor monitors one network service, one URL, one network connection, one port of a switch, one NetFlow export stream, one CPU load, one disk drive, etc.). To monitor metrics equivalent to NPM's, each device will consume between 15-20 sensors on average. Instead of having all metrics available right out of the box, you need to choose what sensor to use and why. This may result in extended deployment time.	✔ SolarWinds NPM monitors a full set of fault, availability, and performance metrics out of the box, including availability, response time, packet loss, CPU load, memory utilization, node details, network latency, interface status and utilization, hardware details, fan health, power supply health, temperature health, network topology, routing neighbors, routing table, routing details, route monitoring, route changes, multicast monitoring, and deep packet inspection and analysis. All metrics are automatically configured and continuously monitored.
Deep Packet Inspection Capacity	✖ PRTG's packet sniffing is limited to 50Mbps max, and requires a dedicated remote probe if over 10Mbps.	✔ NPM's Deep packet inspection and analysis can analyze up to 1Gbps per packet analysis sensor, and handle up to 1,000 sensors per NPM instance. ✔ NPM automatically calculates and displays application and network latency so you can determine the impact of the network on application performance.

Wireless Heat Maps	✖ PRTG does not provide the ability to create wireless heat maps.	✔ NPM includes wireless heat map functionality for Cisco wireless controllers, allowing you to visualize wireless coverage.
Network Multicast Monitoring	✖ PRTG does not include network multicast monitoring.	✔ NPM can monitor and alert on network multicast topologies.
Route Monitoring	✖ Monitoring of network routes is not available in PRTG.	✔ NPM keeps track of routing tables and analyzes them to alert you to concerning events, such as routes that are flapping and default route changes. NPM also monitors routing protocols like RIP, OSPF, and BGP, so that you can track and alert upon things like neighbors going up and down.
Automatic Baseline and Statistical Thresholds	✖ Thresholds are only set as fixed data and not determined automatically based on performance.	✔ Orion® Platform-based products, including NPM, benefit from automatic baselining capabilities, allowing network and application managers to be more proactive in discovering and investigating statistical abnormalities.
Free 24/7 Telephone Support for 12 Months After Purchase for All Customers	✖ No 24/7 telephone support available. Email support is available 24/5 (Mon-Fri).	✔ SolarWinds provides free 24/7 telephone support and free upgrades for one year with all SolarWinds products. ✔ Each additional year of maintenance includes product upgrades and 24/7 support.