

Why is Systems and Network Management Cool Again?

- + Michael Baum
Chief Executive Splunker, Splunk
- + Gnanesh Dholakia
Product Management, CA
- + Dr. Shmuel Kliger
VP Architecture and Applied Research, CTO
Office, EMC
- + Jasmine Noel
Lead Analyst, Ptak, Noel & Associates
- + Mark Thompson
CTO, Quest Software

Network and Systems Management is
Cool Again Because _____.

Network and Systems Management is cool again because applications are making new use of network and systems infrastructure. Applications are changing in a lot of ways that are creating new networking and system challenges.

Changing Forces

- + Applications are being developed as components (J2EE, .Net, Web Services) and reside on ‘changeable’ servers (e.g. clusters, blades, virtual servers) so network traffic can dynamically grow and shrink at random.
- + BPM/SOA/Web Services create ‘flexi-integration’ so communication between applications or services can change whenever changing traffic patterns any time.
- + Voice & Rich Media – today this means delivery of streaming content or massive file movement, tomorrow applications will mix media and data simultaneously.

Configuration/Change Management

- + As traffic patterns are changing all the time we need better ways to proactively control device configurations.
- + Understand historical configurations to troubleshoot problems is key.
- + Solutions: configuration and change management tools like CMDB.

Data Management

- + Traffic/network devices/applications/servers generating a ton of network and system related management info that needs to be stored/managed/searched, proposed
- + Solutions: IT data search technology and performance management.

Collaboration

- + How do network and system managers work with application developers and support groups?
- + How much application knowledge/performance/logging data should network and system managers have—in what format?
- + How to get away from the ‘all hands on deck’ drills and defensive posturing?
- + Proposed solutions: ITIL, specialized dashboards, merge network topology with application relationship mapping, stronger SLAs and business policies.