

Nominee: SolarWinds Virtualization Manager

Nomination title: SolarWinds Virtualization Manager Entry

Virtualization and software-defined resource management have created a management gap across the data center. It is no longer feasible to manage applications, virtual servers, physical servers, storage and networking as separate, independent silos. SolarWinds Virtualization Manager provides robust virtualization management as well as integrated views into the application and storage environments. A change like Live Migration can have a cascading impact across domains creating resource contention like storage I/O bottlenecks that ultimately impact application or storage performance. Without the ability to map, visualize, optimize and troubleshoot the entire application stack including the application, VM, host, physical server, data store, LUN and storage disks/arrays, it is almost impossible to optimize the performance and resource capacity of the entire application stack.

SolarWinds Virtualization Manager is built on the foundation of an agentless architecture, simplifying deployment in environments of all sizes. Customers can download the software solution directly from the SolarWinds website. The software comes with out-of-the-box and community-contributed virtualization dashboards and can be deployed and running within 30 minutes, giving IT Pros near-immediate resolutions to their problems.

SolarWinds Virtualization Manager collects capacity, configuration and performance data at all levels of your virtual environment, DC, cluster, host, VM and datastore, and leverages it into actionable information. Proactively monitoring and analyzing data, SolarWinds Virtualization Manager alerts users to virtualization-specific configuration issues and performance problems. Ranking dashboards help identify resource contention and allow the user to drill down and see the source of the issue. Capacity planning shows current constraints on resources but also forecasts when those resources will reach critical state. With easy access to dependency mapping and graphical resource contention views, administrators can determine optimal VM placement, efficiently budget and plan for new purchases, control VM sprawl, and find idle/zombie/orphaned/over-allocated VMs, providing a strong ROI and ensuring optimal use of existing resources before purchasing more.

SolarWinds Virtualization Manager's enhanced integration and industry-leading features give virtualization admins the in-depth insight they need to ensure the virtual environment is reliable and stable. By integrating with software that shares the SolarWinds technology "backbone," SolarWinds Virtualization Manager allows IT Pros and virtualization admins extended reach and visibility into the virtualization infrastructure and beyond into the application, networks, servers and storage infrastructure. This additional visibility allows IT departments to work across traditionally siloed departments and find the root cause of end-user issues quickly and efficiently.

Unlike other virtualization management solutions that cannot see beyond the hypervisor, SolarWinds Virtualization Manager's virtualized application stack management capability provides a next generation of management solution that can work across technology silos to manage the software-defined or virtualized data center. With prebuilt integration and automated in-context views that extend management to the application, physical server, network and storage infrastructure, SolarWinds Virtualization Manager delivers both end-to-end visibility and deep dive capabilities, including:

- Monitoring and management spanning application, middleware, OS, VM, host, cluster, CSV/datstore, LUN, Raid Group and spindle
- Unified performance, capacity, configuration, sprawl, VDI and showback management for Hyper-V and VMware
- Simple and powerful dashboards and reports, easy deployment
- Smart industry-leading, search-driven analytics
- Enterprise-class scale and integration

SolarWinds Virtualization Manager is unique to the market with its ease of download, deployment and use, and its intuitive interface. With its drag-and-drop dashboard, users are able to create ad-hoc reports, alerts, trends, etc. and build custom dashboards that they can save and share. SolarWinds Virtualization Manager has enterprise-class capabilities at a fraction of the price of enterprise-class software, including robust capabilities for monitoring, predicting and troubleshooting virtual capacity bottlenecks and resource contention with real-time results. SolarWinds Virtualization Manager provides scalability and maturity generally only found in high-priced enterprise products but comes at a price that beats most entry-level tools.

Why nominee should win

SolarWinds Virtualization Manager should win for Virtualization Management Product of the Year because:

- It is easy to download, install and use with robust out-of-the box features
- It provides actionable data through alerts, dashboards and drill down features to ensure optimization of a virtualized environment
- Provides IT Pros visibility beyond just virtualized layer into the network, servers, database and storage
- It is enterprise-class software at a fraction of the price
- It integrates with other SolarWinds products and can effectively operate in heterogeneous environments