



"As a midsize company we needed an enterprise-class solution without the enterprise-class price. We also wanted to select a vendor whose products could scale as our needs changed. We started with the first Network Performance Monitor application in the toolset. Over the years, we upgraded to Orion Network Performance Monitor and Engineer's Toolset and recently added Cirrus Configuration Manager. We evaluated a number of solutions on the market and Orion is just as scalable and flexible as many other large, expensive framework solutions such as HP OpenView, but requires significantly less effort to use and maintain. SolarWinds products have paid for themselves ten times over, and serve as an easy-to-use, intuitive, all-in-one solution."

— DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT  
SMART CITY NETWORKS

## Smart City Networks Monitors 50,000 Network Elements with Orion Network Performance Monitor

### BUSINESS PROBLEM

Founded in 1984, Smart City is the nation's largest provider of event technology in the convention industry. With corporate offices based in Las Vegas and Orlando, Smart City is able to provide clients with design, installation and maintenance of data, voice, electrical and utility platforms, coupled with unparalleled voice and data network engineering, security and monitoring across the United States. Smart City has satisfied the technical needs of more than 12,000 conventions, conferences and events of nearly every Fortune 500 Company and major trade and professional association in the U.S.

In recent years, Smart City experienced exponential growth in terms of the number of convention centers the company managed and the types of technologies and services offered. Smart City provides wired and wireless connectivity to thousands of event exhibitors and attendees. As a result, Smart City needed to find a network management solution that could scale to meet the company's growth and that would offer an immediate return on investment.

### NETWORK MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Smart City had to choose a solution that could keep up with the organization's fast-paced growth and the breadth of technologies that were being deployed. Smart City also had unique network management requirements. Because of the constantly changing events and tradeshow, the networks Smart City managed were also constantly changing.

The requirements for a network management system to support a company like Smart City were staggering. Not only would the system have to scale to manage an extremely large and aggressively dynamic network, but the system would also have to provide for:

- Customizable Web views on a user by user basis
- Advanced alert engine with automatic notification of network issues
- Ability to manage routers, switches, firewalls, WAPs, servers and more
- Powerful historical trending and analysis features for capacity planning
- Easy and dynamic segmenting of the network into responsibility areas

### SOLUTION

Smart City chose the Orion Network Performance Monitor from SolarWinds to meet the company's network management needs.

In evaluating network management solutions, Smart City reviewed products from HP, Concord, Cisco and Ipswitch and realized that none of these products could meet all of their needs. The network engineers at Smart City had been using Engineer's Toolset for years and were delighted to find that SolarWinds also offers an enterprise solution for network management with Orion.

Smart City implemented Orion in a multi-poller configuration with a single, common SQL database. This configuration allows Smart City to manage tens of thousands of devices and allows them to collect statistics at a granular

### ORION MONITORS:

- Availability
- Network Latency
- Bandwidth Utilization
- Interface Errors & Discards
- CPU & Memory Utilization
- Node, Interface & Volume Status
- Buffer Usage & Errors

### ORION MODULES:

- NetFlow Traffic Analyzer
- Wireless Network Monitor
- Application Monitor
- Hot Standby Engine

### ORION MODELS:

- SL100: monitors up to 100 elements
- SL250: monitors up to 250 elements
- SL500: monitors up to 500 elements
- SL2000: monitors up to 2000 elements
- SLX: monitors unlimited elements\*

\*Call 866.530.8100 for more information.



*"THE AUTOMATED ALERT ENGINE IS CRITICAL FOR US. WITHOUT IT, WE WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT ISSUES UNTIL IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE. WITH ORION NPM, WE IMMEDIATELY KNOW WHEN THERE IS AN ISSUE."*

— DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY  
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level. Smart City uses the customizable Web views to give customers an easy way to ensure they are getting the services for which they are paying. Orion Web Views also provides Smart City customers health and performance statistics about the network.

Smart City was especially pleased with the integration features of Orion with Engineer's Toolset. This allows network engineers to launch Toolset applications directly from any Web browser. Orion offers Smart City engineers:

- Multiple polling engines to manage 50,000 elements
- Common SQL database for ease of administration and reporting
- Automated alert engine for immediate notification of network issues
- Powerful reporting engine for historical trending and data analysis

## BUSINESS RESULTS

Smart City was so pleased with Orion and the support the company receives from SolarWinds that they also added Cirrus Configuration Manager and additional licenses of Engineer's Toolset to complete its network management infrastructure.

Smart City used all SolarWinds' products to manage the Consumer Electronics Show - the largest technology show in the world. The solution enabled Smart City to analyze the historical data from the previous year's show and realize, weeks before the show, that there was not enough bandwidth to meet the current year's requirements. Based upon this data, Smart City increased capacity and made design changes, making the show a huge success.

Orion Network Performance Monitor:

- Comes with world-class customer support
- Offers an easy-to-deploy and easy-to-operate network management solutions
- Creates powerful fault management and performance statistics
- Is scalable enough for the world's largest networks



For additional information, please contact SolarWinds at 866.530.8100 or visit us online at <http://www.solarwinds.net>.

To locate an International reseller near you, visit <http://www.solarwinds.net/distributor/locator.htm>

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