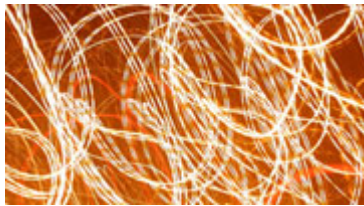


Nimsoft Beefs Up VM and Exchange Support

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By Rik Turner

Systems management upstart Nimsoft will today announce two enhancements to its line of probes, one bringing improved support for VMware environments, the other adding the ability to monitor clustered Exchange servers.

Redwood City, California-based Nimsoft is the result of the 2004 acquisition by Norwegian ISV NimBUS, whose name was retained for the product portfolio, of its US reseller Converse.

It targets the SMB market with its NimBUS suite, offering service level management across servers and applications, both delivered via probes deployed on servers, as well as network elements, where it relies on SNMP traps, explained Mark Rivington, its VP of product management. As such it inhabits a market where the Big Four framework vendors (IBM, HP, CA and BMC) dominate the high end, while there is relatively little competition in SMB, Rivington claimed.

The first of today's announcements involves the new release, version 2.0, of its NimBUS for VMware client. "We launched our first probe for VMware in December, the challenge in that space being that the virtual server thinks it has the whole processor and so reports an incorrect CPU load, which we can correct by exploiting VMware's APIs," Rivington explained.

The 2.0 release extends that capability to VMware's Web services APIs, "which was not too difficult for us because we went Web services with our own technology a couple of years ago," he went on.

The other announcement will be of an extension of the NimBUS for Microsoft Exchange suite, in the form of an enhancement to its ability to monitor and manage Exchange Cluster environments. There are three parts to the probe suite for Exchange, said Rivington, namely Response (traffic simulation for end user experience), Monitor (system health) and Back-End Reports, and it is on the second of the three that the enhancement has been made.

"We've seen customers go from active-passive clustering to active-active and on into n+1, all of which requires smarter monitoring," he explained. Not only do such clusters require multiple probes, but in an n+1 cluster with, say, six active plus one, the passive one needs to have the intelligence to be know that "it shouldn't start moaning when it's inactive," he went on. "We do this with a hook into Microsoft Cluster Services to know where the Resource Groups are, so we know where the app is actually running."