

Under CA, Nimsoft introduces IT performance monitoring as a service

Analyst: Dennis Callaghan

Nimsoft has taken another step toward cloud management with the release of Nimsoft On Demand, a SaaS version of the company's Nimsoft Monitoring Solution. It's Nimsoft's first release since it was acquired by **CA Inc** in March and gives the new CA business unit a better story to tell for monitoring public cloud workloads.

The 451 take

Nimsoft's first release since being bought by CA is a logical progression from last fall's cloud-centric Unified Monitoring announcement. Unlike Unified Monitoring, Nimsoft On Demand monitors from the cloud, which should make this a lighter-weight, smaller-footprint offering for monitoring workloads running in the cloud. It's not a market that's quite arrived yet, but is one that Nimsoft, with its strong presence in the service-provider space, needs to be in. The release, which had surely been in the works before CA picked up Nimsoft, should make Nimsoft the go-to offering for public cloud monitoring within CA.

Nimsoft, now part of CA, has followed up 2009's Unified Monitoring announcement with its first SaaS offering, Nimsoft On Demand. This hosted service is a SaaS version of Nimsoft's flagship Nimsoft Monitoring Solution, which is built on the Unified Monitoring architecture.

Nimsoft On Demand is accessed from the Nimsoft website and can monitor both on-premises and cloud applications and infrastructure, using both agent-based and agentless monitoring. Agentless monitoring requires the installation of relay server software to collect network traffic data. In addition to monitoring, Nimsoft On Demand also includes discovery, dashboards and reporting. The service features Nimsoft's next-generation Unified Monitoring Portal UI, which all other Nimsoft offerings will standardize on by the end of the second quarter.

As with all Nimsoft software, Nimsoft On Demand is priced by subscription with rates based on usage, term of subscription and quantity of servers monitored. Pricing will correspond to the expected uses of Nimsoft On Demand: migration from Nimsoft's on-premises software, and coexistence with on-premises and non-production uses such as development and disaster recovery.

Nimsoft recently announced a customer win with **Rackspace** to monitor its internal IT and cloud-hosting environments, though the deal is for the on-premises Nimsoft Monitoring

Solution, not Nimsoft On Demand. Rackspace will also provide Nimsoft Monitoring Solution to its MSP customers.

Competition

We expect Nimsoft On Demand to be used mostly for monitoring public cloud and SaaS workloads. As such, its most direct competition is likely to be other SaaS IT-monitoring startups that have gone after this space, including **Cloudkick**, **Makara**, **Monitis**, **AppDynamics**, **Tap In Systems** and **Absolute Performance Inc's** System Shepherd offering. Other Nimsoft rivals such as **ScienceLogic**, **Uptime Software** and **eg Innovations**, all of which play mostly in the midmarket/emerging-enterprise/service-provider segment, will also compete. **IBM** recently released its Tivoli Express SaaS-monitoring offering, which Nimsoft On Demand will likely encounter, especially since Nimsoft is now part of Big Blue rival CA.

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