

# SolarWinds Orion Platform

## Empower a single IT admin to do the job of dozens

If you're like many IT administrators and managers today, you may be struggling to deal with typical challenges: a fast-paced and increasingly complex environment with multiple vendors, cloud, BYOD, steep information growth, and many other concerns.

All of this is happening while organizations are faced with staff restrictions and skills shortages. However, you shouldn't have to deal with a collection of spreadsheets, incompatible tools, swivel-chair management, and overpriced products and deployment services. The SolarWinds® Orion® Platform can help conquer your infrastructure monitoring and management by offering superior tool consolidation for your environment—whether it's on-premises or hybrid—at an affordable price with many easy-to-use and powerful out-of-the-box capabilities.

### UNLIKE OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE MONITORING OFFERINGS, THE SOLARWINDS ORION PLATFORM OFFERS THE FOLLOWING

#### **The ability to buy what you need, when you need it**

The SolarWinds Orion Platform allows you to install modules in an à la carte fashion, giving you the freedom to choose which tools will be most useful for your business. You can add additional modules over time to monitor and manage the full infrastructure stack, including your network, applications, servers, storage, and more. Whether your IT infrastructure consists of 10 nodes or 10,000, SolarWinds offers solutions capable of reducing downtime and improving overall business efficiency. You can purchase modules built on the SolarWinds Orion Platform as perpetual licenses or on a subscription basis.

#### **Modular architecture with shared services**

All modules running on the Orion Platform can benefit from common shared services, which facilitate a more integrated view of IT operations. These services include device discovery and mapping, monitoring, alerting, reporting, consolidated metrics, data analytics, centralized user access control, and more.

#### **Highly scalable and high availability architecture underpinning installed modules**

Whether you're an SMB or a large distributed corporate outfit, the SolarWinds Orion Platform can be sized and tailored to meet your needs. In larger environments, you can choose to install additional polling engines at multiple locations, which means users can scale to potentially one million network elements as of the release of 2020.2. Data from multiple SolarWinds Orion Platform servers can also be consolidated into the Enterprise Operations Console (EOC) in large deployments. Additionally, the Orion Platform can be installed in a high availability configuration, benefitting all the installed modules with this enterprise-ready protection.

### AT A GLANCE

The SolarWinds Orion Platform is a powerful, scalable infrastructure monitoring and management platform designed to simplify IT administration for on-premises, hybrid, and software as a service (SaaS) environments in a single pane of glass. There's no need to struggle with multiple incompatible point monitoring products, as the Orion Platform consolidates the full suite of monitoring capabilities into one platform with cross-stack integrated functionality.

### ADVANTAGES:

- Reduce tool sprawl
- Monitor and manage from a single pane of glass
- Accelerate root cause discovery
- Connected use cases for connected problems
- See the big picture with intelligent mapping
- Monitor multivendor, on-premises, hybrid, and cloud infrastructure

**Easy to deploy, upgrade, and use**

The Orion Platform offers several deployment possibilities: it can be installed on-premises, in the cloud (Microsoft® Azure® and AWS®), or in a hybrid fashion. The initial SolarWinds Orion Platform installation usually takes less than an hour. As such, the installation is wizard-driven and intended to be easy. Unlike other platforms, it doesn't require time-intensive and expensive services to install. Many of the Orion Platform modules come with a rich set of out-of-the-box capabilities.

**WHY HAS THE SOLARWINDS ORION PLATFORM BEEN A CONSISTENT MARKET LEADER IN INFRASTRUCTURE MONITORING?**

If you're fortunate enough to have a team of specialists and a lot of time to monitor and manage your IT infrastructure and solve hard problems, that's great. But for many, this isn't the case. This is where the SolarWinds Orion Platform can help. Having a comprehensive set of products capable of monitoring multivendor devices across the whole stack—from the application to the storage array, whether they're on-premises or in the cloud—and putting all this in a single pane of glass is great, but it's just the start.

With this view across the entire stack, the Orion Platform makes it considerably easier and faster to solve ambiguous problems such as diminished performance or intermittent issues. This is because the SolarWinds Orion Platform doesn't just pool the data into a consolidated view. Because this data is aggregated on the same database, you can take it one step further and analyze problems holistically and in context. This analysis can be done in real time or historically.

You can accomplish this with some clever SolarWinds Orion Platform technologies, which allow you to connect the dots.

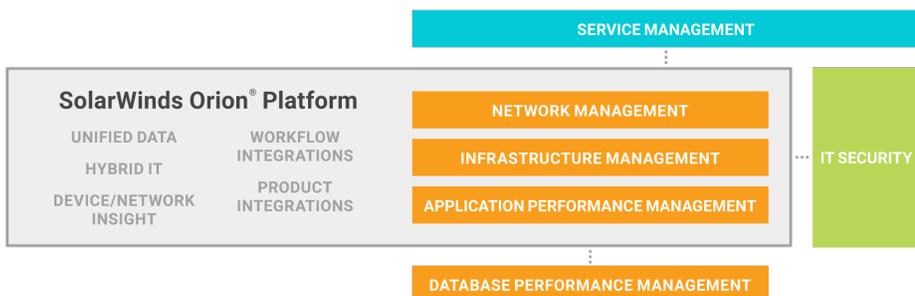
These SolarWinds Orion Platform capabilities allow you to discover and map all the devices in the environment using industry standard protocols, such as SNMP, or agents (where applicable). You can now configure centralized alerting, monitoring, and reporting for these devices in a fully customizable presentation, and you can access cross-stack performance analytics with the AppStack™ and PerfStack™ technologies in the Orion Platform.

“ The Orion portfolio of products integrate beautifully together, allowing us to manage and monitor multiple facets of our network infrastructure beyond those visible in NPM alone. If your organization can support it, I would highly recommend combining NPM with these other Orion products whenever possible. ”

— Ted Sadler  
Network Engineer  
Integral Blue

**FIND OUT MORE**

Learn more about how the SolarWinds Orion Platform can simplify your IT infrastructure management challenges by arranging a demo with us.



## Features:

### UNIFIED DATA

The Orion Platform is a platform from a single vendor, and it delivers central visibility, correlated data, and control through a tightly integrated experience in a single pane of glass.

#### **AppStack**

Performance issues can be some of the most challenging. Where the symptoms manifest may have no bearing on the root cause of the issue. With the **AppStack** feature, you can see the application, all the underlying layers upon which it depends, and how they relate to each other. Instead of trying to cobble together this data yourself, the SolarWinds Orion Platform automatically maps it out for you. AppStack can take the data from all these layers, correlate it, and give you a top-to-bottom structure of your application. This ability to navigate all the layers and pinpoint root cause is great when working across multiple teams, helping them avoid finger-pointing.

#### **PerfStack**

There are times when you need more advanced performance troubleshooting tools for difficult problems. This is where the PerfStack dashboard comes in. **PerfStack** is a SolarWinds Orion Platform tool allowing you to drag and drop metrics to visually correlate data from multiple Orion Platform products into a single customized view. It's a digital whiteboard, if you will. This can help you determine whether a change that's been applied—a configuration update, for instance—has had a positive or negative impact on performance.

#### **SolarWinds Orion Maps**

SolarWinds Orion Maps are a troubleshooting feature displaying a map of physical and logical relationships between entities monitored by the Orion Platform products you've installed. The **Orion Maps** help you quickly isolate and identify critical health and performance issues. Introduced in SolarWinds Orion Maps 2020.2, you can now travel back in time to view the events of a map and its members—such as downtime, alerts, and status—using historical tracking.

#### **SolarWinds Orion Platform Dashboards**

The SolarWinds Orion Platform **dashboards** are a great example of the perhaps overused expression “single pane of glass”, This is where users should see the key information for their organization or role at a glance. SolarWinds Orion Platform dashboards present a default view, have many out-of-the-box capabilities, and are highly customizable. There are multiple widgets designed to present a variety of information types, from maps to top-ten lists and many more. Users can customize widgets, change their position or layout on the dashboard, and add or remove widgets to suit their needs. Since the release of 2020.2, users also have the option

to use modern dashboards. These are dynamic, data-driven dashboards offering four new and regularly refreshed widget types. This also introduces the possibility of role-specific dashboards, where different individuals can create and access their dashboards. You can also configure dashboards in a [NOC view](#).

## HYBRID IT

Hybrid cloud monitoring and deployment

### Deployment

The SolarWinds Orion Platform can now be deployed on-premises and in AWS or Azure cloud environments. Users must be on version 2019.4 or greater for this option. The following possibilities are supported:

- Cloud (main SolarWinds Orion Platform server and database in the cloud)
- Hybrid (additional polling engines in the cloud; main SolarWinds Orion Platform server and database on-premises)
- Hybrid (main SolarWinds Orion Platform server and database in the cloud; additional polling engines on-premises)

### Monitoring

Several SolarWinds Orion Platform modules are capable of monitoring on-premises or SaaS-based applications and those on a cloud infrastructure. Similarly, SolarWinds Orion Platform modules can monitor on-premises and cloud-based infrastructure.

Here are some examples:

- SolarWinds Server & Application Monitor (SAM) can monitor AWS and Azure entities.
- With the PerfStack dashboard, you can correlate time series data to discover system and application insights. Gather information from network, host, application, virtualization, and storage elements across all hybrid IT infrastructures and applications.
- Use NetPath™ to monitor the entire network path to your cloud environment.
- Monitor cloud-managed wireless controllers and access points.
- Get agent-based, agentless, and API-sourced cloud infrastructure metrics.
- Monitor performance for databases on AWS and Azure, including RDS and Aurora.

## DEVICE/NETWORK INSIGHT

Troubleshoot advanced network devices

Networks today often contain complex hardware not well covered by standard monitoring tools. SolarWinds Network Insight™ in the Orion Platform—simplifies the management of complex network devices by providing the right information for each device's unique role in the network.

Here are some examples:

- Help ensure service availability with health and performance monitoring for critical data center switches, such as Cisco Nexus®.
- Get visibility into virtual port channels and virtual device context and manage thousands of interfaces more easily.
- Automate the monitoring and management of your ASA firewall infrastructure in a single unified platform.
- Easily monitor the connectivity of VPN tunnels and user VPN sessions.
- Monitor every access list to detect or eliminate shadowed or redundant rules. Manage your entire application delivery environment with Network Insight for F5® BIG-IP®.
- Visualize component relationships and dependencies and isolate service issues using one interface.

## WORKFLOW INTEGRATIONS

Components of the Orion Platform shared with each module

### Alert Integrations

In addition to having a consolidated view of alerts on the web console and dashboards, SolarWinds Orion Platform customers can also propagate alerts to SolarWinds Service Desk and ServiceNow. This enables the Orion Platform to automatically open tickets based on critical events defined within SolarWinds Orion Platform software.

With this integration, you can do the following:

- Automatically create incidents based on alerts triggering in the Orion Platform
- Synchronize the acknowledgment of SolarWinds Orion Platform alerts and ServiceNow and SolarWinds Service Desk incidents
- Automatically update, close, and reopen SolarWinds Service Desk and ServiceNow incidents

### Scalability

SolarWinds scalability engines are designed to provide monitoring and management for large enterprise-class infrastructures. Additional polling engines can be added as the number of elements to be monitored grows, while additional web servers scale to the number of supported users. With the [Enterprise Operations Console](#), you can centralize and simplify data management for multiple instances in a single consolidated view.

## High Availability (HA)

SolarWinds Orion Platform HA provides failover protection for your server to reduce data loss when your primary server goes down. The SolarWinds Orion Platform Server can be failed over to a standby server in a different subnet or in the cloud, providing near-instantaneous automated failover. This guards against OS crashes, application failures, network connectivity problems, and database availability issues.

## SolarWinds Orion Platform Message Center

The Message Center provides a view where you can see all events, alerts, traps, and syslog messages on your network. The interface allows for fine-grain filtering for information the user wishes to focus on. This filtering can be based on criteria such as the network object, type of device, vendor, IP address, and hostname. You can also specify the window of time. This applies to all SolarWinds Orion Platform products except for EOC SolarWinds, Engineer's Toolset™ (ETS), and SolarWinds Web Performance Monitor (WPM).

## PRODUCT INTEGRATIONS

Shared product components delivering a more in-depth technical understanding of the environment\*

The Orion Platform and its associated ecosystem is a key foundation of the broader SolarWinds IT operations management (ITOM) offering. This ecosystem involves the following SolarWinds products or modules, which are **installed directly** onto the Orion Platform:

- Network Performance Monitor
- NetFlow Traffic Analyzer
- Network Configuration Manager
- Log Analyzer
- Server & Application Monitor
- Server Configuration Monitor
- Virtualization Manager
- Storage Resource Monitor
- Web Performance Monitor
- VoIP & Network Quality Manager
- IP Address Manager
- User Device Tracker

This ecosystem also involves the following SolarWinds products or modules, which are **integrated with** the Orion Platform:

- Database Performance Analyzer (DPA)
- Patch Manager
- Service Desk
- Engineer's Toolset

The Orion Platform offers integrations with third-party applications/platforms—such as ServiceNow—and interoperability with third-party infrastructure, such as switches, cloud platforms, hypervisors, and storage arrays.

### **Intra-Orion Integrations**

One of the great advantages the Orion Platform offers is the fact that its modules share the same back-end platform and database. This enables many modules to integrate and act on the same subset of data to provide an in-context approach to problem-solving beyond typical tool consolidation. We sometimes refer to this as “connected use cases.”

Here's an example:

NCM <-> NPM:

- See when a configuration in the network service path has changed through integration with the NetPath feature in NPM.
- Identify performance or configuration issues on key network devices with Network Insight for Cisco Nexus, Cisco ASA, and Palo Alto Networks® devices.

### **Extra-Orion Integrations and Process Automation**

The Orion Platform is an open platform allowing clients to integrate into the broader **ITOM** ecosystem. This can include ready-to-go integrations with other SolarWinds ITOM solutions or interoperability with third-party applications.

Here's an example of a ready-to-go integration (installer module available):

The Orion Platform Web Console <-> DPA

Storage administrators, network administrators, and DBAs often function within silos, using tools giving them an incomplete view of the factors capable of affecting performance. Integrating DPA with the **Orion Platform** expands the information available in the Orion Platform Web Console, making it easier to determine the root cause of performance problems. You can view database instance information alongside other environmental factors to get a more comprehensive view of issues affecting users and your IT infrastructure.

\*For further details on integration benefits/connected use cases, please see the respective Product pages.

### The Orion Platform SDK/API

The [SolarWinds Information Service \(SWIS\)](#) is a data access layer for the Orion Platform. It has its own SQL-like language called SolarWinds Query Language (SWQL). SWIS provides a kind of application programming interface (API) for the Orion Platform.

The **Orion Platform SDK** is an open-source software designed to make it easier for system administrators and developers to use SWIS. It can help you automate processes, integrate with other products, or access information from the Orion Platform. The Orion Platform SDK includes **SWQL Studio**, which is a graphical query tool for running SWQL queries. It also includes the [SwisPowerShell PowerShell module](#).

### A NOTE ON SOLARWINDS ORION PLATFORM UPGRADES

Our aim is to have customers on the latest release of their software products. This will ensure they can take advantage of the most recent security updates, bug fixes, and performance improvements and benefit from our latest product features.

#### Upgrade Options

The ability to pre-stage upgrades, design upgrade planning reports, and use the temporary license key option to support migrations makes it easier than ever to stay up-to-date with your software.

#### Staged Upgrades

This feature has resulted in some customers upgrading the Orion Platform in as little as 36 minutes (from release 2019.4), down from 3.5 hours for their previous upgrade.

For more information on installing and upgrading the Orion Platform, see our documentation [portal here](#).

## ABOUT SOLARWINDS

SolarWinds (NYSE:SWI) is a leading provider of powerful and affordable IT management software. Our products give organizations worldwide—regardless of type, size, or complexity—the power to monitor and manage their IT services, infrastructures, and applications; whether on-premises, in the cloud, or via hybrid models. We continuously engage with technology professionals—IT service and operations professionals, DevOps professionals, and managed services providers (MSPs)—to understand the challenges they face in maintaining high-performing and highly available IT infrastructures and applications. The insights we gain from them, in places like our **THWACK** community, allow us to solve well-understood IT management challenges in the ways technology professionals want them solved. Our focus on the user and commitment to excellence in end-to-end hybrid IT management has established SolarWinds as a worldwide leader in solutions for network and IT service management, application performance, and managed services. Learn more today at [www.solarwinds.com](http://www.solarwinds.com).



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