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SolarWinds Orion Platform Products vs. Ipswitch WhatsUp Gold TotalView Plus Edition 2017

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Overview

This document compares and contrasts the monitoring capabilities of a number of [SolarWinds® Orion® Platform](#) products (SolarWinds Orion) to [Ipswitch® WhatsUp® Gold TotalView Plus Edition 2017](#) (WhatsUp Gold). This comparison will be based on six SolarWinds products: Network Performance Monitor (NPM), NetFlow Traffic Analyzer (NTA), Network Configuration Manager (NCM), High Availability (HA), Virtualization Manager (VMAN), Server & Application Monitor (SAM), and Storage Resource Monitor (SRM).

WhatsUp Gold separates their products into what they call "features," which are comparable to what SolarWinds refers to as "products," as seen in the SolarWinds Orion products. One major difference is that WhatsUp Gold offers their "features" in one license, whereas SolarWinds offers separate products that plug into the same platform, working in unison to offer comprehensive network and application management and monitoring.

WhatsUp Gold's "features" (products) are as follows: Automated Discovery Mapping, Manage & Monitor Your Infrastructure (Network Management), Manage & Monitor Your Cloud Resources, Application Monitoring, Network Traffic Analysis, Virtual Monitoring, Configuration & Change Management, Distributed Monitoring, Automatic & Manual Failover, Smart Alerting & Actions, and Reporting & Inventory. In this competitive comparison, we will be comparing every WhatsUp Gold feature that directly aligns with the products on the SolarWinds Orion, and also discuss the products that are not included within the Orion Platform, but that are offered by SolarWinds (e.g. Automated Discovery & Mapping) also directly aligning with the WhatsUp Gold features.

In this comparison, we will align each SolarWinds Orion product with its corresponding WhatsUp Gold "feature." The comparison will speak using SolarWinds terminology, so the term "feature" in the charts below refers to functionality within SolarWinds and WhatsUp Gold's individual solutions, respectively. If a SolarWinds product is not included within the SolarWinds Orion Platform products, we will simply specify the option potential users can purchase that aligns with the "feature" offered by WhatsUp Gold.

SolarWinds Summary

SolarWinds Orion products provide network, bandwidth, systems, and cloud monitoring that scales from SMB to Fortune 500®. SolarWinds products include out-of-the-box monitoring for a large variety of enterprise-grade infrastructure, and are designed to scale both in terms of back-end and UI interaction. SolarWinds solutions are powerful, scalable, and affordable, offering a unique and comprehensive way to monitor networks worldwide.

WhatsUp Gold

WhatsUp Gold provides IT management solutions to monitor and manage infrastructure and applications. Their products aim to assure performance and availability with continuous application, server, and network monitoring. They are designed provide visibility into cloud and virtual environments, as well as automate configuration and log management along with similar services.

Critical Differences of Products

SolarWinds Network Performance Monitor (NPM)

Feature	WhatsUp Gold	SolarWinds Orion (NPM)
Hop-by-Hop Network Path Analysis	✘ Does not provide critical hop-by-hop network path analysis of any kind.	✔ With SolarWinds NPM, the NetPath feature allows you to view performance, traffic, and configuration details of devices and applications that are on-premises, in the cloud, or across hybrid environments.
Drag-and-drop network performance metrics	✘ Does not offer any form of drag-and-drop network performance metrics visualization.	✔ Accelerate identification of root cause by dragging and dropping network performance metrics on a common timeline for immediate visual correlation across all of your network data.
Deep Packet Inspection and Analysis	✘ No deep packet inspection and analysis.	✔ NPM's deep packet inspection and analysis can analyze up to 1Gbps per packet analysis sensor, and handle up to 1,000 sensors per NPM instance. ✔ NPM automatically calculates and displays application and network latency, so you can determine the potential impact of the network on application performance.
Network Insight™ for Cisco® ASA	✘ Does not provide any insight into your Cisco ASAs.	✔ Monitor and manage your Cisco ASA environment with Network Insight for Cisco ASA.

F5® Application Delivery Controller Monitoring	✖ WhatsUp Gold does not monitor the performance of F5 Application Delivery Controllers.	✔ NPM includes Network Insight for F5 BIG-IP® DNS and LTM application delivery controller monitoring, which includes relationship mapping, connection counts, and advanced alerting.
Route Monitoring	✖ No route monitoring.	✔ NPM keeps track of and analyzes routing tables to alert you to concerning events, such as routes that are flapping and default route changes. NPM also monitors routing protocols like RIP, OSPF, and BGP, so that you can track and alert on things like neighbors going up and down.
Network Multicast Monitoring	✖ No network multicast monitoring.	✔ NPM can monitor and alert on large, complex network multicast topologies.
Wireless Heat Maps	✖ WhatsUp Gold does not provide the ability to generate wireless heat maps.	✔ NPM includes wireless heat map functionality for Cisco wireless controllers, allowing you to visualize wireless coverage.

SolarWinds NetFlow Traffic Analyzer (NTA)

Feature	WhatsUp Gold	SolarWinds Orion (NTA)
Bandwidth Usage by IP Groups	✖ No bandwidth usage by IP groups provided.	✔ Analyzes network traffic with custom overlapping IP address groups. Create your own IP address groups to view network traffic the way you want to see it.
Customized Views of Border Gateway Protocols	✔ They do not state on their website or documentation that the product can deliver customized views of internet traffic (Border Gateway Protocols).	✔ Enables you to set up customized views of internet traffic (Border Gateway Protocols) for ISPs and organizations to better understand how traffic is balanced across providers.
Flow-based Reporting with Automatic Delivery	✖ Does not offer automatic delivery of flow-based reports of any kind.	✔ Enables you to create in-depth network traffic reports with a few clicks, or schedule automatic weekly delivery to your team.
Top-Talker Optimization	✖ Does not offer top-talker optimization to help customize how flow data is stored and analyzed to boost overall performance.	✔ NTA determines which flows are representative of the majority of bandwidth usage. It stores those flows while disregarding flow data from users and applications that have a negligible impact on overall bandwidth. Boost overall performance of SolarWinds NTA up to 10 times when capturing flows that represent 95% of the total network traffic.
Filtered Flow Navigation	✖ Does not offer filtered flow navigation or network traffic views by filtering different flow data types.	✔ NTA enables you to create and access personalized network traffic views by filtering NBAR2, NetFlow, J-Flow, sFlow, IPFIX, and Huawei NetStream data, which facilitates traffic analysis.

SolarWinds Network Configuration Manager

Feature	WhatsUp Gold	SolarWinds Orion (NCM)
Configuration Change Automation	✖ Does not offer configuration change automation, but instead offers bulk configurations for multiple devices.	✔ Simplify and standardize recurring or complex configuration changes by creating a single vendor-neutral script that can be scheduled and executed on routers, switches, and other network devices from Cisco, Juniper®, HP®, Dell®, Brocade®, F5® Aruba®, Rukus®, and more.
Cisco Adaptive Security Appliance (ASAs) and Access Control Lists (ACLs)	✖ Does not manage firmware upgrades for Cisco ASAs, nor does it backup and restore ACLs.	✔ Discover security contexts, backup and restore config files, discover, visualize, and audit ACLs, and easily manage firmware upgrades for Cisco ASAs.
Automatically Identify IOS® Vulnerabilities	✖ Does not offer any sort of IOS vulnerability scanning.	✔ Improve network security by automatically identifying IOS vulnerabilities and upgrading IOS firmware.
Automated Remediation Scripts	✖ Does not offer automated remediation scripts to correct out-of-compliance issues.	✔ Use automated remediation scripts to correct out-of-compliance issues.
Out-of-the-Box, Automated Compliance Assessments and Reports	✖ Does not offer out-of-the-box, automated compliance assessments and reports, but does "ensure that all devices are running authorized configurations." Having it out-of-the-box and done automatically facilitates this process, but WhatsUp Gold makes no claim to offer this.	✔ Demonstrate compliance to critical security standards using out-of-the-box, automated compliance assessments and reports for DISA STIG, SOX, HIPAA, and PCI DSS.

SolarWinds Server & Application Monitor

Feature	WhatsUp Gold	SolarWinds Orion (SAM)
End-to-End User Monitoring Experience	✖ There's no dashboard that can provide you information from end-users' experience throughout virtual or physical resources in a single pane of glass.	✔ With SAM's AppStack™ dashboard, you can quickly pinpoint the possible root cause of application issues within physical and virtual server environments. This can help identify where application issues originate in seconds.
Automatic Application Discovery	✖ No ability to discover applications automatically.	✔ SAM provides a robust application discovery that automatically applies application monitors out of the box.
200+ Application Templates for Monitoring Available Out of the Box	✖ The website and User Guide only mention 12 templates for monitoring applications out of the box.	✔ SAM is a multi-vendor tool that supports a wide range of products in the market. SAM provides monitoring for more than 200 different applications out of the box (including the latest versions of Microsoft® SQL Server®, Exchange™, Oracle®, MySQL®, or Windows Server®).
Integration of CloudWatch API	✖ Amazon® CloudWatch™ API is not integrated into WhatsUp Gold.	✔ Amazon Cloudwatch is integrated into SAM. All metrics provided by CloudWatch are available right in the tool even without the consumption of licenses.
Cloud Resource Monitoring and Management	✔ WhatsUp Gold is able to automatically discover, map, and monitor cloud environments including Amazon Web Services™ and Azure® servers. You can monitor, report, and alert on the status and performance of every metric your cloud service collects via its native API.	✔ SAM is able to collect, monitor, and map AWS® and Azure cloud environments.

	WhatsUp Gold	SolarWinds Orion (SRM)
Multi-vendor Tool for more than 3 vendors	✖ Only Dell Compellent®, NetApp, and EMC Unity storage devices are supported.	✔ Multi-vendor out-of-the-box support for NAS, SAN (Block, File) Standard, Hybrid, and All Flash Array types with an extensive list of 13 vendors that's growing with each iteration. Check the full list of supported devices here.
Automated Storage Capacity Monitoring and Forecasting	✖ No ability to forecast storage usage.	✔ SRM provides array capacity summaries for Raw and Usable, with an indication of how much is currently being used and how much remains with predictive run-out date.
Detailed View into All Layers	✖ You have access to hardware devices or discs. Other layers are missing.	✔ SRM provides you with a detailed view into capacity, performance, LUN masking, and hardware health of storage arrays, RAID groups, pools, and LUNs.
Storage Asset Information	✖ WhatUp Gold does not provide any storage asset information.	✔ SRM contains a special view of storage asset information, such as firmware level and S/N.
Thin Storage Pools and LUNs Dashboard	✖ No ability to provide complete list of thin storage pools in one dashboard.	✔ SRM provides complete list of thin storage pools by capacity as well as thin LUNs by capacity.

SolarWinds Virtualization Manager

Feature	WhatsUp Gold	SolarWinds Orion (VMAN)
Licensing per Socket	✗ Virtualization monitoring is sold as a feature for WhatsUp Gold. It's not sold separately. The feature is licensed by the number of virtual machines that are monitored and consumes licenses of WhatsUp Gold itself.	✓ Virtualization Manager has a per-socket licensing model. The price starts at less than $400 USD per socket.
Predictive Recommendations	✗ WhatsUp Gold does not provide any predictive recommendations. All monitoring capabilities are based on the current state of your environment.	✓ Built-in actionable intelligence provides recommendations to fix active issues, prevent new ones, and optimize your VM environment based on its analysis of the current state and historical data. The recommendation system may generate a multi-step fix to achieve the optimal performance state and relieve CPU, memory, and storage contention. It provides a description that helps you to understand why the steps are suggested. You can also remediate them right from the alert itself.
Sprawl Control to Reclaim Resources	✗ There is no dashboard that could inform you about VM sprawl in your environment.	✓ VMAN provides visibility into resources that can be reclaimed and reassigned to VMs that need them, such as memory, vCPU, and orphaned disks. ✓ Complete coverage for VM sprawl including rightsizing, orphaned files, zombie VMs, stale VMs, idle VMs, and more. ✓ Thanks to this feature, our surveyed customers were able to reclaim 23% of virtual resources on average.

Managing of VM's Environment	✖ Reallocate resources available to a particular VM, but does not reallocate memory, storage, and CPU usage.	✔ Ability to start, stop, restart, delete, or move VMs, reallocate memory, storage, and CPU used by VMs, and take snapshots from within the web console.

Shared Features Across All Orion Platform Products

Product	WhatsUp Gold	SolarWinds Orion
Advanced Multiple Alerting	✖ WhatsUp Gold does not provide multiple alerting scenarios, such as "Alert me if both monitor A and B are down," or "Alert me if monitor A and B have exceeded a custom threshold for 10 minutes and monitor C is not up."	✔ All Orion Platform products provide the ability to handle multiple alerting conditions without grouping or manually changing thresholds. The products come ready with groups and logical units with automatic dependencies, so users will be alerted once with details, instead of getting a flood of alerts for every single interface if the core router becomes unavailable.
Baseline and Statistical Threshold	✖ No dynamic baseline and statistical threshold capabilities.	✔ All Orion Platform products provide automatic baselining capabilities, which allow the network and applications managers to discover and investigate statistical abnormalities (for example, "Is this interface traffic abnormal for this time of day and day of week?").
Performance Analysis Dashboard	✖ No performance analysis dashboard.	✔ Orion Platform products have an integrated PerfStack™ performance analysis dashboard, which, helps to accelerate problem identification and resolution with cross-stack IT data correlation. PerfStack allows users to compare disparate data types side by side, correlate multiple entities on a common timeline, and collaborate across functional teams.

Products within WhatsUp Gold TotalView Plus Edition 2017 Not Included Within the SolarWinds Orion Platform Products that can be Integratedwith the SolarWinds Orion Platform Products

Product	WhatsUp Gold	SolarWinds
Automated Discovery & Mapping	✔ WhatsUp Gold Layer 2/3 Discovery identifies all of the devices on your network including your routers, switches, servers, access points, and more. WhatsUp Gold features Seed Scan technology, which discovers all devices on the network by automatically learning your network topology.	✔ SolarWinds offers Network Topology Mapper (NTM), ✔ SolarWinds also offers network topology capabilities within the SolarWinds Orion Platform Product Network Performance Monitor (NPM). NTM integrates within your Orion Platform of products, offering seamless mapping and monitoring performance within a single screen view.
Automatic and Manual Failover	✔ WhatsUp Gold can support a failover instance, which helps ensure high-availability operation for your WhatsUp Gold server. This allows you to set up automatic failover that can be based on specific event occurrences or conditions that can trigger a failover to a backup server.	✔ SolarWinds High Availability product helps you ensure 24/7 availability for your Orion servers and pollers across subnets. It delivers failover deployment, near-instantaneous failover within minutes, automatic failback, failover to cloud, notification and alerting, and failover rules.

Other General Services and Summary

Feature	WhatsUp Gold	SolarWinds Orion Platform
Module-Based Solution You Can Set-Up By Choosing Products or Features To Suit Your Needs	✖ Though it is tempting to see so many features and capabilities in one neat all-in-one solution package, from the evaluation above, WhatsUp Gold offers great breadth, but it may obligate the potential customer to purchase products they may not need within the solution.	✔ A solution that does not force users to buy products and features they will not need, offering a module-based solution that you can put together as you need. ✔ As seen in the above, SolarWinds Orion Platform of products offers tools that provide great depth and all of the necessary breadth to monitor your infrastructure and applications. For example, NPM has dedicated and automatic analysis that allows it to function with minimal administrative effort—for instance, automatic capacity forecasting, automatic dependencies, and advanced multi-parameter alerting. Apart, SolarWinds offers the same products as WhatsUp Gold's TotalView Plus Edition, all of which can be integrated into the Orion Platform as individual modules per the user's needs. SolarWinds products carry the additional benefit of beneficial compatibility amongst each other that improves monitoring and management capacity.
Full 24/7 Support for 12 Months After Purchase	✖ 24/7 support is provided for business-critical issues only. Other issues are solved only Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.	✔ SolarWinds provides free 24/7 web-based, email, and telephone support with active maintenance or for the first year with purchase of the product. ✔ Product upgrades and 24/7 support are included in a single annual price for each additional year of maintenance.

| Full and Free Access to Community Forum for Everyone | ✖ WhatsUp Gold's community forum, called WUGspace, is available just for customers. A serial number is required when registering to unlock all community features. | ✔ The SolarWinds THWACK® community has over 150,000 members. You can register for free without any limitation based on your purchase history. SolarWinds has hundreds of community-contributed templates, scripts, and reports. Community integration is available directly from within the products. |

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