

CA SPECTRUM® Network Fault Manager Network Configuration Manager

CA SPECTRUM® NETWORK FAULT MANAGER NETWORK CONFIGURATION MANAGER (CA SPECTRUM NFM NETWORK CONFIGURATION MANAGER) PROVIDES A SINGLE PANE OF GLASS TO MANAGE YOUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRENGTHENS YOUR ABILITY TO PINPOINT THE ROOT-CAUSE OF FAILURES.

Overview

If a high percentage of all catastrophic network failures are caused by configuration “change”, then shouldn’t your network fault management tool be network “change-aware?”

CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager identifies configuration changes in real time and compares and validates configurations with automatic identification of inconsistent start-up and running configurations.

Benefits

CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager provides you with a single pane of glass from which to view your infrastructure and manage your configurations. This helps streamline operations and accelerates repair, maximizing infrastructure availability.

Device configuration verification, change notification and audit capabilities avoid costly human configuration errors, and better ensure business continuity.

CA Advantage

CA delivers on its vision to unify and simplify Enterprise IT Management (EITM) by introducing a network configuration management solution that provides real-time insight into network configuration change. Integrating configuration and fault management results in more rapid and accurate root cause analysis.

The solution does not require additional installation and configuration of software as it is fully integrated into the CA SPECTRUM Network Fault Management Solution.

CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager Enables “Change-Aware” Network Fault Management for Intelligent, Automated Fault Detection

The CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager automates management of critical device configurations, giving you the tools to capture, modify, load and verify configurations for hundreds of devices from leading network equipment vendors. You can administer MIB OIDs and SNMP attributes, and any stored configuration can be quickly loaded to multiple devices. Each configuration is time-stamped and identified by the revision number and automatically scheduled configuration comparisons deliver immediate notification of unauthorized changes. CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager provides exceptional, automated fault detection, as well as superior workflow that ultimately leads to faster problem resolution.

With the release of CA SPECTRUM Network Fault Manager r8.1, you now have insight into network change and configuration as it happens in real time. Delivered as a simple plug-in to the powerful CA SPECTRUM Network Fault Management solution, the CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager leverages the common services of discovery, analysis, configuration and reporting, as well as a common user interface.

CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager includes:

- Support for leading network equipment vendors
- Ability to monitor configuration changes as they occur in real time
- Policy monitoring, including support for verifying consistency of start-up and running configurations
- Secure communications options with SNMPv3, SSH and SCP

Graphical User Interface for At-a-Glance Information

The web-based graphical user interface lets you leverage information from multiple sources for faster problem resolution to improve network performance. For example, you can correlate appropriate or inappropriate changes within the network environment against availability and performance failures of critical network services. The powerful user interface also enables you to compare configurations or view the configuration history of any selected network device within the infrastructure.

What’s New in CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager

- Ability for network operations teams to easily share configuration information
- Ability to administratively control who has viewing access and who can perform configuration tasks
- Ability to perform configuration searches using locally stored configurations
- Ability to export configuration information for long-term reporting or for integration with a CMDB
- Ability to leverage a common asset database for network fault and configuration management

Easily Detect When Changes Are Made to Device Configurations

Tracking and ensuring accuracy of every configuration for a critical set of network elements is an enormous task. To minimize this effort, the CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager applies intelligence and automation to manage critical device configurations through capabilities that include:

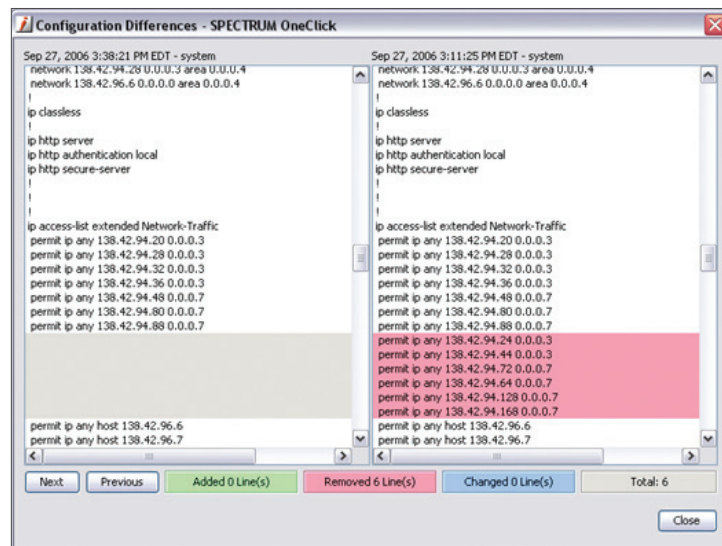
- Configuration capture
- Configuration edit
- Configuration load and restore
- Configuration comparison and validation
- Automated scheduling

When changes have been made to device configurations, appropriate individuals are alerted. Every piece of information pertaining to host configuration changes is readily available, as the network console includes information to view and compare configurations. If a user is privileged, they can even make edits and merge changes into existing device configurations. Start-up vs. running configuration comparison helps avoid the common problem that occurs when router configuration changes are made but are not saved and the router reverts back to the old configuration upon reboot.

FIGURE A

Network topology view shown via a web-based graphical user interface, with running vs. start-up configuration data comparisons, which allows IT management to easily ensure that current configurations are valid.

TOPOLOGY VIEW — START-UP VS. RUNNING



New configuration policies support compliance initiatives and enable the CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager to correlate specific changes to configurations that are the root-cause of other network failures. For example, configuration changes can impact performance of key applications, such as VoIP, ERP, CRM or customer self-service portals. By integrating configuration change management with fault and performance management, configuration changes can be correlated with performance impact. If a configuration change causes performance degradation to a key application, it can be quickly remedied.

Out-of-the-box reports are available to demonstrate proper configuration monitoring, identify detected configuration changes, identify when configurations fail defined policies and when corrected configurations pass the audit.

The CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager maintains an active configuration history and can export configuration information for longer-term storage or integration into other tools, including a CMDB.

PRODUCT	FUNCTION	FEATURES	BENEFITS
CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage configurations • Prevent failures • Isolate faults • Support compliance initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad device support across multiple vendors • Automated scheduling • Real-time configuration detection • Configuration capture, edit, load, save • Configuration comparison and validation • Single pane of glass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce costs • Increase performance • Reduce downtime and degradation • Speed up root cause analysis • Improve IT productivity

Superior Integration at All Levels

CA's commitment to superior integration results in unified and simplified fault and configuration management that brings benefits to your network infrastructure.

Reduce Costs:

- Lower software license and hardware costs; configuration management capability is now simply integrated into the existing CA SPECTRUM Network Fault Management solution
- No need to install/patch/update dedicated software — just a plug in module
- No need for independent network configuration management training

Increase Performance:

- Adds/Moves/Changes to network fault management are automatically incorporated into network configuration management (shared asset database)
- Automation enables pinpointing changes that may be the root-cause of other issues
- Simplified views speed up root cause analysis

Reduce downtime and degradation:

- Enable proactive management of your network
- Correct degradation before it turns into a full-blown outage
- Quickly bring the network back online when downtime occurs

Speed up root cause analysis:

- Leverage configuration information and history for faster and better fault analysis

Improve IT productivity:

- Automate configuration loading and verification for accuracy and speed
- Configuration information is available within the same pane of glass as network fault management; just click on alarm or topology icon and look at the configuration (current, history and changes)

CA Advantage

Platform-independent and vendor neutral, CA SPECTRUM NFM Network Configuration Manager fault-management capabilities are indispensable for organizations seeking to achieve competitive advantage. To manage network service, the unification of network fault, performance and configuration management is essential. The addition of configuration management to fault management makes the process of monitoring and managing network nodes more proactive by leveraging additional sources of information.

The CA SPECTRUM product family is an integral part of the CA Network & Voice Management solution set and an important part of CA's overall approach to transforming Enterprise IT Management by unifying and simplifying management for better business results. Like other CA Network & Voice Management products, the CA SPECTRUM family integrates with other CA and third-party products to provide comprehensive, end-to-end management of diverse network infrastructures.

CA offers complete lifecycle services to ensure you derive maximum benefit from your CA solutions. CA Services and CA partners can help you assess your current IT situation, define your goals and implement solutions to gain measurable results. To keep your CA solutions operating at peak performance, CA Support delivers unparalleled technical and customer support worldwide. CA also offers training and certification through CA Education.

Next Steps

To reduce downtime and degradation and to reduce your costs through improved configuration management, go to ca.com/spectrum

To learn more, and see how CA software solutions enable organizations to unify and simplify IT management for better business results, visit ca.com/products.