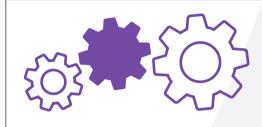
TEN CHALLENGES WITH FREE MONITORING SOLUTIONS

We asked sysadmins and CIOs to share some of the challenges they encounter with free IT monitoring solutions. Here are their top ten:



1 HARD TO DEPLOY

Free monitoring solutions can be hard to deploy in production; requiring time-consuming and difficult manual integration of many components.



2 SPECIAL SNOWFLAKES

Getting a full range of monitoring features can mean custom-crafting a "snowflake" solution that's hard to integrate, manage, scale, update, and troubleshoot.



3 NOTHING JUST WORKS

A limited range of well-supported, plug-and-play integrations can make basic monitoring harder than it needs to be.



Poor support for monitoring clusters, business services, and resilient cloud services can lead to over-alerting, increased costs, and low team morale.



5 VISIBILITY:

Far from adding flexibility, integrate-your-own front ends and widgets can lead to inefficient operations, poor team communications, and difficulty resolving issues.



6 HOSTAGE SITUATION

Your home-grown, customized monitoring solution can become a ball and chain of technical debt, and leave you vulnerable if knowledgeable employees move on.



Limited options for data ingestion, CMDB integration, device discovery, and automation can make setting up free monitoring longer and more difficult.



HARD TO SCALE

Free monitoring solutions can be old-school monoliths: hard to scale, and not performant enough to meet fast-growing enterprise requirements



9 NO THROAT TO CHOKE

Lack of commercial support means more time spent deploying, maintaining, and fixing issues; more need for (non-strategic) in-house platform expertise.



Community-supported, open source monitoring projects have their own agendas, which may (or more likely, may not) reflect your business priorities.



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