

Rendition Networks gives configuration management a fast, new look

An HP OpenView integration story

Recognizing the importance of good tools for managing the thousands of heterogeneous hardware elements that regularly comprise today's large-scale corporate environments, Rendition Networks, founded in 2001, moved to fill the gap. Through meticulous planning and skillful execution on its product delivery strategy, the company became the world's leading provider of products for network configuration control. Its flagship product, TrueControl, recommended by [Nortel Networks](#) as the network configuration control solution



of choice for its customers, helps CIOs and network engineers deliver on promises of business uptime. Integrated with HP OpenView, TrueControl tracks and regulates changes in real-time across routers, switches, firewalls, and load balancers to provide greater accountability, insight, and control for network changes. The benefits: dramatically reduced downtime and increased efficiency of a company's IT organization are noticeable almost immediately. For more information on Rendition Networks, visit

www.renditionnetworks.com.

Business plan drives connector development

Given the extensive, complex topologies and multiplicity of protocols that are the hallmark of today's corporate environments, it's no wonder recent studies show that configuration errors account for nearly half of all network availability or performance problems. An IDC analysis estimates IT departments will spend \$150 million to \$225 million on multivendor network



configuration tools in 2004. The aim is to manage the configurations of several thousand heterogeneous hardware elements deployed over far flung networks, with real-time change detection and automation capabilities.

Without automated tools, configuration-related tasks are manually intensive and error-prone. Even rudimentary tasks, such as changing SNMP community strings or passwords, represent significant work and now become feasible using the robust feature set of TrueControl.

Rendition Networks' solution monitors, manages, and restores the configuration of network equipment in real time with minimal human intervention. Through various features, such as real-time change detection, templates, policy management, firmware and OS management, and integration with leading enterprise solutions already deployed in the enterprise, TrueControl can drastically reduce network operating costs.

Integrating HP OpenView and TrueControl for synergistic functionality

"Integration with HP OpenView is essential to our approach," noted Ajay Gummadi, Director of R&D, "because HP OpenView and TrueControl serve the same user base and

support network engineers with complementary functionalities". For example, HP OpenView Network Node Manager (NNM) displays the alarms received or helps the user navigate across the subnets to locate a potentially problematic device. Added Gummadi, "Having automatically located a device, however, the user is faced with a series of tasks. They will have to login to the device, check its configuration, and decipher the changes on this device and potentially reconfigure or restore the device. The user will often have to take further steps to find additional details such as the configuration change, the reason for the change, the context for the change, and the list of devices touched by this change before beginning to troubleshoot".

Rendition Networks' development team used the HP OpenView NNM Developer's Toolkit to integrate with HP OpenView. The TrueControl Connector for HP OpenView NNM is an add-on product to TrueControl that Rendition Network's customers purchase. It imports device information about current and new devices from HP NNM into TrueControl at regular intervals. From the operator console, a network engineer can quickly navigate to a device and access a rich set of configuration information stored by TrueControl. The engineer can, for example, view the device's group, location, firmware, model number, serial number, interfaces, or routing tables. TrueControl also allows the NNM user to access the device's most recent configuration and the details on the various changes (such as the time, nature, and person responsible for the change) which enables the engineer to have a better understanding of the device's state and helps resolve the problem significantly faster than was previously possible.

Developing a connector quickly hinges on reuse of toolkit sample code

"Our company's go-to-market plan and my aggressive release schedule for TrueControl allowed my development team very little time," said Gummadi. "Clearly there was no time to waste learning communication protocols and reinventing APIs going into the TrueControl Connector for HP OpenView NNM."

Commenting on the development team's use of the HP OpenView NNM Developer's Toolkit to integrate with HP OpenView, Gummadi says, "The integration tools with sample code helped developers avoid time-consuming development from scratch. I think having these tools saved something on the order of months. Moreover, HP documents detailing the Integration Concepts, Java API and the samples contained in the chapter on creation and usage of registration files were put to good use several times in the course of this project and several times thereafter. The completeness of the documentation and examples quickly led developers/engineers to specific solutions."