# Remote Monitoring and Management of Networks

Lecture weeks 32/33

Switch monitoring, port mirroring,
SNMP

#### Outline

- Introduction
- Network monitoring
- Port mirroring
- Distributed monitoring
- Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)
- Remote Monitoring (RMON)

#### Learning Objectives

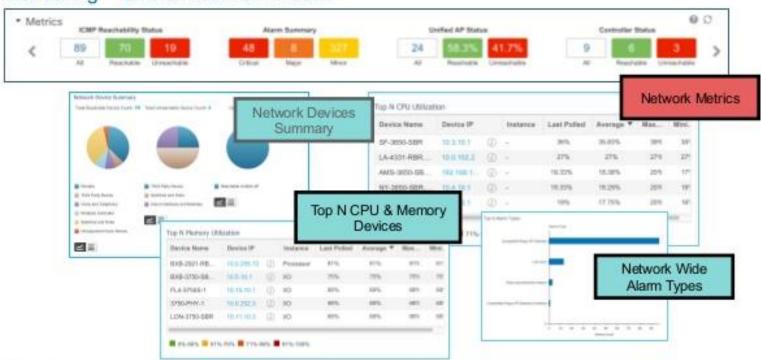
- Understanding of various network monitoring techniques.
- Understanding of SNMP and its implementation.
- Understanding of RMON and its implementation.

#### Introduction

- Monitoring large switched or routed networks can pose many administration problems.
- Some network analyzers tools are designed to overcome these problems and are mostly built into Business management suites such as Microsoft SCCM (System Center Configuration Manager), HP BTO (Business Technology Optimization), Cisco Prime, etc.
- In most cases the standard SNMP/RMON protocols are employed to capture and analyze the network traffic.
- Network faults or problems related to performance, uptime or availability of system components need to be analyzed.

#### Cisco Prime

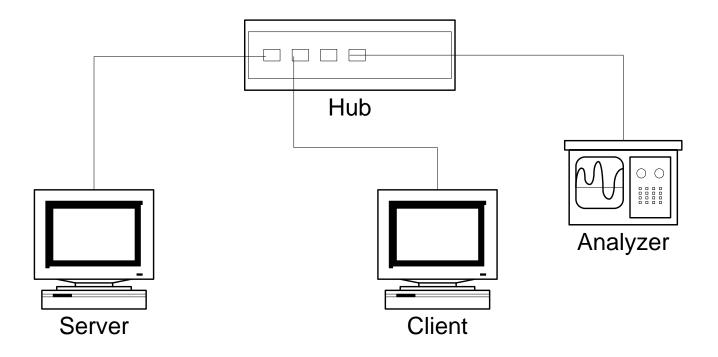
#### Dashboards Monitoring – Overall Network Health



### **Analyzer Types**

- Network analyzers can be standalone or distributed.
- Stand-alone analyzers have no difficulty monitoring or capturing data on a simple shared LAN segments
- The analyzer is just plugged into a spare port on the hub to see all unicast and broadcast traffic on the segment (providing it can operate in promiscuous mode).
- May need special NIC/drivers to analyse errors

# **Shared LAN Analysis**

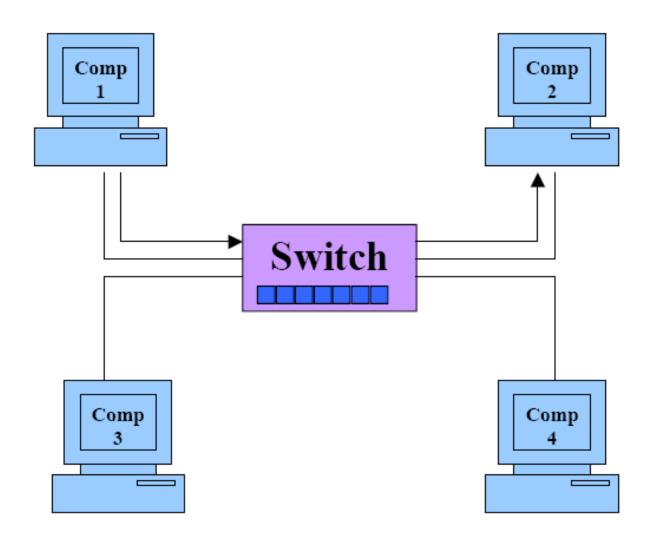


# Multi-segment Problems

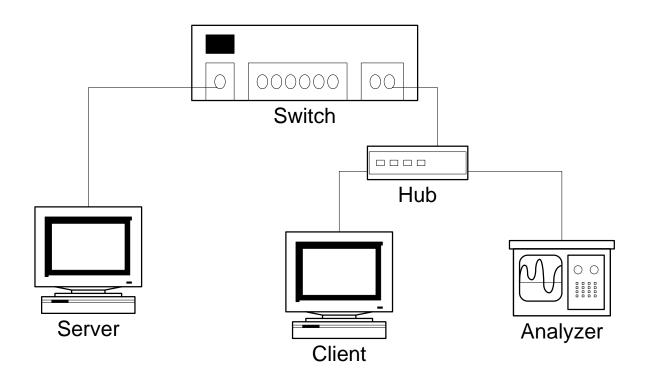
 Multi-segment networks containing switches pose problems because only broadcasts are detectable.

 You could use a portable mini hub to tap into the point to point connection:

#### **Switched Network**



# Monitoring a switched Link with a hub



Here the communication between the client and server is being monitored by sharing the server connection with the analyzer.

NB. Hubs are half-duplex (HDX) not suitable for full-duplex (FDX) links and you have to disconnect the link to insert the hub

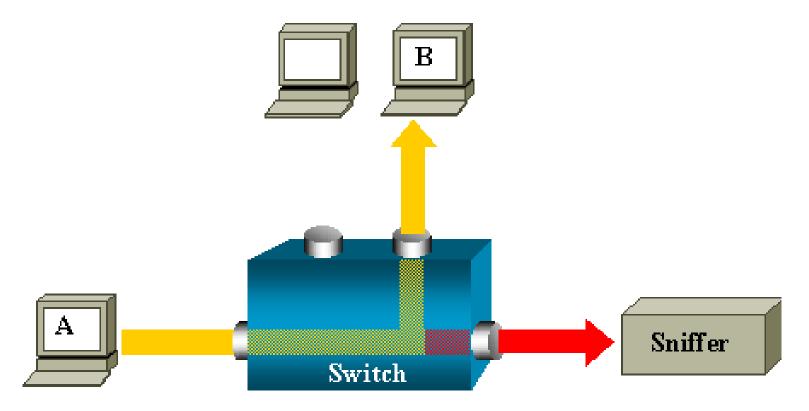
### Monitoring a Switch port

- 3 ways for an analyser to gain access:
- Port mirror (or SPAN)
- Port aggregator
- TAP (test access port)

#### **Port Mirroring**

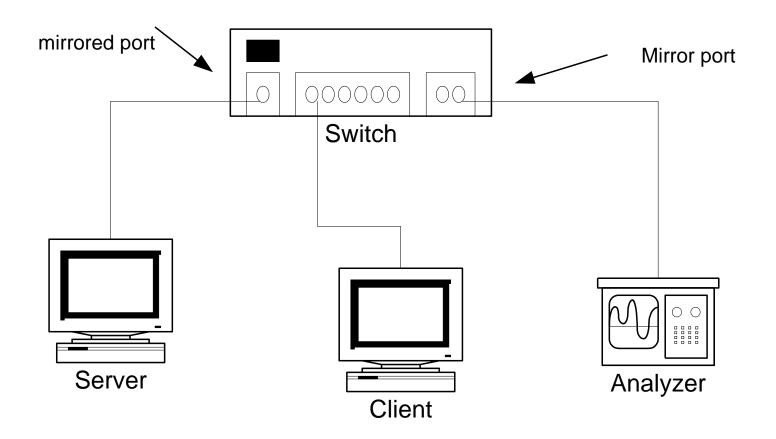
- Most managed switches have feature called port mirroring that enables a port to be specified for monitoring
- The hub is not required and it will see FDX
- You don't need to disconnect the link
- But, some traffic may not be seen by the mirror port - such as error frames and VLAN tags
- Only up to 50% utilisation on FDX

# **Port Mirroring**

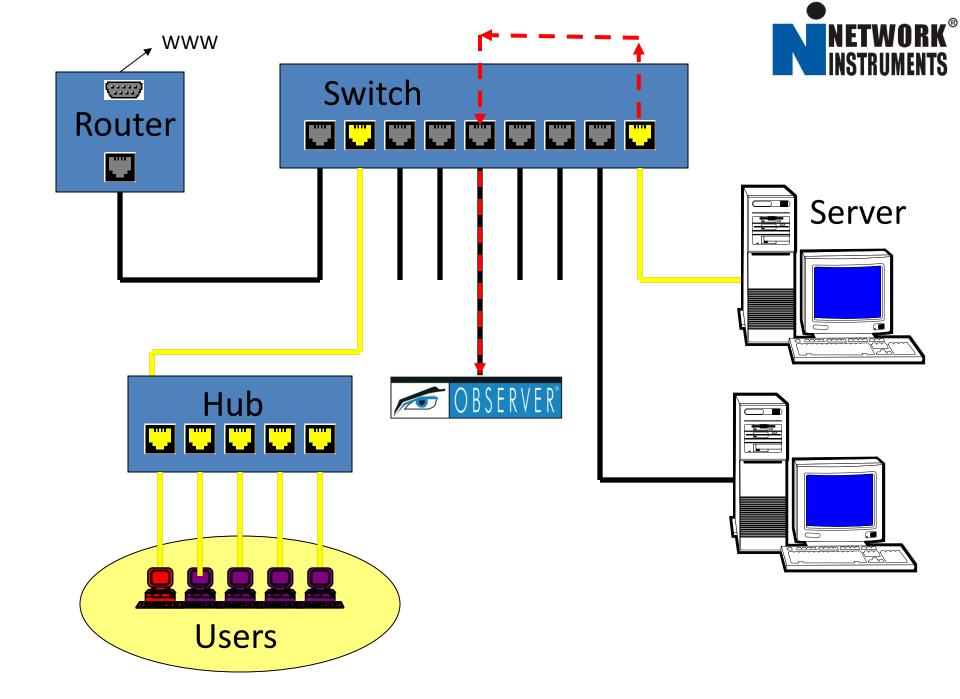


In this diagram, the sniffer is attached to a port that is configured to receive a copy of every packet that host A sends. This port is called a mirror or monitor port or a SPAN port by Cisco.

# Monitoring a Switched Link with a Port Mirror



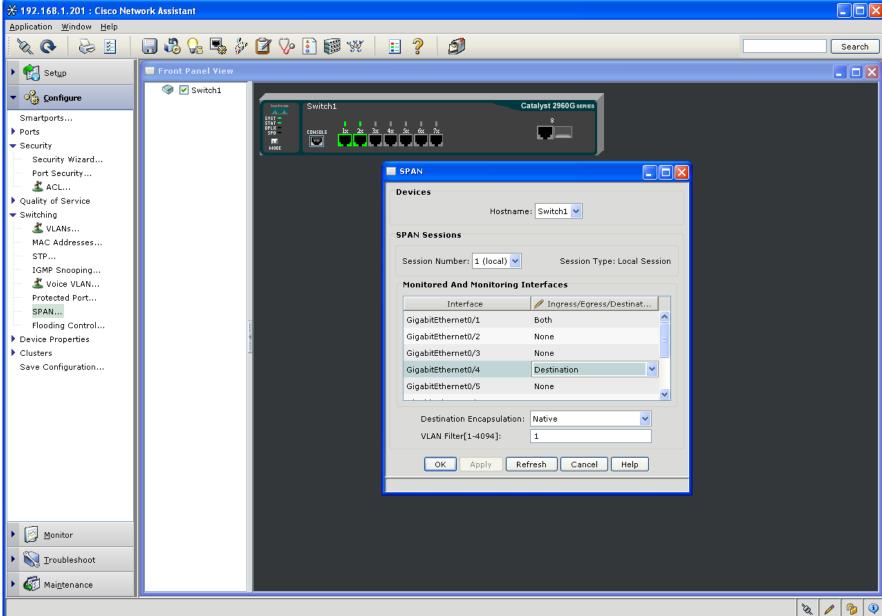
Server link is being monitored via the mirror port connected to the analyzer



#### Cisco SPAN

- The Switched Port ANalyzer (SPAN) feature is what Cisco called port mirroring
- It selects network traffic for analysis by a network analyzer for managed switches such as the 2960
- The following diagram shows how to configure a mirror (SPAN) port on a 2960 using the Cisco Network Assistant (CNA)

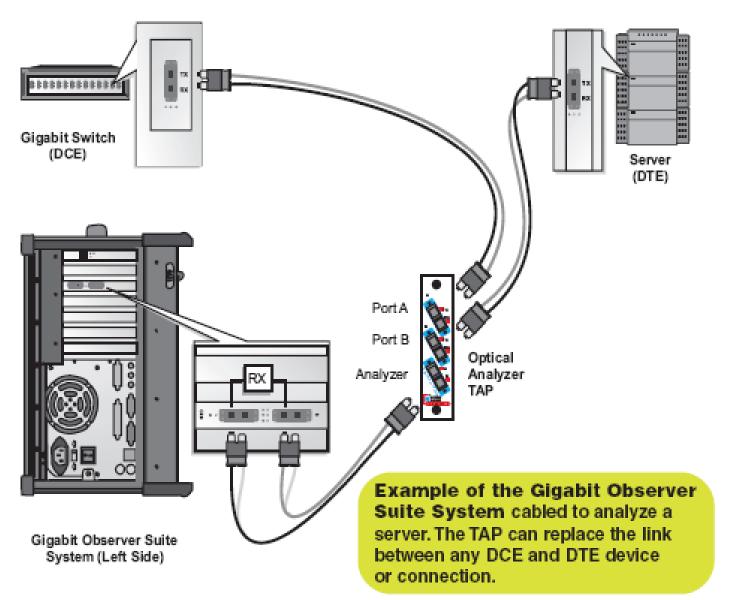
# Configure a SPAN Port



#### **Port Taps**

- Are special purpose copper or optical splitters for monitoring switch ports.
- They provide complete visibility of all traffic on the link being tapped (dual receivers to get both FDX channels at full utilization).
- Sit in-line with the link and are often left in place.
- The network tap has at least three ports -- an A port, a B port, and a monitor port.
- Tap passes through all traffic between A and B, but also copies the traffic between A and B to its monitor port, enabling a third party to listen.
- They are non-obtrusive, are not detectable on the network, can deal with <u>full-duplex</u> and non-shared networks, and will usually pass-through traffic even if the tap stops working or loses power.

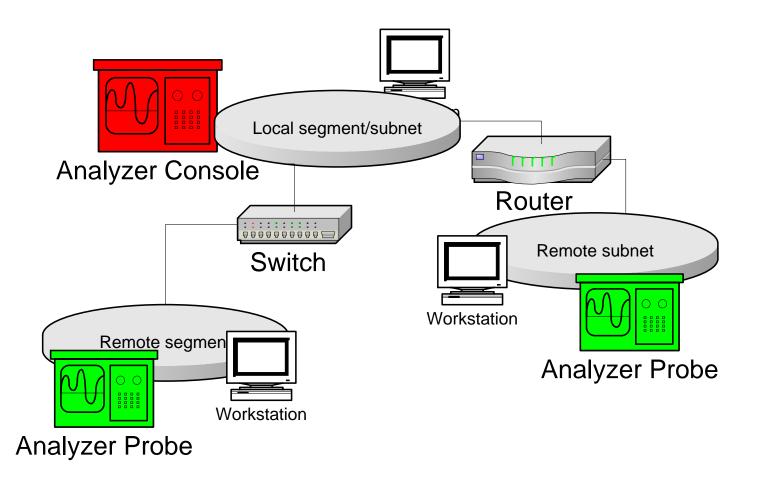
# Optical Splitter (in line tap)



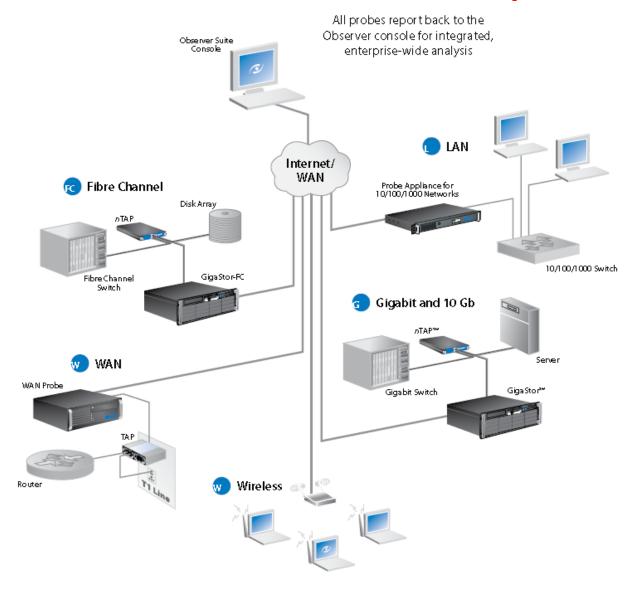
#### Distributed Analyzers

- <u>Distributed Analyzers</u> such as <u>Observer</u> or Sniffer actually contain two components:
  - An <u>analyzer console</u> to gather and analyze the captured data, and
  - A remote probes to send data from devices or PCs on other parts of the network.
- The combination shown overcomes the multisegment analysis problem.

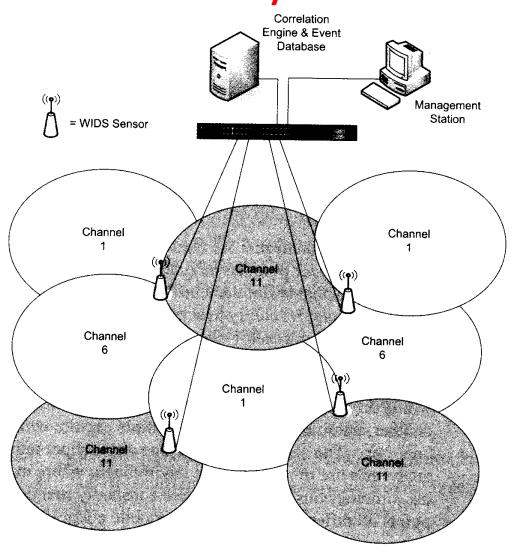
# Multi-segment Analysis



### Distributed Observer Options



# Wireless Distributed Monitoring and Analysis



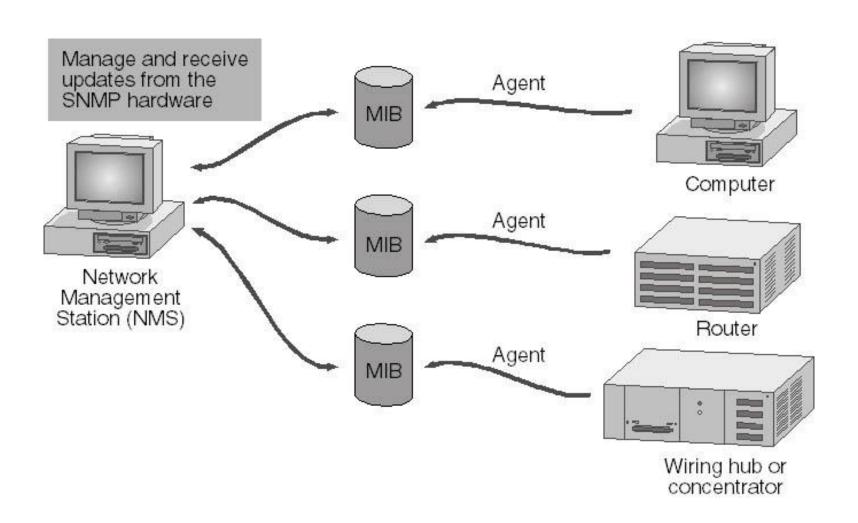
#### Need for Management

- As the size and complexity of networks increases so does the difficulty of monitoring.
- For large and enterprise networks sophisticated network management suites are used to monitor and track all aspects of network activity.
- These packages are based on the industry standard SNMP and RMON protocols.

#### Simple Network Management Protocol

- SNMP is a large-scale tool for measuring and monitoring networks.
- SNMP1, 2 and 3(secured) versions
- SNMP uses two network devices:
  - An agent\_that runs on client computers or other networking components such as hubs, routers, switches etc. to monitor their status, and
  - A manager which polls clients and summarizes data.
- Alerts can be set to inform the administrator of any problems.

### **SNMP** Components



#### **SNMP Managers**

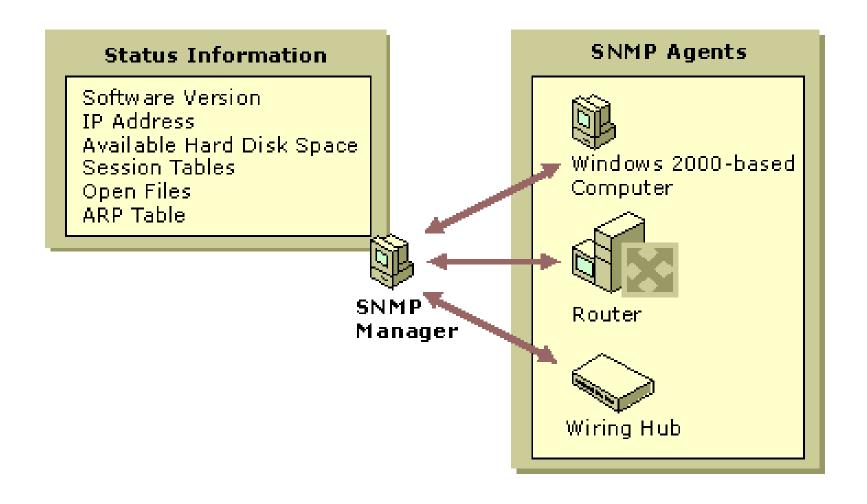
 The network management station (NMS) does not have to run on the same computer as the SNMP agents.

 The NMS can request the information from SNMP agents using SNMP request messages.

#### **SNMP Information**

- Network protocol identification and statistics
- Hardware and software configuration data
- Device performance and usage statistics
- Device error and event messages
- Program and application usage statistics
- The management system can also send a configuration request to the agent that requests the agent to change a local parameter.

#### Status Info



#### **SNMP** Agents

- SNMP agents supply information about activities that occur at network layer and respond to management system requests for information.
- The agent service can be configured to determine what statistics are to be tracked and what management systems are authorized to request information.
- In general, agents do not originate messages; they only respond to messages.

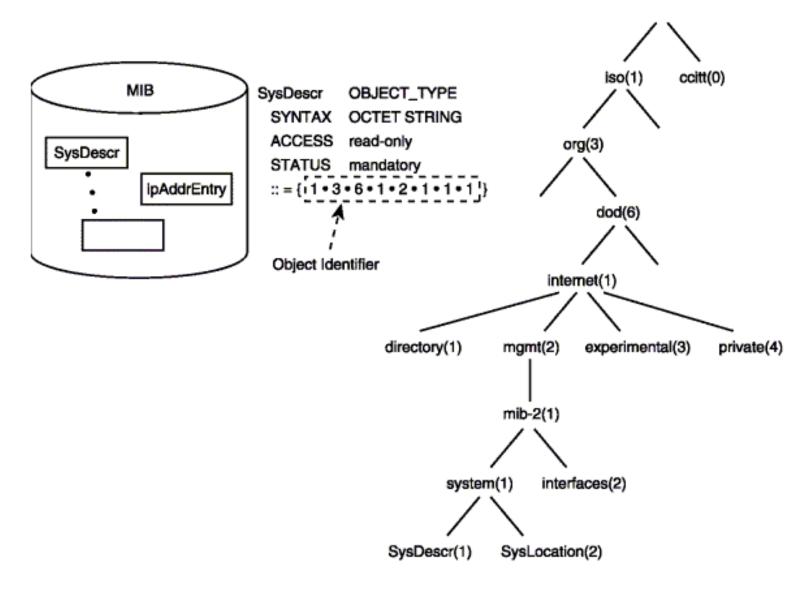
#### **Traps**

- The exception is an alarm message or alert triggered by a specific event.
- An alarm message is known as a trap message.
- A trap is an event such as a system reboot or illegal device access.
- Traps and trap messages provide a rudimentary form of security by notifying the management system whenever such an event occurs.

#### Management Information Base

- MIB is a container of objects which represents a particular type of information required by a management system.
- E.g. one MIB object can represent the number of active sessions on an agent; another can represent the amount of available hard drive space on the agent.
- The information requested from an agent is stored in various MIBs and defines values for each object depending on device type.

### MIB Example



#### **MIB Contents**

#### The MIB may contain:

- numbers,
- text,
- addresses,
- object ids
- more complex data such as routing tables.

#### MIB Identifiers

- Type (counter, string, or address)
- Access level (read, read/write or none)
- Size restriction
- Range information

### **Abstract Syntax Notation**

Each object has a name, syntax, access rights, status and description as specified by the ASN.1.

- **Name** identifies the object (e.g. SysDesc is the object descriptor and 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.1 is the object identifier)
- **Syntax** defines object's structure (e.g. octet string, integer)
- Access Objects are Read-only, Read-Write or not accessible
- Status Mandatory or optional for the particular agent.
- **Description** this is a textual description of the object

## **Basic Encoding Rules**

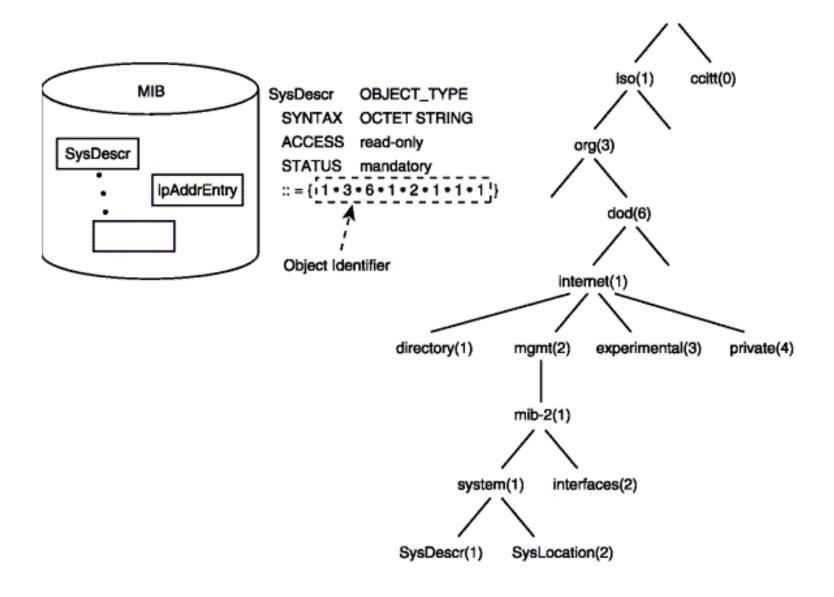
- BER describes how to convert the values of MIB objects into a format that allows them to be transferred through a network.
- ASN.1 objects are expressed in binary format including type, length and data fields.
- The consistent format allows multiple objects to be placed in a single frame on the transmitting side and decoded on the receiving side.

# Object Identifiers (OIDs)

- Object Identifiers (OIDs) are represented by a tree hierarchy.
- Each object has a unique address based on its position in the tree.
- The Internet standard management MIB is 1.3.6.1.2.1. in numeric form or iso.org.dod.internet.management.mib in text form.
- The root is the ISO trunk value is 1.
- Each branch below further identifies the various branches of the subtree.
- All SNMP objects are members of the sub-tree identified by iso.org.dod.internet or 1.3.6.1.
- Each additional component further defines the exact location of the object-
- e.g. SysDescr is identified by the OID 1.3.6.1.2.1.1.1.0

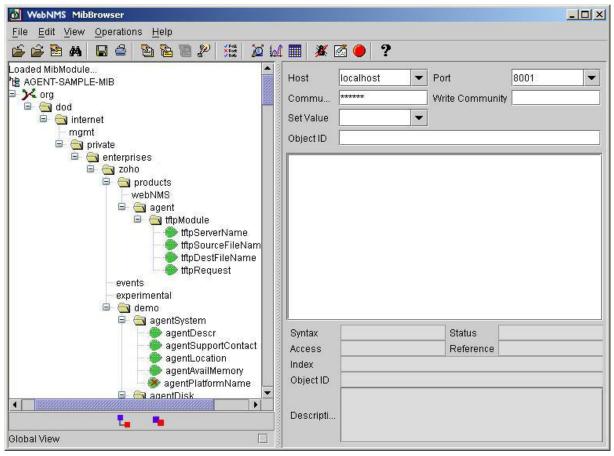
N.B. A zero at the end indicates that this is a singular (as opposed to columnar object such as an address table) and has only one instance in the MIB.

#### MIB Tree Structure

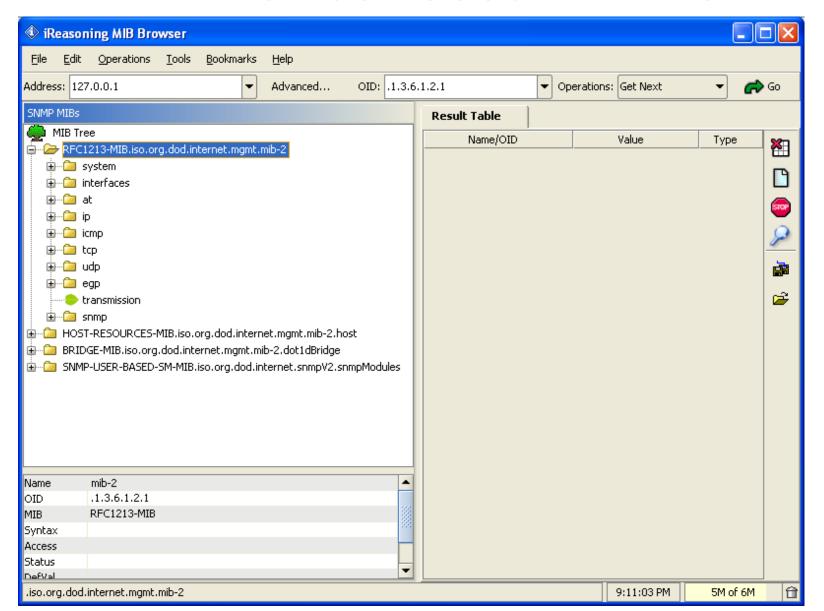


## Walking the MIB Tree

 You can 'walk' through the name tree with an SNMP console utility or using a stand alone MIB browser to view the contents of each supported variable in the MIB tree.



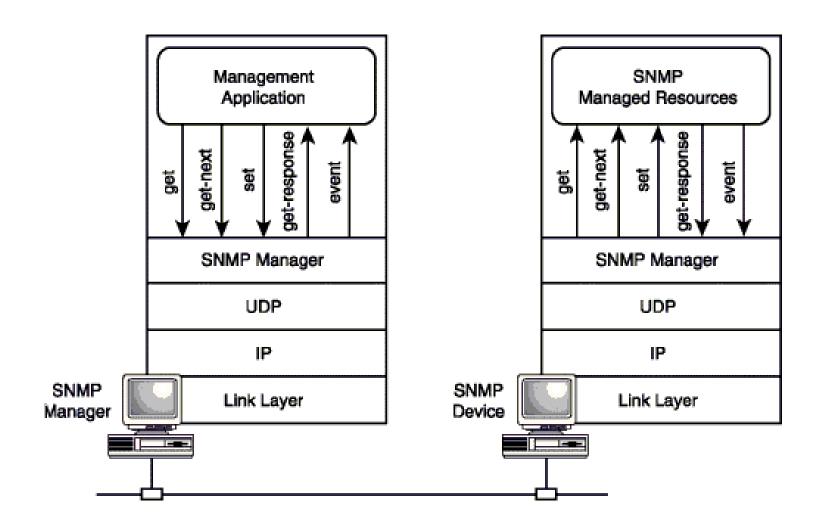
#### MIB Browser Used in LAB3



#### **SNMP Communications**

- Both agents and management systems use SNMP messages to inspect and communicate information about managed objects.
- SNMP message are sent across the network in standard format (specified in relevant RFCs).
- SNMP messages are sent via the User Datagram Protocol (UDP).
- UDP port 161 is used to listen for SNMP messages and port 162 is used to listen for SNMP traps.

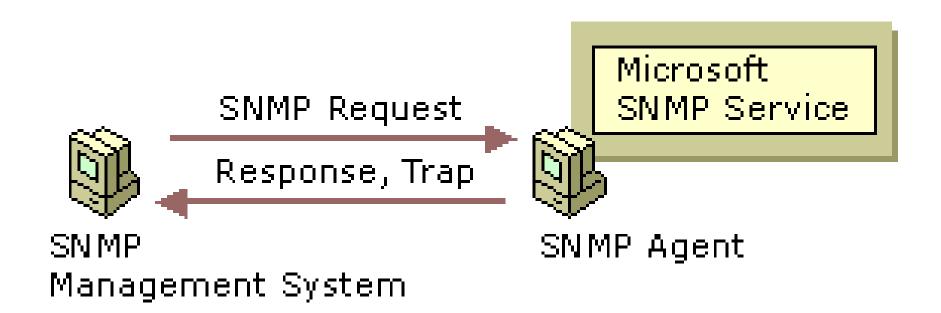
#### **SNMP Model**



#### **SNMP Interaction**

- When an NMS sends requests to a network device, the agent on the device retrieves the requested information from the MIBs and sends the requested information back to the initiating NMS.
- An SNMP agent also sends information when a trap event occurs.

## **SNMP** Messages



## **SNMP Message Types**

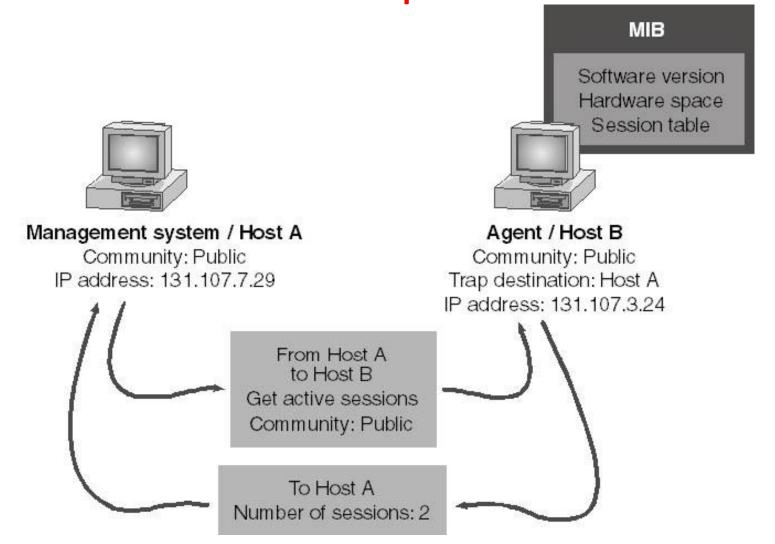
- GET The basic SNMP request message. Sent by an NMS, it requests information about a single MIB entry on an agent—for example, the amount of free disk space.
- **GET-NEXT** An extended type of request message that can be used to browse the entire hierarchy of management objects the agent returns the identity and value of the object that logically follows the previous information that was sent useful mostly for dynamic tables, such as an internal IP route table.

## More Message Types

- SET A message that can be used to send and assign an updated MIB value to the agent when write access is permitted.
- TRAP (or NOTIFY) An unsolicited message sent by an agent to a management system when the agent detects a certain type of event. E.g. a trap message might be sent when a system restart occurs. The NMS that receives the trap message is referred to as the trap destination.

N.B. SMNP v.2 introduced GET-BULK — a request that the data transferred by the agent be as large as possible within the given restraints of message size. This minimizes the number of protocol exchanges required to retrieve a large amount of management information.

# Manager and Agent Interaction example



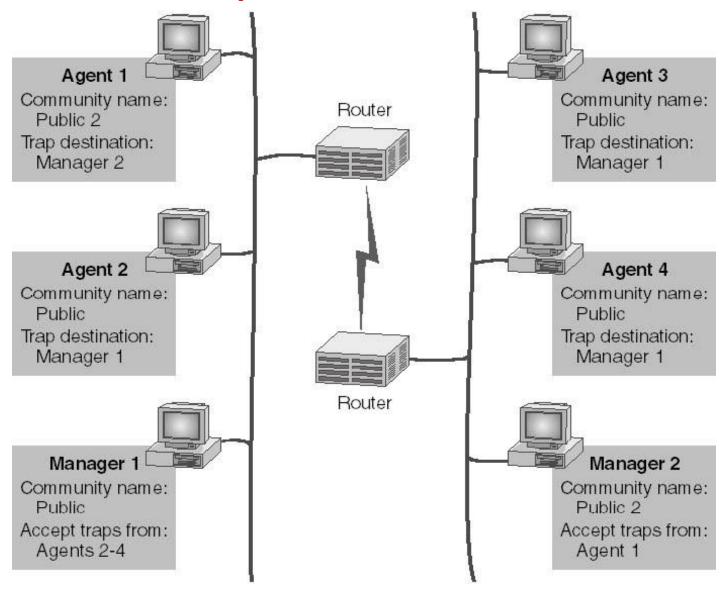
## **Example Process**

- 1. NMS forms an SNMP message that contains an information request (GET), the name of the community to which the management system belongs, and the destination of the message—the agent's IP address (131.107.3.24).
- 2. The SNMP message is sent to the agent.
- 3. The agent receives the packet and decodes it. The community name (Public) is verified as acceptable.
- 4. The SNMP service calls the appropriate subagent to retrieve the session information requested from the MIB.
- 5. The SNMP takes the session information from the subagent and forms a return SNMP message that contains the number of active sessions and the destination—the management system's IP address (131.107.7.29).
- 6. The SNMP message is sent to the management system.

#### **SNMP Communities**

- Each SNMP management host and agent belongs to an SNMP community - a collection of hosts grouped together for administrative purposes. Communities are identified by the names you assign to them.
- A community name can be thought of as a password shared by SNMP management consoles and managed computers.
- N.B. By default public communities are read only, private communities are read/write.

## **Example Communities**



## **Community Restrictions**

- In the previous example there are two communities
   Public and Public 2.
- Agent 1 can respond to SNMP requests from and can send traps to Manager 2 because they are both members of the Public 2 community.
- Agent 2, Agent 3, and Agent 4 can respond to SNMP requests from and can send traps to Manager 1 because they are all members of the (default) Public community.

## Note on community names

 There is no relationship between community names and domain or workgroup names. Community names represent a shared password for groups of network hosts, and they should be selected and changed as you would change any password. Deciding which hosts belong to the same community is generally determined by physical proximity.

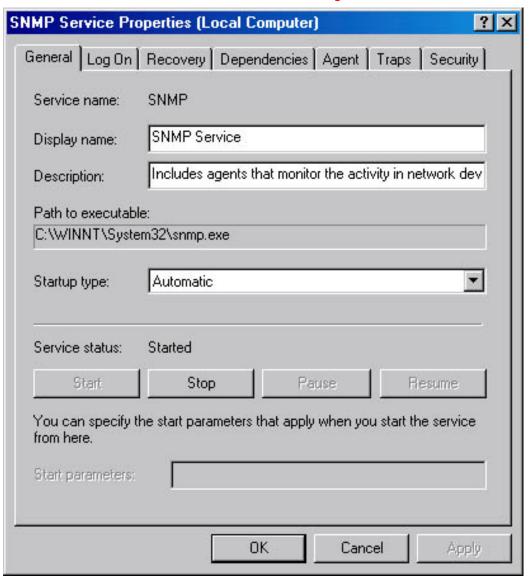
## **SNMP** Message Format

SNMP-Message ::= SEQUENCE { VERSION INTEGER (version-1(1)), community OCTET STRING, data ANY) Current Version version-1(1) community data GetRequest-PDU ➤ GetNextRequest-PDU GetResponse-PDU SetRequest-PDU Trap-PDU

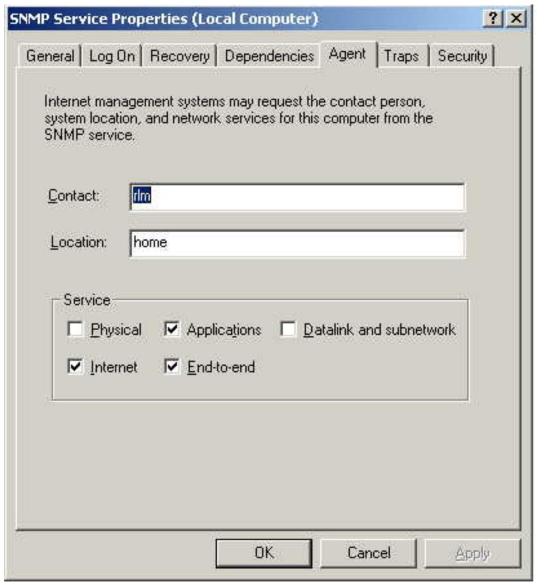
# Windows SNMP agent

- The Windows 7/2012 OS provides a SNMP agent installed from the Control Panel Add/Remove Windows Programs application under Management and Monitoring Tools.
- This contains the Simple Network Management Protocol, which is the SNMP agent which is listed as SNMP Service after it is installed.
- Once the SNMP service is installed, you can configure the SNMP services through Administrative Tools.
- In the Services node you select SNMP Service from the details panel, and then select Properties from the Action menu.

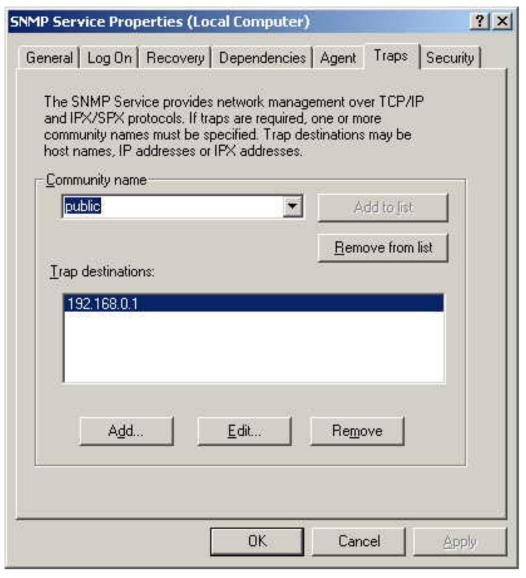
## **General Properties**



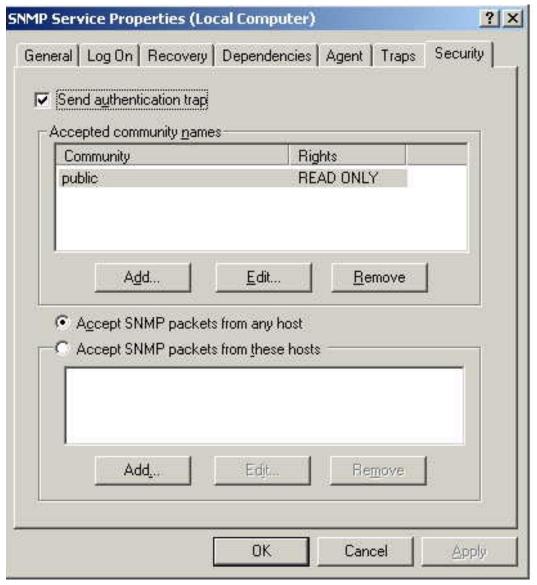
# **Agent Properties**



## **Trap Properties**



# **Security Properties**



# **Network Device Agents**

 SNMP managed switches, routers and other network equipment are initially configured using:

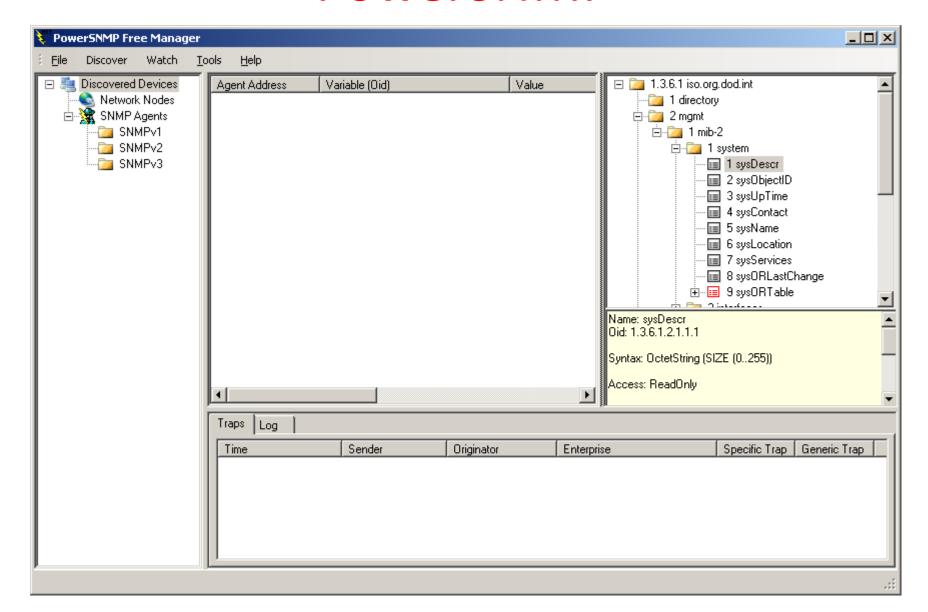
 A serial port connected to a VT-100 terminal (out of band) or

Via a Telnet or HTTP session (in band).

#### **Vendor SNMP Tools**

- Network equipment vendors also offer management tools to help with agent administration
- Tools can be stand-alone or integrated into management suites such as HP OpenView.
- e.g. ATView or SNMPc management software for Allied Telesyn devices,
- Observer suite...

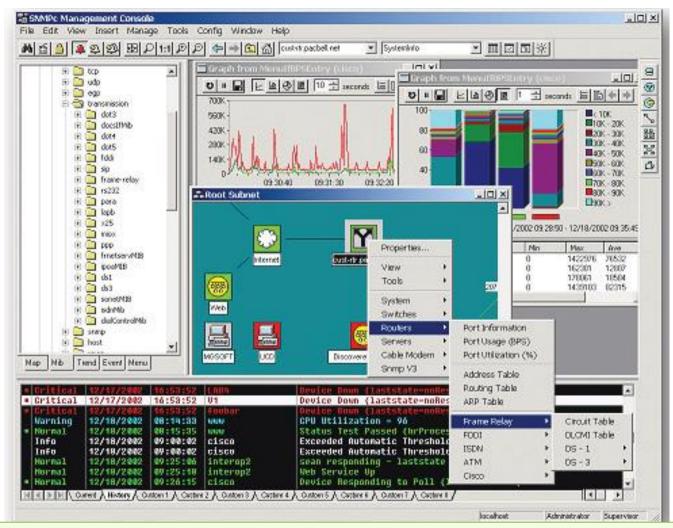
#### **PowerSNMP**



## Device Discovery and Mapping

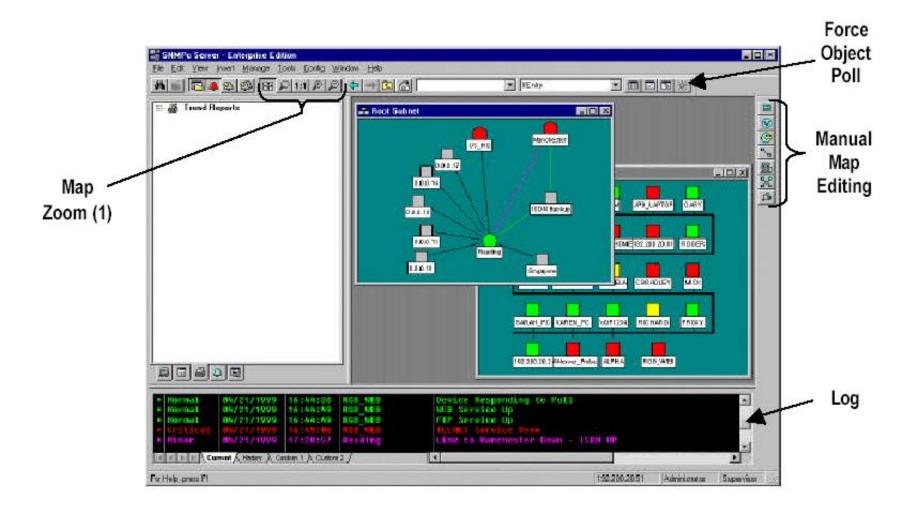
- Management systems have visual interface features to help with management
- E.g. SNMPc or Network View can automatically discover all SNMP devices connected and draw an active multilevel network map of the network.
- Clicking on a device icon allows device specific information to be easily obtained.
- Non SNMP devices can also be found using ICMP discovery
- Proprietary protocols such as Cisco's CDP may be used or Microsoft'S LLTD are also employed.

#### **SNMPc**

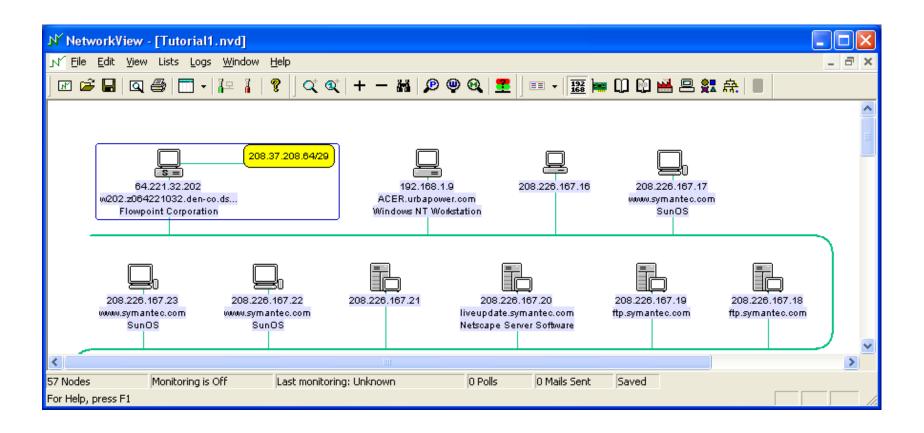


SNMPc is a full featured SNMP management system with could discovery and mapping features as shown

#### **SNMPc Visual Interface**



#### **Network View**



# Cisco Discovery Protocol

- CDP is a proprietary Data Link Layer network protocol developed by Cisco Systems.
- Is implemented in most Cisco networking equipment and is used to share information about other directly connected Cisco equipment, such as the operating system version and IP address via multicast frames.
- Routing information can be used in CDP announcements so that dynamic routing protocols do not need to be used in simple networks.

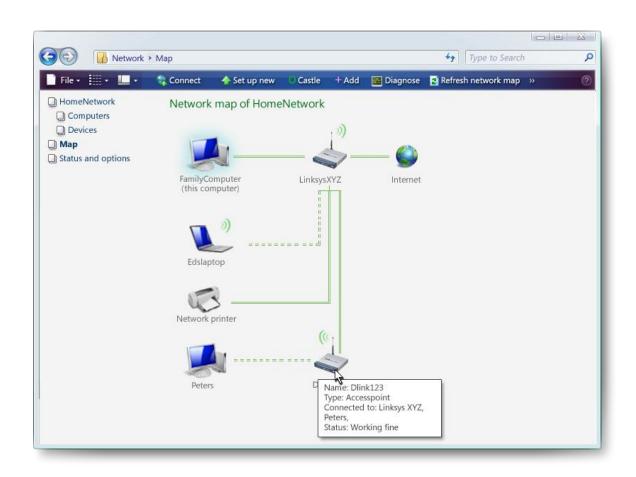
# Link Layer Topology Discovery

- **LLTD** is a Microsoft proprietary Data Link Layer protocol for network topology discovery and quality of service diagnostics.
- The LLTD protocol operates over both IEEE 802.3 Ethernet and IEEE 802.11 wireless networks.
- LLTD is included in Windows 7.
- It is used by the Network Map feature to display a graphical representation of the LAN, to which the computer is connected.
- LLTD operates strictly on a given local network segment.
- It cannot discover devices across routers.
- LLTD responder needed fo XP PCs

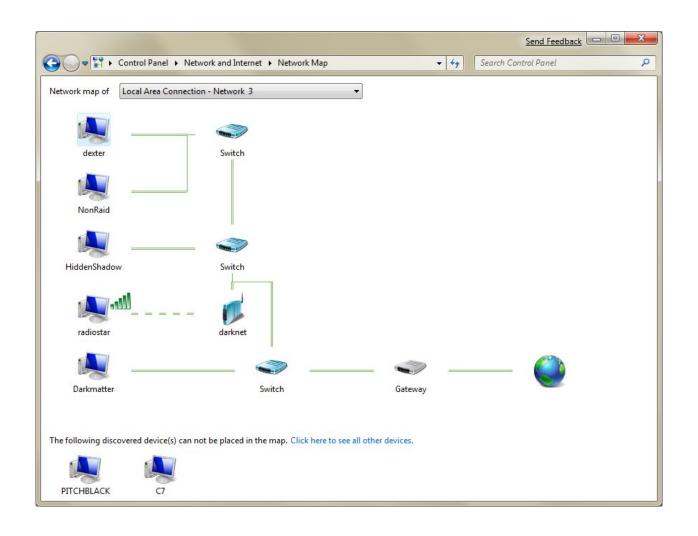
#### **LLTD** Features

- In addition to illustrating the layout of a network with representative icons for the hosts and interconnecting lines, each device icon may be explored to produce a popup information box summarizing important network and host parameters, such as MAC address and IP address (both IPv4 and IPv6).
- Icons are labelled with the hostnames (or first component of their fully qualified domain names), or a representative name of the function of the device, e.g., "gateway".
- If the device has reported the presence of a management Web interface, clicking on the icon will open a HTTP session to the host.

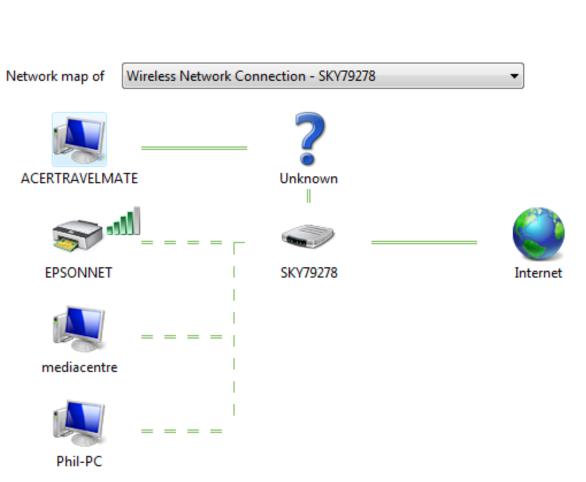
### **LLTD Derived Network MAP**

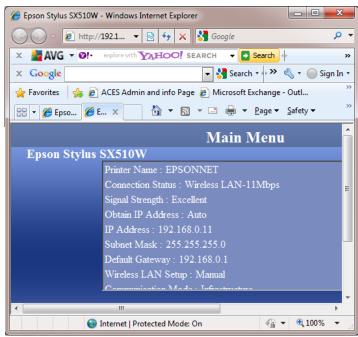


# LLTD Network Map EX2



#### Homenet





## Link Layer Discovery Protocol

- LLDP is a vendor-neutral Data Link Layer protocol used by network devices for advertising of their identity, capabilities, and interconnections on a IEEE 802 LAN network.
- LLDP performs functions similar to several proprietary protocols, such as Cisco Discovery Protocol, and Microsoft Link Layer Topology Discovery.

#### **RMON**

- RMON protocol is an extension to SNMP, which allows data to be processed at the point of collection.
- RMON can be implemented in software on an existing device or in hardware called probes.
- Data is organised in the same manner as with SNMP, described in an RMON MIB and retrieved with SNMP commands.
- RMON probes appear like super MIBs but provide continuous monitoring and remote data processing capabilities.

### **RMON Groups**

**Elements** 

**Function** 

MAC addresses

of addresses

equation

hosts

Collects stats for busiest

Match packets by filter

Controls packet capture

Logs and generates traps

Collects data based on pairs

**GROUP** 

**HostTopN** 

**Filters** 

**Events** 

Traffic Matrix

**Packet Capture** 

Statistics	Stats measured by probe	packets/bytes sent dropped, broadcasts/ multicasts, CRC errors, runts, jabbers, collisions
History	Trend analysis based on data from stats group	Sample period, number of samples, items sampled
Alarm	Configure generation of event if threshold crossed	Type, interval, starting threshold, stop threshold
Host	Collects stats based on Host	MAC address, packets, bytes received/transmitted + broadcast.

duration.

expression

captured packets

pair

multicast and error packets

Statistics, host(s), sample start and stop periods, rate base,

Source/destination address – packets, bytes and errors for each

Bit filter type ( mask or not mask), filter expression, conditional

Size or buffer for captured packets, full status (alarm), number of

Event type, description, last time event sent.

### RMON Example

- Data pertinent to the health of Ethernet segments includes another very specific set of statistical data available on Ethernet RMON probes. This data provides detailed insights into utilization, errors and events.
- Additionally, RMON has the detailed capability to tell you what types of errors are being experienced on the ring. Table 2 show examples of rates to monitor.

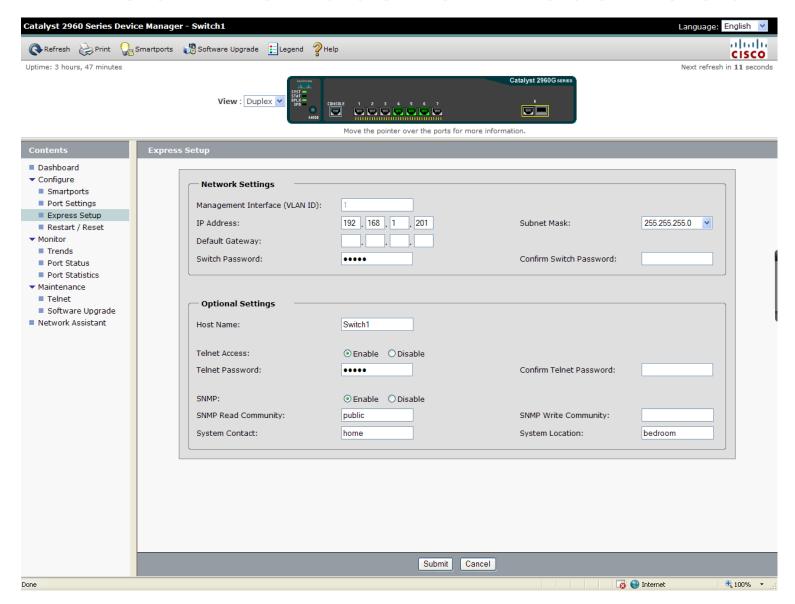
# Table 2

	Avg Util (%)	Peak Util (%)	Errors (%)	Collisions (%)
Warning threshold	>15	>25	>0.1	>5
Critical threshold	>20	>40	>1	>10

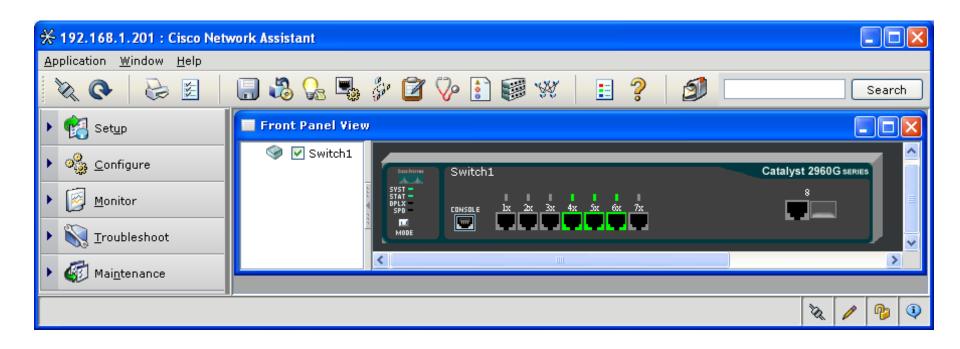
### Non SNMP Approaches and Protocols

- SNMP is not the only way to retrieve information or monitor remote systems. Apart from SNMP there are a number of remote administration options including third party commercial tools.
- HTTP server (agents)
- Telnet and SSH Command Line Interface (CLI)
- Vendor tools such as Cisco CNA
- VNC remote control
- Terminal services
- NetFlow and SFlow

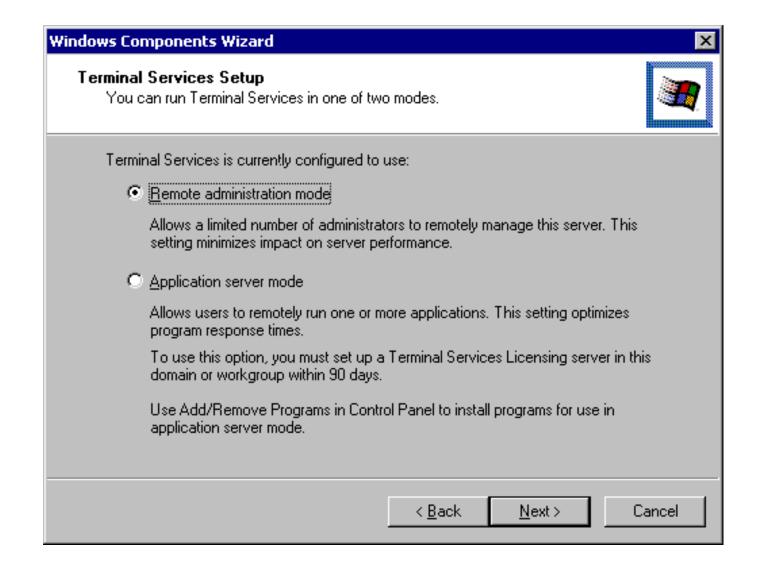
### Web Interface for Cisco 2960



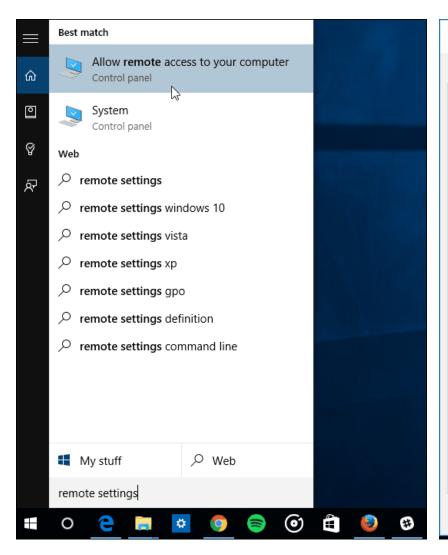
### Cisco Network Assistant

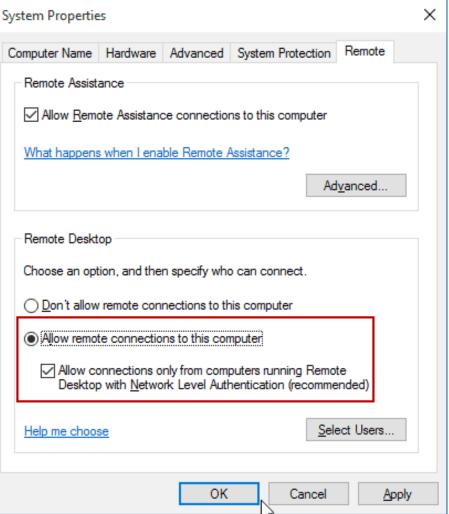


### **Terminal Services**



# Windows Remote Desktop





### NetFlow and sFlow

- Vendors of network equipment have introduced their own network monitoring and analysis protocols.
- NetFlow is found in Cisco IOS equipment.
- sFlow is found in HP and other equipment.
- Both are standard traffic reporting mechanisms embedded in certain routers and switches,
- Use UDP to collect and summarise traffic statistics.

# Self-Study Resources

- Overview of Cisco Prime Infrastructure <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zjtl-P4tpsk</u>
- Log Management and Graphing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASM1qEtNMI0
- MicroNugget: Configuring SPAN and RSPAN on a Cisco Switch <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyDpkVoix00">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyDpkVoix00</a>
- SNMP Operation <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tg47MZdtcAE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tg47MZdtcAE</a>
- MicroNugget: Understanding and Configuring SNMPv3 <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZ5gBrA0B0U</u>
- An Overview of Networking Monitoring Tools
   <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNCmjk0LpCU&list=PLVRajpW">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNCmjk0LpCU&list=PLVRajpW</a>
   <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNCmjk0LpCU&list=PLVRajpW">https://watch?v=NNCmjk0LpCU&list=PLVRajpW</a>
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   <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNCmjk0LpCU&list=PLVRajpW">https://watch?
- How LMS can help with Network Performance Monitoring <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmVGgKuHaxM</u>