HP Internet Advisor for LAN

Maximize network availability by isolating and solving problems quickly

HP Internet Advisor for LAN problem solving series -- No. 1

Hewlett-Packard designed the Internet Advisor for LAN with one goal in mind -- to make you more efficient when isolating and solving problems on local area networks. And, when integrated with the Internet Advisor for WAN, you can test encapsulated LAN data transmitted over the WAN. While some analyzers provide good protocol decoding tools, allow stimulus/response testing, or offer statistical performance measurement, no analyzer from any manufacturer other than HP offers all these capabilities, and more, in the same instrument.

Measurements in the Internet Advisor for LAN include Expert Systems, such as Network Commentator and Vital Signs. Internet Advisor for LAN also features complete statistical measurements over time for segment, node, and protocols, many different stimulous/response tests, traffic generation, a complete set of flexible protocol decodes, and Network Node Discovery for automatically generating and maintaining a comprehensive node list. Groups of measurements can be started and run simultaneously to provide simplified network auditing and baselining.

Internet Advisor for LAN provides media interfaces for Ethernet, token-ring, and FDDI -- with more interfaces under development. Internet Advisor for LAN includes full remote capability to DOS and UNIX® workstations, as well as file conversion capability for data from HP WAN protocol analyzers and from LAN analyzers of other manufacturers.

Internet Advisor for LAN test capabilities are available from HP in four different packages, ranging from the HP Internet Advisor to PC cards, helping meet all your needs for cost-effective, portable test equipment. Complete WAN interfaces, including ATM, are available with the Internet Advisor for WAN.

Internet Advisor for LAN -- Powerful, versatile, and easy to carry to any segment on the LAN

Product notes in the "HP Internet Advisor for LAN problem solving series" fully explain the extensive range of troubleshooting capabilities. The complete set includes:

Network Commentator and Vital Signs

Internet Advisor for LAN redefines industry-leading LAN troubleshooting. With Network Commentator, intelligent protocol decodes automatically follow each conversation and report on errors or deviations from the expected protocol. Then, Commentator reduces hundreds of captured data frames to a short list of significant network events, interpreting the significance of these events and suggesting potential or most likely network faults.

Vital Signs provides statistical pictures of network performance for network segments at the MAC level or whole protocol stacks. Together, Vitals and Commentators identify problems as they happen, then log the event and stop the capture process, preserving the data for further analysis off-line.

Other analyzers can call their capability an expert system; however, their implementations fall far short of HP's Commentator and Vital Signs.

Dedicated Hardware Supports Powerful Software

Designed from the ground up to be the most capable test instrument available, the Internet Advisor for LAN performs measurements that simply cannot be accomplished with an analyzer that is merely a network interface card in a PC. The Internet Advisor for LAN is the only analyzer that captures every event that occurs on the network, no matter what the traffic level. It captures back-to-back tokens at 16 Mbps, incomplete frame fragments in Ethernet, or FDDI frames at all traffic levels. The Internet Advisor for LAN is designed not just to capture traffic when the network is working, but also so that it won't miss a single event when the network is broken. After all, isn't that when you need all the information?

Simultaneous Execution of Measurements

A true multi-tasking instrument, the Internet Advisor for LAN executes any of its measurements at any time you need them. It

doesn't force you to choose between statistical performance measurements and capturing frames, or between generating traffic and monitoring the network. Very often you will want to perform these measurements simultaneously. With the Internet Advisor for LAN, you can simulate a network load and observe its effect on the performance of a server, or even on an individual conversation. Or you can actively verify station connectivity (ping) while still monitoring the performance of the complete network.

Run Measurements from Line or Buffer

Measurements can be run directly on the media under test or from the buffer for added convenience in debugging problems. Expert-systems tools, such as Commentators and Vitals, can be run from buffer on LAN or WAN data imported from other analyzers and converted to Internet Advisor for LAN formats using built-in conversion routines.

Remote Operation

Remote operation of the Internet Advisor for LAN, from either DOS Windows® or UNIX workstations, is available as an option, allowing remote monitoring and troubleshooting from your management workstation. Any event recorded in the event log can be sent to the management workstation as an SNMP trap to identify network events and problems automatically.

Baselining

Using data from the statistical measurements of Internet Advisor for LAN, the HP Internet Reporter generates reports describing long-term network performance. Use periodic baselines to predict future network needs, and use a baseline of a correctly operating network to spot problems when they do occur.

Graphical Display

When troubleshooting a LAN problem, too much data can sometimes make the problem harder to solve. The Internet Advisor for LAN presents all the information you need -- quickly and concisely. Its graphical display makes measurement results easy to interpret. The VGA display instantly provides graphs, pie charts, bar charts or gauges to clarify the results of statistical performance measurements. Results are color-coded, and alert conditions are easy to notice.

User Interface

The Internet Advisor for LAN user interface is based on a customized windowing system designed for ease of use. The entire instrument can be operated with either a mouse or the keyboard, making portable operation flexible and convenient. All measurements are accessed and executed in the same way, so that users are up and running quickly. Even the grouping of measurements presented by the Internet Advisor for LAN can be customized by any individual user or for specific tasks.

The Snapshot mode can be used to store Internet Advisor for LAN measurement and user interface setups for recall when needed. The size and position of individual windows, as well as the bits and bytes of filters and frames for transmitting, can be easily stored as a Snapshot file and recalled by name.

On-line Help System

A context-sensitive on-line help system virtually eliminates the need for hard copy operating manuals. The help system provides complete explanations on the use of all measurements, as well as tutorials on various networking topics and troubleshooting suggestions.

Training Tools

HP provides a wide selection of training tools to ensure that you derive the maximum benefit from your Internet Advisor for LAN.

A self-paced interactive training video leads you through all the capabilities of the instrument and shows you how they are applied to solve real networking problems.

Self-paced interactive training courses are available. These PC-based, comprehensive tutorials help you better understand LAN and data-communications topics. Instructor-led, hands-on classes are also available, either at an HP training center or on-site. (See HP Lit.No. 5963-5513E.)

Future Growth

As powerful as they are, HP Internet Advisor for LAN's capabilities continue to expand with every hardware and software release, ensuring that your investment continues its benefits to you for many years to come.

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