

NetMaster® Network Management

Optimize and Secure Network Access to your Mainframe



Overview

NetMaster® Network Intelligence is a mainframe network management solution designed to keep critical systems running at peak performance. It leverages automation and machine learning to proactively monitor network activity and resolve issues before they impact business operations. With a modern web-based interface, NetMaster simplifies routine tasks like monitoring devices, events, and connections, giving IT teams a clear, real-time view of overall network health. This user-friendly approach helps maintain high availability, meet service level commitments, and improve end-user experiences.

Key Benefits

- Improve security awareness with real-time notification of network security events and secured management of network connections.
- Enhance system performance by proactively identifying network issues and reducing mean time to repair using machine learning.
- Reduce cost by lowering consumption of system resources.
- Increase visibility with centralized monitoring and management of network resources across the entire mainframe environment.

Key Features

- Network Insights: A modern network management experience including dashboards, reports, and tools that speed root cause analysis and remediation of network problems.
- Integrated with the WatchTower Observability Platform to provide deep insights of network health and performance in context with the overall state of your systems and applications.
- Network Security Insights: Gain a deeper understanding of the encryption status of your network, both historically and in real time. Know what is secured and what is not, to aid in your compliance needs.

NetMaster provides advanced thresholding and visualization of historical data to proactively identify anomalous events. SmartTrace, a built-in, real-time packet tracing tool, helps you quickly troubleshoot network connectivity problems. NetMaster also allows you to automate and monitor file transfers across your network, ensuring the timely delivery of files that support business-critical applications. With NetMaster you can view your network from a business-service perspective, ensuring that you meet service level objectives. You can also take advantage of zIIP processors to reduce processing costs.

Business Challenges

In today's highly connected, data-driven world, a company's success depends on delivering reliable digital services to customers. Modern businesses rely on data as the backbone of their services and decision making, and this data all flows through the network. However, as organizations expand, their networks grow larger and more complex, making it difficult to pinpoint and fix issues. This complexity can lead to unexpected outages, poor customer experiences, or even regulatory compliance issues.

Digital transformation—extending core applications to web and mobile—has dramatically increased mainframe workloads and heightened the focus on network performance and resilience. Meanwhile, the mainframe workforce is shrinking as seasoned experts retire, leaving network management duties to IT generalists who must juggle mainframe networking with other responsibilities, often without specialized expertise.

These trends underscore the need for modern, intelligent network management tools that are both powerful and easy to use. Teams ranging from novice analysts to veteran engineers need solutions that automate tasks, learn from network patterns using machine learning, and present insights intuitively.

WatchTower Platform™ Core Brief

NetMaster addresses these challenges by providing key capabilities:

- Comprehensive network monitoring across all mainframe protocols (TCP/IP and IBM SNA) eliminates blind spots
- Automated performance metric baselines establish normal patterns and detect deviations early
- Machine learning-driven anomaly detection flags unusual events before they become problems
- Open, secure APIs for integration with other IT tools and systems
- End-to-end file transfer monitoring ensures critical data is delivered on time and meets business commitments

Solution Overview

With a feature-rich design to support a growing network, NetMaster helps you meet and exceed service levels, maintain high availability, and improve the user experience. The comprehensive solution enables you to minimize outages and maximize network performance in a more cost-effective manner. The modern interface provides a collaborative environment for network administrators, operators, and system programmers to proactively monitor network activity in real time and identify problems before they impact service delivery. Its ability to integrate with and provide data to other WatchTower Platform™ components brings true observability into the health and security of your network.

NetMaster provides the information you need to anticipate network issues sooner, analyze and correct network problems faster, automate corrective action, and plan for future network growth. Advanced diagnostics, including real-time notification and analysis of network security events, helps protect your network from vulnerabilities and improves security awareness. NetMaster also provides real-time, session-level information and detailed diagnostics to proactively manage SNA, the IBM proprietary network architecture.

Next Steps

NetMaster Network Management is included in the *WatchTower Platform Suite*.

For more information, please visit our site at: broadcom.com/products/mainframe/watchtower-observability

Network Insights: Delivering network metrics and diagnostic tools via a modern UI integrated with WatchTower.

Stack Name	Application Name	Connections	Unsecured	Secured	IPSec	TLS	SSH	SSLv2	SSLv3
TCP/IP	OTHER	37	37	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCP/IP	CCITCPGW	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCP/IP	IZUSVR1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCP/IP	ZMSSTART	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCP/IP	ACCPROC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCP/IP	ACCPRO2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCP/IP	NMAPSRV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCP/IP	SSHD3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Critical Differentiators

NetMaster provides the following advantages:

- **Anomaly detection and advanced alerting:** Provides proactive notification of future out-of-norm events, leveraging predictive analytics and machine-learning capabilities, as well as historical analysis for contextual awareness.
- **Deep integration with z/OS system data:** Enhances and enriches network monitoring data, pulling real-time data from z/OS Communication Server/NMI, including zERT SMF and SYSLOG.D data.
- **Historical dashboarding:** Enables forecasting trends over time, estimating the cost of workload moves and tracking progress against business objectives.
- **Continuous enhancements to network management capabilities:** Addresses ongoing changes to standards and new requirements as mainframe network systems continue to evolve to meet today's business needs.
- **Advanced network monitoring and diagnostic tools:** Provides network situational awareness and the ability to quickly identify issues. Deep analysis of root cause and rapid remediation help prevent network issues before they become failures, to meet business commitments and SLOs.