

Securing SNMP: A Look at Net-SNMP (SNMPv3)

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This paper addresses the many improvements, enhancements, and additions that comprise net-snmp, as well as the benefits of using SNMP to monitor network devices and computers. A discussion on the benefits of systems monitoring is included for relevance. Shortcomings of previous versions of SNMP are explained, and solutions to these faults are described in terms of net-snmp's capabilities. The bulk of this practical focuses on the specific additions to SNMP that make net-snmp the ideal candidate for systems monitoring. The User-based Security Model is explained with regard to SNMP, and encryption is topically dealt with for completeness. Throughout the paper, various topics within network security and operation are discussed to emphasize the improvements with net-snmp. Overall, SNMPv3 provides the best of both worlds: ready access to system monitoring information, and sophisticated security.

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