

EMA Radar™ for Application-Aware Network Performance Management 2013: Illuminating the Pipes

AppNeta Profile

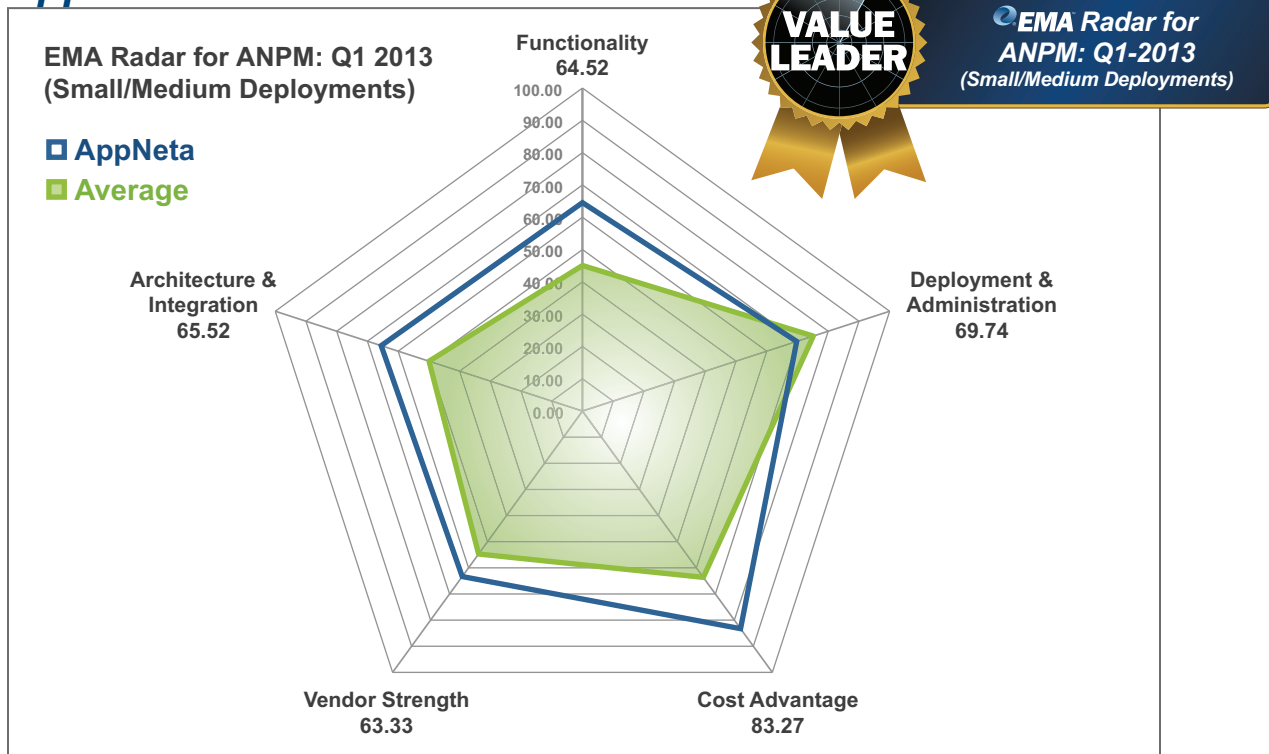
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ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES® (EMA™) Radar Report

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AppNeta



Introduction

Boston-based AppNeta (formerly Apparent Networks) rebranded themselves in 2011 and re-focused their efforts on delivering cloud-based SaaS solutions for application-aware network performance management of datacenter, remote office, and mobile environments. These solutions have been built around the company's well-established path and route analytics core technology. AppNeta has been most successful in the Small and Medium Enterprise sectors along with a growing number of MSPs.



For the purpose of this report, EMA looked at the following combination of ANPM and complementary components from AppNeta: PathView, FlowView/FlowView Plus, AppView Web, and AppView Voice/Video. PathView delivers core network performance assessment, while FlowView and FlowView Plus provide the bulk of passive ANPM capabilities for monitoring, troubleshooting, and capacity planning. The AppView solutions provide complimentary synthetic ANPM monitoring and troubleshooting for application-specific traffic like Voice and Video, while the Web module adds End User Experience scoring and trending.

The AppNeta solution achieved the top overall *Solution Impact* score in the *Small/Medium Deployments* group, and also achieved one of the best *Resource Efficiency* ratings. Further, the remarkable expansion in solution scope and capabilities since the prior publication of the EMA ANPM Radar Report in 2010 earned AppNeta special recognition as having achieved “Most Significant Advancement” in ANPM solutions.



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Architecture and Integration

The AppNeta solution uses packet inspection as its primary means of gathering ANPM data, and does not currently support direct collection/analysis of NetFlow/xFlow records. It does, however, also leverage synthetic test capabilities. The solution ranked highly in architecture and integration measures, outscoring peers most notably in assessments of supported breadth of environments and integrations with event management and service management platforms. Also, the addition of significant new packet inspection and analysis features over the past two years helped to elevate the solution's design score and thereby elevated their overall score in this segment.

Functionality

The AppNeta solution showed strength across virtually all of our feature and functionality assessment categories, scoring average or above against the peers on a consistent basis. Particular areas of strength included virtualization/cloud support, capacity planning features, analytics and advanced analysis, and roles supported for consoles and reports.

Deployment and Administration

AppNeta's combination of a SaaS back end and a compact, simple to deploy microAppliance for instrumentation gave AppNeta a differential edge that led to very high rankings in deployment effort and administrative load versus peer solutions. The solution also fared particularly well in support services, since most core administrative tasks are undertaken directly by AppNeta staff via the SaaS platform. AppNeta offers an on-premises deployment option for those who prefer to keep their management data under local control, but even in that case the company will take on all back-end administrative responsibilities, in something of an "internal SaaS" model.

Cost Advantage

A combination of competitive pricing and packaging gave AppNeta a strong advantage in this segment of the analysis. AppNeta uses a flexible subscription-based licensing model. When combined with a very competitive entry price, which happens to include maintenance and support, the AppNeta solution carried the highest overall score for cost advantage.

Vendor Strength

As a vendor supplier, AppNeta is one of the smaller companies reviewed in this EMA Radar report, however they have shown fast growth and steady profitability over the past several years, and thus can be considered a safe and stable supplier of ANPM solutions. Customer conversations further validated AppNeta's ability to deliver on solution scope and capability claims.

Strengths and Limitations

AppNeta's ANPM strengths are:

- Lightweight deployment model with fully integrated support translates into very low barriers to entry for the solution, coupled with a high likelihood of success.
- Rapidly expanding features/capabilities means that future continued improvements and enhancements should be expected.
- Integrated network path analysis/assessment adds value for monitoring and troubleshooting.

AppNeta's ANPM limitations are:

- Current solution uses only packet inspection technologies for gathering ANPM data.
- Great for monitoring broad distributed infrastructures; high-density datacenter coverage capabilities are also available but are relatively less well proven.

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