

;login:

THE MAGAZINE OF USENIX & SAGE

August 2002 volume 27 • number 4

inside:

SYSADMIN

Sellens: Ten Reasons to Monitor Your Systems

USENIX & SAGE

The Advanced Computing Systems Association &
The System Administrators Guild

ten reasons to monitor your systems

by John Sellens

John Sellens is the general manager for Certainty Solutions (formerly GNAC) in Canada, based in Toronto, and he is proud to be husband to one and father to three.



jsellens@certaintysolutions.com

Effective monitoring is an integral part of system and network administration. But not every site has a proper monitoring system (or systems) in place to watch over the site's systems, networks, and services.

To help motivate those of you who may not have all the system and network monitoring running that you should have, here are 10 (hopefully good) reasons to implement effective monitoring for your systems and networks:

1. You'll look like a hero when you prevent a problem before it starts.
2. Your boss (and your boss's boss) will like all the pretty graphs.
3. You'll have another good use for one of those cast-off PCs that are too slow to run a current version of Windows.
4. You'll have proper statistical backup to help justify your request for more bandwidth.
5. You'll be able to add paper to the color printer on the executive office subnet before your CEO starts complaining about his broken laptop.
6. Your disk and bandwidth utilization monitors will let you know when you've been cracked and your systems are being used to support a "warez" site.
7. You'll sleep better knowing that your machines are taking good care of each other.
8. You'll find out when your routers are flapping, so that you'll know when to yell at your upstream network provider.
9. You'll know if and when your site gets mentioned on Slashdot, because you'll be able to observe the "Slashdot effect" in real time.
10. You'll receive better annual performance reviews.