



## SERVER AND APPLICATION MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

While your network stands as the backbone of your organization, your servers form the heart of your business, and your applications comprise the hands and legs of your operations—facilitating the flow of information and delivery of services in all directions, and getting things done all across the business environment, respectively. Both servers and applications have to work and stay healthy to guarantee that your whole business is working efficiently and running in top condition. MAX is your network's general physician—one that not only diagnoses and cures illnesses, and predicts future problems, but also sets preventive measures to guarantee the servers' and applications' present and future state of health. MAX sees to it that your servers are operating at all times in peak performance, and enables you to manage the capabilities of your applications in order to safeguard their QoS and monitor application health, and proactively alerts you of any potential anomalies and actual problems.

### Optimizing Server Availability and Application Performance

The two top concerns of IT organizations are improving their infrastructure and utilizing existing markets more efficiently. Servers and applications require a similar management infrastructure; deploying them without any management mechanism in place is like setting out a sales force unsupervised. As systems management software only monitors the health of the system and server availability, you need application management software for your mission-critical applications; you have to set in place to measure transactions and business logic.

Whereas debug utilities and response time tools perform monitoring and measurement, MAX offers a more comprehensive set of solutions, as follows:

- Monitoring the availability of servers and health of applications with minimum effect on the system itself.
- Sending notifications based on alarm thresholds to report unacceptable results.
- Analyzing interactively what happened, why, and predicting what will happen.
- Analyzing response times of applications based on user experience simulation.

The Internet has propelled technology into the center stage. Previously utilized merely to support back-office operations, applications nowadays constitute the foundation for virtually all business areas. Consequently, applications have increased in number and variety, their size has expanded, and integrating applications has become the rule of thumb. But, applications on their own are not enough. Highly competitive companies need a robust

infrastructure and an application architecture that can flexibly support new applications and flawlessly integrate them into the ones already in operation. This architecture should be well-integrated with business requirements and efficiently managed in order to:

- Guarantee dependability
- Improve performance
- Facilitate planning for future technology requirements
- Sustain the mission-critical objectives of the business

Companies that build their business on e-commerce applications, for example, want to be very certain that their applications are failsafe and foolproof; dependability, performance and scalability are vital to mission-critical applications in the first place. If a transaction fails they need to identify it instantaneously, and manage their applications accordingly and just as swiftly.

### **MAX Server and Application Management**

Organizations always seek to wisely and efficiently invest in solutions that manage all IT resources. MAX Infrastructure Management Suite provides an all-in-one solution to server and application management, as follows:

- Application management. Servers, mobile PCs, and desktops have to be managed—from physical location and hardware inventory to the operational health of each system. Regular system parameter checks are carried out by MAX, which also collates all valuable resources and statistics data; as problems occur, MAX automatically warns and informs assigned personnel of the problem's nature and location, and the assessment of data gathered over time is used to project usage and capacity.
- Server management. While server technology allows different individual users and teams to share resources, the same shared resources have to be managed rigorously as they impact the productivity of many, if not all users. Servers carry out an assortment of tasks. File servers provide shared disk space for storing files needed by individuals and groups, and offer a common area from which team members launch desktop applications. Storing desktop application images on the file server (from where individual users launch and run them on their own workstations) can save substantial disk space per person, and can make software upgrades more convenient. Print servers also allow teams to share a printer. The administrator can set MAX to alert designated personnel of server malfunction or breakdown to minimize, if not avoid interruptions to business operations.

The server is just as particularly important as the applications that run on it. Not only is the server itself subject to occasional hardware failure, it can also be affected by other factors. As most organizations tend to run multiple applications on the same server, it is inevitable that each of the applications, the interaction between them, and their interactions with the system software can lead to conditions that may result to a system freeze or crash.

Notwithstanding the cause, the server on which applications run are exposed to factors that can lead to malfunction or failure, which results in loss of management capability. As management capability is critical, such a loss is unacceptable, and organizations must implement a strategy to maximize the availability of the servers for their applications.

Such a strategy would be deploying MAX within your infrastructure environment. MAX enables the monitoring of server and application resources, the analysis and management of such statistics indicators as CPU availability and utilization, application availability and health, and outage, among others. Additionally, MAX allows you to set alarms thresholds and activate events notifications to alert designated personnel of threshold-detectable manifestations of possible anomalies and actual problems in either the server or applications, or both.