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## Intel LANDesk Management Suite

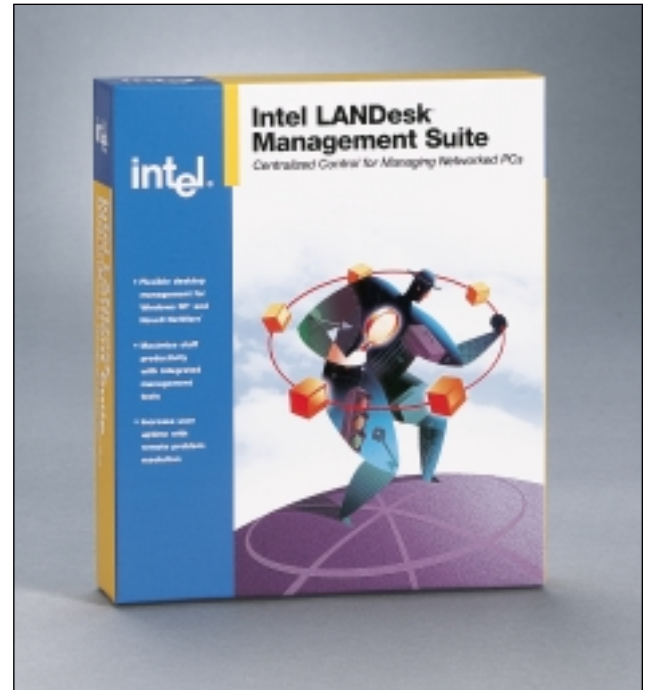
By Mario Morejon

The LANDesk Management Suite from Intel Corp. offers the most complete set of system management features the Test Center has seen, all wrapped up in an interface that is deceptively easy to use. Intel has virtually all the management bases covered, including a flexible hardware and software inventory database, a powerful electronic software distribution mechanism, cross-platform remote control, and an unrivaled health and status monitoring and alerting system.

The database included with LANDesk is Microsoft Access, which can handle as many as 250 nodes. But organizations can scale the product or leverage existing investments by using Microsoft SQL version 6.5 or 7.0, Oracle 7.5 or 8.0, or DB2. LANDesk also manages more client platform than others, including all versions of Windows, DOS, OS/2 Macintosh and even Linux. Adding to its versatility, administrators can choose between the feature-rich, lightning-fast 32-bit management console or the sturdy and highly capable Web console. Intel completes the picture with a "lights-out" server card, a self-powered, self-sufficient LAN and dial-in solution with embedded operating system that affords access to a server even after a crash.

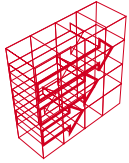
### **Inventory and Configuration Management**

Upon first launching the LANDesk 32-bit administrative console, it performs an inventory scan of the local machine and scans the network to discover connected nodes. The console presents a two-paned Explorer-like window with search results separated



by topology in the left pane. Inventory scans can take place across domains, workgroups, IP ranges or the Internet. Machines can be dragged into groups created by right-clicking on an icon in the pane.

To narrow the list of machines found and to perform actions on them or create reports, queries can be created and results appear under a corresponding icon. For instance, LANDesk can be used to scan all Windows NT machines to determine which are not running the latest service pack. This group can then be dragged onto a software distribution script for automatic installation. More on software distribution later.



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Resellers supporting client LANs will appreciate features like the ability to monitor system files on a per-machine basis. By default, LANDesk monitors autoexec.bat and config.sys files with the ability to link alerts to changes. The system also stores previous versions of the files and can quickly display and restore them with a click of the mouse.

### **Software Delivery**

Intel addresses configuration management with an electronic software distribution engine that uses snapshot technology to observe an installation and replicate it for distribution. Packages can be modified through the use of environment variables. Installations can contain enough intelligence so that a single installer can be used on different versions of Windows, for example. Further modifications can include reseller-specific bitmaps, graphics and text messages. Installation packages can prompt for user input such as login name and target drive or directory.

With its wake-on-LAN capability, installations can be scheduled for off hours to maximize available network bandwidth and minimize user disruption. Installation options include client pull, push, silent forced push.

The LANDesk client agent can be deployed for the first time across a network using a variety of meth-

ods, including through the use of Windows NT or NetWare login scripts. Machines running NT also may be installed using the remote procedure service, if available. An installation package also may be distributed via a network share or E-mail to be pulled manually by the client.

### **Remote Control**

LANDesk offers its own brand of high-speed, cross-platform remote control that is not just limited to Windows machines but includes machines running MacOS, DOS, OS/2 and Linux. To reduce confusion when invoking a remote control session, an animated yellow-black border encloses remote control session windows.

### **Monitoring and Alerting**

Alerts can be tied to virtually all of the hundreds of inventory attributes collected by the LANDesk database. Using customizable thresholds, administrators can configure the system to make them aware of alert conditions in a variety of ways, including alpha/numeric paging, E-mail, simple dialog boxes on any server running the Core Services module, and by sending an SNMP trap (to an enterprise management tool, for instance). Alert conditions also can trigger actions such as running an executable, sending a broadcast message or writing to the event log.



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