

SolarWinds Orion

Network Atlas Administrator Guide

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Orion Network Atlas 6.1.2009

About SolarWinds

SolarWinds, Inc develops and markets an array of network management, monitoring, and discovery tools to meet the diverse requirements of today's network management and consulting professionals. SolarWinds products continue to set benchmarks for quality and performance and have positioned the company as the leader in network management and discovery technology. The SolarWinds customer base includes over 45 percent of the Fortune 500 and customers from over 90 countries. Our global business partner distributor network exceeds 100 distributors and resellers.

Contacting SolarWinds

You can contact SolarWinds in a number of ways, including the following:

Team	Contact Information
Sales	1.866.530.8100 www.solarwinds.com
Technical Support	www.solarwinds.com/support
User Forums	www.thwack.com you need a customer account to access the Customer Support area of the website.

Conventions

The documentation uses consistent conventions to help you identify items throughout the printed and online library.

Convention	Specifying
Bold	Window items, including buttons and fields.
<i>Italics</i>	Book and CD titles, variable names, new terms
Fixed font	File and directory names, commands and code examples, text typed by you
Straight brackets, as in [value]	Optional command parameters
Curly braces, as in {value}	Required command parameters
Logical OR, as in value1 value2	Exclusive command parameters where only one of the options can be specified

SolarWinds Orion Network Atlas Documentation Library

The following documents are included in the SolarWinds Orion Network Atlas documentation library:

Document	Purpose
Administrator Guide	Provides detailed setup, configuration, and conceptual information.
Page Help	Provides help for every window in the Orion Network Atlas user interface
QuickStart Guide	Provides installation, setup, and common scenarios for which Orion Network Atlas provides a simple, yet powerful, solution.
Release Notes	Provides late-breaking information, known issues, and updates. The latest Release Notes can be found at www.solarwinds.net .

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Orion Network Atlas is a powerful tool for creating custom maps and network diagrams. The maps created in Orion Network Atlas enable users to view a graphical depiction of their network in the Orion Web Console. You can also use the maps to create network documentation, which can then be printed and exported as needed.

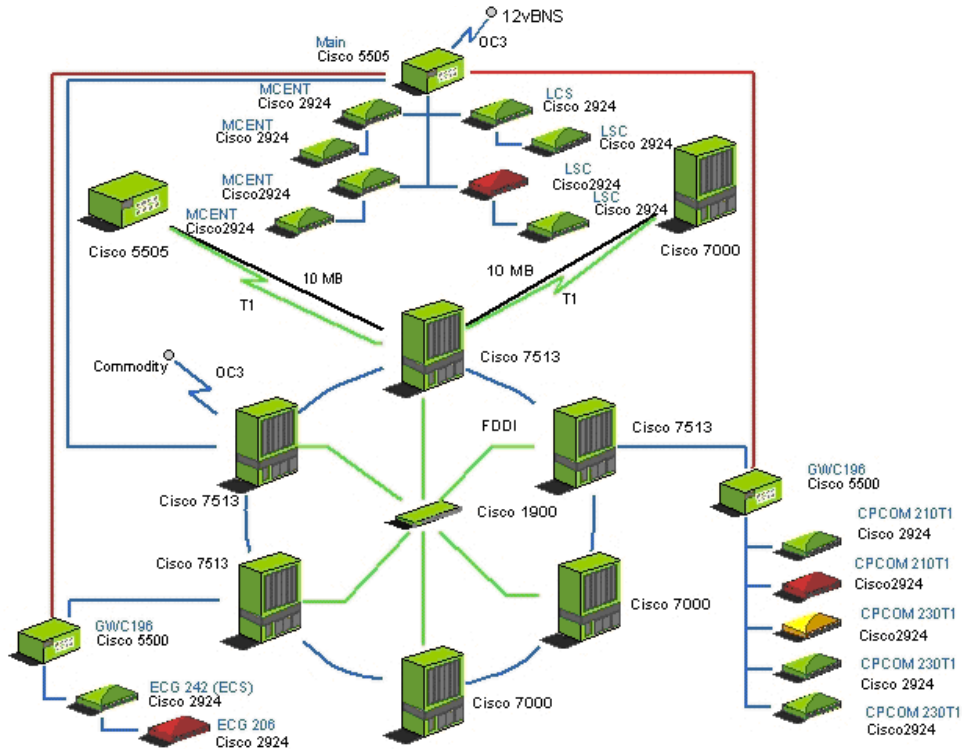
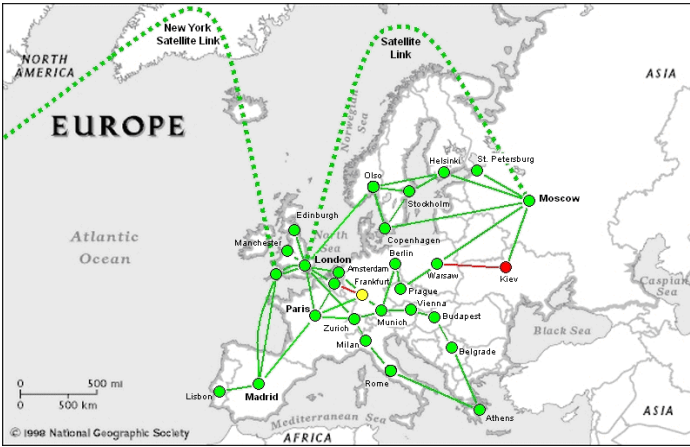
What is in a Map?

Map objects can be Orion NPM nodes, interfaces, and volumes; Orion APM applications and components; nested maps; and network links. The numerous presentation options for your network maps include:

- a large set of predefined background colors, textures, and images for you to use in your maps, and the ability to use your own custom background graphics
- the ability to project real-time weather or natural disaster maps onto your network maps using linked web graphics as a background
- the ability to customize a link's shape, size, color, and style to illustrate the status or the relative bandwidth of an associated object
- the ability to display map objects in a unique set of graphical styles to portray network status
- the ability to nest maps to selectively reveal increasing levels of map detail, and the ability for the status of a nested map's child objects to bubble up to the parent map

Example Maps

The following figures are examples of the types of maps you can create using Orion Network Atlas.



Chapter 2

Installing

Orion Network Atlas is pre-installed on Orion EOC v1.1 or Orion NPM 9.5 or later servers, and can be run as a local application on those Orion servers. Users can also download and run Orion Network Atlas on a remote computer.

To install Orion Network Atlas on a remote computer:

1. Log on to your Orion NPM or Orion EOC server
2. On the map resource, click the "Download Network Atlas" link to download the Orion Network Atlas installer.
3. ***If you do not see a "Download Network Atlas" link on your map resource***, ask your Orion server administrator to check the **Show Network Atlas Download** link option in the map resource.
4. Run the Orion Network Atlas installer and follow the installer instructions.

System Requirements

The following table provides the minimum requirements for an Orion Network Atlas installation:

Software/Hardware	Requirements
Operating System	Microsoft Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2003, or Windows Server 2008.
Memory	2 GB
Hard Drive Space	50 MB
Ports	Orion Information Service Protocol uses port 17777/tcp

Chapter 3

Creating a Basic Map

Creating a map can be as simple as selecting a background image, dragging network resources onto the drawing area, and connecting the objects with lines.

This chapter describes the following topics:

- Starting Orion Network Atlas
- Adding Map Objects
- Connecting Map Objects
- Adding a Background
- Saving Maps
- Opening Maps
- Displaying Maps in the Web Console

Starting Orion Network Atlas

Users who have Orion NPM node management rights or Orion EOC administrator roles may run Orion Network Atlas.

1. Launch **Network Atlas** in the SolarWinds program group.
2. Connect to your Orion server.
 - a. Type your Orion login and password in the appropriate fields.
 - b. Type the IP address or the hostname of the server in the **Address** field.
 - c. *If connecting to an Orion EOC server*, select **EOC** as the **Connect to** target.
 - d. *If connecting to an Orion NPM server*, select **Orion** as the **Connect to** target.
 - e. Click **Connect**.

Note: You cannot share maps between Orion NPM and Orion EOC, nor can the Orion EOC web console display Orion NPM maps.

Adding Map Objects

Only resources monitored by a SolarWinds Orion product such as Orion NPM or Orion APM may be added to the map. For information about populating an Orion database with your network devices, see the *Orion Network Performance Monitor Administrator Guide*.

To add Orion nodes to your map:

1. Locate network nodes in the left pane of the Orion Network Atlas window.
2. Drag the network node or nodes to the drawing area.

Applications, interfaces, volumes, and other network resources associated with monitored nodes are available for you to use as map objects.

To add Orion network resources to your map:


1. Locate the node in the left pane containing the network resources.
2. Click **[+]** next to the node name.
3. Click **[+]** next to the network resource type to reveal the network resources.
4. Drag the desired network resource or resources to the drawing area.

You can add all the interfaces, applications, or volume resources of a node to your map in a single operation.

To add an entire network resource group to your map:



1. Locate the node in the left pane containing the network resources.
2. Click **[+]** next to the node name to reveal its network resources.
3. Drag the desired network resource group to the drawing area.

Notes:

- A checkmark  next to a node or network resource indicates you have already added it to your map.
- To view details about a map object, hover over it with the mouse pointer.
- To locate a specific map object in your map, click its network resource in the left pane. This selects the map object.

Connecting Map Objects


You can represent a network link in your map by drawing a line between two map objects. If either object has a down status, the link changes color to red.

1. Click the **Home** tab, and then click **Straight Line**  or **Curved Line**  in the **Lines** group to select the line drawing tool.
2. Click an object with the line drawing tool to begin drawing the link
3. Click and drag as necessary to establish optional anchor points along the link path.
4. Click a second object to finish drawing the link.


To make link status represent actual interface connections between objects:

1. Right-click a link, and then select **Properties**.
2. Select **Status** in the left pane of the Link Properties page.
3. Drag the appropriate interface objects from the left pane of the Orion Network window to the link status assignment areas.

To reshape a line:

1. Click **Select**  in the **Tools** group or click the middle mouse button.
2. Drag the anchor points of the line to reshape it.

To remove an anchor point:

1. Click **Select**  in the **Tools** group or click the middle mouse button.
2. Drag the anchor point back into the line until it disappears.

Adding a Background


You can select colors, textures, and images to serve as your map background:

- Selecting a Background Color
- Selecting a Background Texture
- Selecting a Background Image
- Clearing the Background

Selecting a Background Color

Orion Network Atlas supports 24-bit color backgrounds.


To set a map background color:

1. Click the **Home** tab, click **Background > Background Color** .
2. Select a color from the palette, or click **More Colors** to select a custom color.

Selecting a Background Texture

Orion Network Atlas also provides numerous colored textures that can serve as map backgrounds.

To set a map background textures:


1. Click the **Home** tab, click **Background > Background Texture** .
2. Enter appropriate values for the **Width** and **Height** of your map in the **Map Size in Pixels** area. The default values are the smallest area bounding the existing map objects and labels.
3. Select a texture to apply as your map background, and then click **OK**.

Selecting a Background Image

Orion Network Atlas allows you to use images as the background of your map. The source of the background image can be a graphics file on your hard drive or a URL to a graphics file on the Internet in any of the following graphics formats:


- Graphics Interchange Format (.gif, non-animated)
- Joint Photographic Experts Group (.jpg)
- Microsoft Windows Bitmap (.bmp)
- Portable Network Graphics (.png)

To select a background image from disk:

1. Click the Home tab, then click **Background > Background Image** .
2. Navigate to the image you want to use.

In the web console, map background images linked from the Internet are refreshed with the Orion web console refresh.

To link a background image from the Internet:

1. Click the Home tab, then click **Background > Linked Background** .
2. Type the URL of the image you want to use, and then click **OK**.

Notes:

- Background images you supply display at their full size in the Orion Web Console, so consider their dimensions. You may rescale images within the application, but images displayed at full scale provide optimal quality.
- In determining map size and resolution, consider web page layouts and potential display screen resolutions.
- Example background images are in the `NetworkAtlas\Backgrounds` folder located in your default shared documents folder. Clicking **Background Image** always starts you in this background images folder.

Clearing the Background

To clear the current map background:

Click the Home tab, then click **Background > Clear Background** .

Saving Maps

Orion Network Atlas saves your maps directly to the server to which you are connected.

To save a map:

1. Click the **Orion Network Atlas Button** , and then click **Save**.
2. *If you are saving the map for the first time*, name the map and then click **OK**.

Note: To save a map to your hard drive instead of your Orion server, click the **Orion Network Atlas Button**, select **Export**, and then click **Export Map**.

Opening Maps

Maps are loaded from the Orion server to which you are connected. They appear in the left pane of the Orion Network Atlas window.

To open a map:

1. Click **[+]** next to Maps in the left pane of the Orion Network Atlas window.
2. Double-click the map you want to open.

Displaying Maps in the Web Console

You can display saved maps in the Orion web console Network Map resource. The procedure for selecting Network Maps is different between Orion EOC and Orion NPM, and maps created for one are not compatible with the other.

To display a saved map in the Home view of the Orion NPM web console:

1. Log on to the Orion NPM web console with an Administrator account.
2. Click **Edit** in the Network Map resource.
3. Select your map from the **Select Network Map** list, and then click **Submit**.

To display a saved map in the Home view of the Orion EOC web console:

1. Log on to the Orion EOC web console with an Administrator account.
2. Click **Settings**.
3. Click **Manage Views**.
4. Select **Home**, and then click **Edit View**.
5. Click the Resource tab.
6. Click **Network Map** in the Added list.
7. Select your map from the **Select Network Map** list, and then click **Save**.
8. Click **OK, Save Changes**.
9. *If prompted to confirm your changes*, click **OK**.
10. Click the **Home** view to see your map.

Chapter 4

Advanced Mapping Techniques

You can apply a number of advanced mapping techniques to enhance the usefulness of your maps. This section discusses the following topics:

- Zooming In and Out of a Map
- Creating Nested Maps
- Displaying Map Object Metrics
- Adding Independent Map Objects and Floating Labels
- Changing the Appearance of Map Objects
- Changing the Appearance of Links
- Changing the Appearance of Labels
- Linking Map Objects to URLs
- Customizing Orion Web Console Tooltips

Zooming In and Out of a Map

Orion Network Atlas allows you to zoom into a map to enlarge details or to zoom out to reduce its size. Zoom level is a visual aid and is not saved with the map.

To change the zoom level of a map:

Press and hold CTRL while rotating the mouse wheel button.

-or-

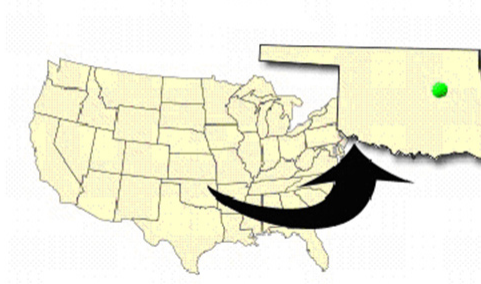
1. Click the **Zoom** slider on the status bar.



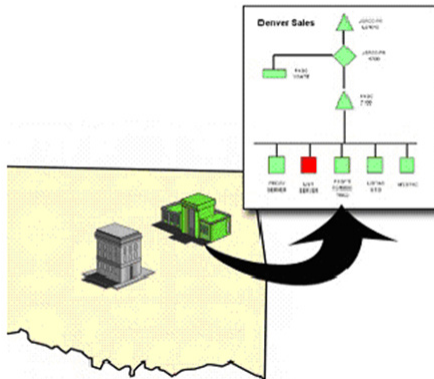
2. Slide the zoom control to the zoom level you want.

Creating Nested Maps

Nested maps allow you to navigate through a map to see multiple levels of detail. For example, the map of the United States can include an icon for a child map of Oklahoma. You can click the Oklahoma object to open the child map and see the next level of map detail.



The map of Oklahoma can then become a parent map to a network diagram.



Each child map can include a view of the objects, either devices or other maps, deployed on it. Any nested map objects can be clicked on in the web console to view the next level of map detail, until the level of the final network device is reached and all available network information is displayed.

To nest a map:

1. Drag a map from the Maps group in the left pane onto the parent map, and then position its icon appropriately.
2. ***If you want the status of a child map to also indicate the status of its child objects***, complete the following steps:
 - a. Right-click the child map icon on the map, and then select **Properties**.
 - b. Check **Include child status** on the Status properties page, and then click **OK**. The object status icon now includes the secondary status indicator.

Note: The total number of objects on a map, including those displayed on a child map, affects how fast the map loads in the Orion Web Console. If your maps load slowly, decrease the number of map objects.

Displaying Map Object Metrics

The status of a map object icon reflects its current state, such as up or down. You can add a secondary status indicator to a map object to reflect metrics such as response time, CPU load, or the state of any child objects.

To add the secondary status indicator:

1. Right-click the map object, and then select **Properties**.
2. Check **Include child status** on the Status properties page, and then click **OK**.

To change the thresholds of the metrics:

1. Right-click the map object, and then select **Properties**.
2. Click **Metrics** to view the Metrics properties page.
3. ***If you want to change the warning or critical threshold for a metric***, click the threshold value, and then type a new value.
4. ***If you want to ignore a metric***, uncheck the metric.
5. Click **OK**.

Notes:

- The secondary status indicator respects the Orion web console Status Rollup Mode setting for displaying status.
- All child objects and selected metric thresholds are taken into account to determine secondary status.

Adding Independent Map Objects and Floating Labels

You can add independent map objects and labels that do not have associations to network nodes or resources.

To add an independent object:

1. Click the **Home** tab.
2. Click **Add Object** in the Objects group. A gray map object is added to the map.

Independent labels may be placed anywhere on your map.

To add an independent label:


1. Click the **Home** tab.
2. Click **Add Label** in the Labels group. A label is added to the map.

Changing the Appearance of Map Objects

Changing the graphics that represent map objects is an excellent way of increasing the information density of your map without increasing the map complexity.

You can set the default representation style for all map object of a certain type, or you can change the appearance of selected map objects.

To set the default representations of map objects:

1. Click the **Orion Network Atlas Button**  , and then click **Network Atlas Settings**.
2. Select **Graphic Styles** in the left pane of Network Atlas Settings.
3. Select a default style for each network object type.

Changing the representation of selected map objects opens up another level of graphical information. For example, you can set an object icon to display a mainframe graphic, visually designating the type of device being monitored. You can then select a status style, such as 3D Pad Underneath, to illustrate the map object status.

To change the representation of selected map objects:

1. Right-click a map object, and then select **Properties**.
2. Select **Appearance** in the left column of the Properties page.

3. **If you want the map object to appear as a fixed-size, LED-type graphic**, complete these steps:
 - a. Click **Orion LED Status Icon**.
 - b. Select a style from the Orion LED Status Icon **Style** list.
 - c. Click **OK**.
4. **If you want the map object to appear as a scalable shape**, complete these steps:
 - a. Click **Shape**
 - b. Select a style from the Shape **Style** list.
 - c. Click **OK**.
 - d. Drag a corner handle on the map object to resize the shape.
5. **If you want the map object to appear as a scalable graphic**, complete these steps:
 - a. Click **Graphic**.
 - b. Click **Select Graphic**, select a graphic, and then click **OK**.
 - c. Select a status style from the Graphic **Style** list.
 - d. Click **OK**.
 - e. Drag a corner handle on the map object to resize the graphic.

Changing the Appearance of Links

Orion Network Atlas allows you to change the appearance of network links by customizing their width, color, and line styles.

To change the appearance of a link:

1. Right-click a link, and then select **Properties**.
2. Select **Appearance** in the left column of the Properties page.
3. Select a line width in pixels from the **Width** list.
4. Select a line color from the **Color** list.
5. Select a line style from the **Style** list.
6. Click **OK**.

Note: The color setting only changes the color of links that have Up status.

Changing the Appearance of Labels

Orion Network Atlas allows you to change the appearance of labels by changing text attributes, borders, and background colors.

To move a label:

Drag the label to the desired location.

To edit the text in a label:

Double-click the label.

To change the appearance of a label:

1. Right-click the label, and then select **Properties**.
2. Select **Appearance** in the left column of the Properties page.
3. ***If you want to change the font attributes***, click the ... button, select appropriate font attributes, then click **OK**.
4. ***If you want to change the text alignment***, select an alignment from the **Text Alignment** list.
5. ***If you want to change the text color***, click the **Text Color** color box, and then select a new color.
6. ***If you want to add a label border***, select the border width in pixels from the **Border Width** list.
7. ***If you want to change the label border color***, click the **Border Color** color box, and then select a new color.
8. ***If you want to remove a label border***, select **0** from the **Border Width** list.
9. ***If you want to add a label background***, uncheck **Transparent Background**.
10. ***If you want to change the label background color***, click the **Background Color** color box, and then select a new color.
11. ***If you want to remove a label background***, check **Transparent Background**.
12. Click **OK**.

Linking Map Objects to URLs

Orion Network Atlas allows users to click on map objects in the Orion web console to see more details. By default, map objects are linked to the most relevant Orion details page for the object. You can customize the URL hyperlink to link to external web sites and pages as necessary.

To link a map object to a URL.

1. Right-click the map object, and then select **Edit Hyperlink**.
2. *If you want to link to the relevant Orion page for the map object*, select **Logical page in Orion**.
3. *If you want to link to a custom URL*, select **Manually set address**, and then type the URL.
4. Click **OK**.

Customizing Orion Web Console Tooltips

In the web console, hovering over map objects displays a tooltip providing current identification and status information about the object. You can customize the tooltips in the Orion NPM web console to display additional information by inserting Orion alert variables, custom properties, and other text.

You can customize different tooltips for each of the map object types. Tooltip customizations are global and affect all maps.

Note: Orion EOC does not support custom web console tooltips.

To add additional information to map object tool tips:

1. Log on to Orion NPM or Orion EOC as an administrator.
2. Click **Edit** in the Network Map resource.
3. Click **Customize map tooltips**.
4. Type the variables and any text you want to add in the text field for the appropriate map object type.
5. Click **Submit**.

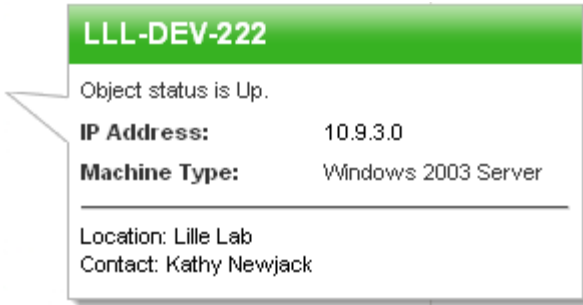
Note: You can insert carriage returns with `${CR}`.

Example Custom Orion Node Tooltip

Enter this custom node tooltip definition in the **Orion.Nodes** field to display node location and contact information :

Orion.Nodes

Location: \${Location}\${CR}Contact: \${Contact}

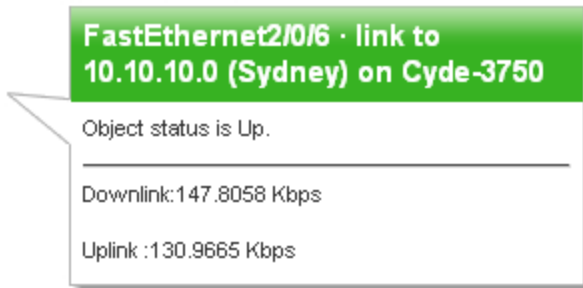


Example Custom Interface Tooltip

Enter this custom interface tooltip definition in the **Orion.NPM.Interfaces** field to display the current bandwidth usage:

Orion.NPM.Interfaces

Downlink:\${Inbps}\${CR}Uplink:\${Outbps}



For more information about available variables and custom properties, see the *Orion Network Performance Monitor Administrator Guide* or the *Orion Enterprise Operations Console Administrator Guide*.

Chapter 5

Advanced Map Layouts

You can improve the visual layout and organization of your maps by using the advanced layout tools to help you align and distribute your objects and links. This section discusses the following topics:


- Displaying Grid Guides
- Aligning Map Objects
- Distributing Map Objects
- Selecting Automatic Layout Styles

Displaying Grid Guides

A grid guide helps you maintain structural and spatial relationships as you arrange your map objects. Orion Network Atlas allows you to select two kinds of grids and to change the grid spacing.

Grids are not map objects, and are neither saved with a map nor displayed in the Orion Web Console.

To display a grid:

1. Click the **View** tab.
2. Click **Show Grid**  in the Grid group.





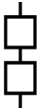

To customize the grid:

1. Click the **View** tab.
2. *If you want grid lines*, click **Grid Option > Grid Lines**.
3. *If you want grid points*, click **Grid Options > Grid Points**.
4. *If you want to change the grid size*, click **Grid Options > Grid Size**, and then select a grid size.

Aligning Map Objects

You can change the relative alignment of your map objects using the alignment tools.

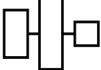
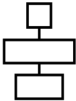
1. Click the **Edit** tab.
2. Select the map objects you want to align.
3. Click the appropriate button in the Align group to arrange your selected objects

Button	Function	Description
	Align Left	Aligns all selected objects on the left edge of the group
	Align Right	Aligns all selected objects on the right edge of the group
	Align Bottom	Aligns all selected objects on the bottom edge of the group
	Align Top	Aligns all selected objects on the top edge of the group
	Center Vertically	Centers all selected objects vertically
	Center Horizontally	Centers all selected objects horizontally

Distributing Map Objects

You can distribute your map objects evenly across the selection area using the distribution tools.

1. Click the **Edit** tab.
2. Select the map objects you want to distribute.
3. Click the appropriate button in the Distribute group to arrange your selected objects

Button	Function	Description
	Distribute Horizontally	Distributes all objects so that they are equidistant from the left edge of the leftmost object to the right edge of the rightmost object
	Distribute Vertically	Distributes all objects so that they are equidistant from the top edge of the topmost object to the bottom edge of the bottommost object

Selecting Automatic Layout Styles

You can select from five layout styles to automatically change the layout of your object groups or even your entire map:

Circular

Emphasizes the clusters inherent in the topology of a map. It emphasizes prominent links between main objects and its peripherals. Object groups have radial placements. Use circular layouts for maps containing ring and star network topologies.

Symmetrical

Emphasizes the symmetrical patterns inherent in the map topology. It emphasizes an even distribution of objects, and minimizes edge crossings. Object groups have star spiral placements. Use symmetrical layouts for maps that have fairly homogenous or uniform clusters.

Hierarchical

Emphasizes the dependency relationships in a map by placing objects at different levels. Use hierarchical layouts for maps that need to depict data dependencies.

Orthogonal

Emphasizes compact drawings and uses only horizontal and vertical edges. Objects are enlarged if necessary to provide enough space for edge connections. Use orthogonal layouts for maps that need to depict multiple clusters in a space-efficient manner.

Tree

Emphasizes parent and child relationships. Child objects are arranged farther from the root object than their parent objects. Use tree layouts for maps that have a central control object.

To arrange map objects according to a layout style:

1. Click the **Edit** tab.
2. Select the map objects you want to arrange.
3. Click a layout style from the AutoArrange group.

Chapter 6

Map Properties

The Map Properties window allows you to configure options regarding the following aspects of your map:

- Setting the Map Up Status Threshold
- Overriding Account Limitations

Setting the Map Up Status Threshold

The UP status threshold is the percentage of map objects that must be in an up state on a given map for the map to be represented as up on the parent map.

To set the percentage of map objects that determine Up status of a map:

1. Right-click any empty portion of the map
2. Select **Map Properties**.
3. Slide the **Map status will be UP** slider to configure an appropriate up state threshold on the Map Properties page.

Overriding Account Limitations

For security reasons, you may wish to prevent web console users who have account limitations from seeing network nodes on the map they are not allowed to see. By hiding the restricted nodes and links, users with account limitations remain unaware that the nodes even exist.

To hide nodes from users who have account limitations:

1. Right-click any empty portion of the map
2. Select **Map Properties**.
3. Select **Remove nodes that users do not have permission to view**.

If you choose to reveal restricted nodes to all users, all web console users can see the restricted nodes, but users with account limitations cannot retrieve any additional information about the restricted node.

To reveal nodes to all users:

1. Right-click any empty portion of the map
2. Select **Map Properties**.

3. Select **Allow all users to view all nodes on this map.**

Note: An Orion NPM user with account limitations, but who has permission to run and use the Orion Network Atlas program, can change this setting in the map and see the presence of restricted nodes. Although the user cannot retrieve any information regarding the restricted nodes, this can still be considered a security risk. If this is a concern, do not give node management permissions to Orion NPM users who have account limitations.

Chapter 7

Orion Network Atlas Settings

You can customize the default icon styles, map defaults, and node tree specifications from the Orion Network Atlas Settings window.

To open the Orion Network Atlas Settings window:



Click the **Orion Network Atlas Button**, and then click **Network Atlas Settings**.

The following sections describe the options available in the Orion Network Atlas Settings window.

Connection Settings

The options in this section allow you to select the default Orion server details.

Map Defaults

The options in this section allow you to set a device threshold for the overall map status. The status indicator reflects the state of many objects at once; therefore, SolarWinds recommends that the map status be set at 100%. At this setting, when any device on a map or sub-map is down, the problem status will be indicated.

Node Tree

The options in this section allow you to customize the view of the node tree located on the left pane of the Orion Network Atlas main window. Some users find it helpful to display the status icons of each node and interface, while others find the vendor network node and interface icons more useful. You may also specify that node names and/or IP addresses be included in the display.

Graphic Styles

The options in this section allow you to select the default graphical styles for Orion Network Atlas. You can change the default style types for network objects, and you can select a color scheme for Orion Network Atlas itself.

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