

Redmond Magazine's 2005 Best of the Best Awards

By Lafe Low, Executive Editor



The results of this year's *Redmond Readers' Choice Survey* truly speak with the voice of our audience. We sent the survey to readers who also subscribe to one or more of our e-newsletters—the theory being that these are the most involved members of the Redmond audience. We received 2,162 valid, completed surveys within the two-week window allotted.

A team of editors and Web experts scoured the results from several angles to look for patterns that would indicate an untoward outside influence or ballot box stuffing. Any suspect survey forms were thrown out. Only after we were satisfied that the list was clean did we determine the winners and preferred products, which are generally the second and third place products in each category. We made exceptions where only two products garnered a significant number of votes and where the third and fourth place products were tied.

For the story, see “Best of the Best” by Lafe Low, in the January 2005 issue (online at <http://redmondmag.com/features/article.asp?EditorialID=453> or use FindIT code: Best05).

Network and Systems Management

Best Network Management Product	
<i>Cisco Systems LAN Management Solution</i>	23.9%
HP Openview	20.1%
SolarWinds Network Management Software	7.7%
IBM Tivoli NetView	7.2%
CA Unicenter	6%

Best Application Management Product	
<i>NetIQ AppManager Suite</i>	18.7%
Installshield Adminstudio	18.6%
Microsoft Operations Manager 2000	8.7%
CA AllFusion	8.7%
BMC Software Application Integration Management	6.3%

Redmond's Readers' Choice Survey 2005

Best Performance Management Product	
HP Openview	21.7%
IBM Tivoli	11.1%
CA Unicenter	9.7%
SolarWinds Orion Network Performance Monitor	7.4%
Quest Software Foglight	4.3%
NetSupport Manager	4.2%

Best General Network Monitoring Tool	
Microsoft Operations Manager 2000	11%
Cisco Systems Syslog Analyzer	10.9%
HP Openview	9.8%
IBM Tivoli NetView	5.3%
NetIQ AppManager Suite	4.5%

Best Bandwidth/Traffic Monitoring Product	
Argent Software The Argent Guardian	15.8%
Lightspeed Systems Total Traffic Control	15.5%
Network Instruments Observer	15.1%
Silverback Technologies Silverback Professional	3.5%
MKS AlertCentre	3.1%

Best Web Usage Monitor	
SurfControl WebFilter	32.5%
WebSense Enterprise	21.9%
Web Trends	7.3%
CommSoft Netmaster	3.4%
Wavecrest Computing Cyfin Reporter	3.0%

Best Asset Management Product	
Altiris Asset Management Suite	15.4%
Altiris Inventory Solution	8.9%
NetCracker Technology Network Inventory Manager	8.7%
Configuresoft Enterprise Configuration Manager	5.8%
Vector PC-Duo Asset Management	3.4%

Best License Management Product	
Microsoft Systems Management Server	41.6%
Altiris Compliance Suite	8.6%
LANDesk Management Suite	5.3%
Configuresoft Enterprise Configuration Manager	4.4%
Altiris Server Provisioning Suite	4.2%

Best Virtual Server Product	
Microsoft Virtual Server 2005	39.2%
VMWare GSX Server	30.5%
VMWare ESX Server	3.5%

Best Virtual PC Product	
Microsoft Connectix Virtual PC for Windows	36.6%
VMWare Workstation Edition	35.9%

Best Non-Microsoft Browser	
Firefox	41.6%
Mozilla	17.7%
Netscape	14.8%
Opera Web	7.7%
Safari	2.0%

Installation and Deployment

Best Software Distribution Product	
Microsoft Systems Management Server	45.4%
IBM Tivoli NetView Distribution Manager	5.8%
CA Unicenter TNG	4.5%
OnDemand Software WinInstall	2.8%
BMC Software Change and Configuration Management	1.9%

Best Software Packaging Product	
InstallShield AdminStudio	40.5%
Wise Solutions Wise Package Studio	15.0%
OnDemand Software WinInstall	11.1%

Best Drive Imaging Product	
Symantec Ghost	59.4%
Acronis TrueImage	6.9%
PowerQuest Drive Image Pro	5.9%
Altiris Migration Suite	4.5%
Altiris Server Provisioning Suite	3.6%

Administration

Best Migration Product	
Quest Software Aelita Enterprise Migration Manager	17.3%
Altiris Deployment Solution	7.7%
Altiris Client Management Suite	7.0%
Altiris PC Transplant Pro	5.7%
ON Technology On Command CCM/iCommand	4.9%
Lieberman Software LAN Server to NT/2000/XP Migration Wizard	4.4%

Best Server Migration Product	
Quest Migration Suite for Active Directory/Exchange	13.7%
Altiris Deployment Solution	10.9%
Altiris Client Management Suite	6.0%
Quest Aelita Enterprise Directory Manager	6.0%
Lieberman & Associates LAN Server to NT/2000/XP Migration Wizard	5.7%
Quest Software Aelita Exchange Migration Wizard	4.5%

Best Group Policy Manager	
NetIQ Group Policy Administrator	18.0%
NetIQ Security Administration Suite	9.7%
Quest Aelita Enterprise Directory Manager	7.4%
BindView bv-Admin for Windows: Group Policy plus-pack	5.5%
FullArmor Fazam Auditing	4.1%

Best Disk Defragmentation and Drive Monitoring Tool	
Raxco Perfectdisk	32.4%
Executive Software Diskkeeper	29.1%
Winternals Defrag Manager	21.3%
O&O Software Defrag	2.4%

Best Remote Troubleshooting Solution	
Altiris Carbon Copy	10.8%
NetSupport Manager	10.5%
Visualware Desktop Perspective	7.6%
3am Laboratories RemotelyAnywhere	4.1%
CrossTec NetOp Remote Control	3.9%

Best Network Automation Tool	
Scriptlogic Desktop Authority	20.7%
HP Openview Operations for Windows	17.6%
MKS Toolkit for Enterprise Developers	4.3%
Argent Job Scheduler	4.2%

Best Scripting Tool	
ScriptLogic	40.6%
Sapien PrimalScript	8.0%
iTripoli Admin Script Editor	6.5%
Imceda Software Speed Script	3.3%

Best Patch Management Product	
Microsoft Update Services	37.3%
Shavlik Technologies HFNetChk Pro	10.1%
Altiris Patch Management Solution	5.8%
Patchlink Update	4.8%
St. Bernard Software St. Bernard Update-Expert	2.9%
Ecora Software Patch Manager	2.4%

Best Application Sharing Tool	
Microsoft Terminal Services	35.2%
Citrix Metaframe	35.1%
New Moon Canaverl IQ	2.1%

Best Application Conflict Testing Tool	
Installshield AdminStudio	32.4%
Wise Solutions Wise Package Studio	13.8%
On Demand Software WinInstall	11.7%

Security

Best Firewall–Hardware-based	
Cisco Systems PIX Series	41.2%
Symantec VelociRaptor	8.6%
SonicWall Pro Internet Security Appliance	7.3%
Juniper Networks Netscreen	5.2%
Watchguard Technologies Firebox X500	4.2%

Best Firewall–Software-based	
Microsoft ISA Server 2004	20.0%
Checkpoint Software Technologies Firewall 1	18.5%
Symantec's Enterprise Firewall	16.4%
McAfee Personal Firewall Plus	6.8%

Best Security Auditing Product	
GFI LANguard Security Event Log Monitor	11.4%
CA eTrust Access Control	9.4%
Quest Software inTrust	6.2%
Tripwire for Servers	6.2%
Computer Associates PestPatrol	5.9%

Best Intrusion Detection System	
Cisco Systems Cisco Secure IDS	22.2%
Snort	11.4%
Network ICE BlackICE Pro	7.8%
Zone Alarm Pro	4.9%

Best Intrusion Prevention System	
Cisco System's Security Agent	19.0%
Network Associates Intrushield	8.7%
Symantec Manhunt	6.3%
eEye Digital Security	6.0%
Symnatec ManTrap	4.8%

Best Smart Card/Biometric Authentication System	
RSA SecureID	33.7%
Datakey Axis	4.7%
Griffin Technologies Securikey Professional Edition	4.7%
ActivCard Trinity	3.8%
Authenex Strong Authentication System	3.5%

Best Secure Messaging Tool or Service	
Microsoft Exchange Server 2003	22.1%
Trend Micro Spam Prevention Service	6.0%
SurfControl E-Mail Filter	5.2%
GFI Software GFI MailEssentials	5.0%
NetIQ MailMarshal	3.4%
Sunbelt Software iHateSpam Server Edition	2.5%

Best Anti-Virus Tool	
Symantec Anti-Virus	43.7%
McAfee Group Shield	17.5%
Trend Micro Security Suite	12.4%
Panda Software Panda Antivirus Enterprise Suite	4.0%
Computer Associates PestPatrol	3.8%

Storage and Backup

Best Backup System	
Veritas Backup Exec	34.1%
Veritas NetBackup	9.8%
CA Brightstor Enterprise Backup	5.5%
Powerquest v2i Protector	3.7%
Dantz Retrospect	3.3%
Legato NetWorker	3.2%

Best Storage Management Product	
Veritas Volume Manager	18.8%
Veritas Storage Central	15.1%
EMC Control Center SRM Software	11.1%
Legato NetWorker Management Console	4.9%
Veritas Storage Reporter	4.0%

Best Disaster Recovery Product or Service	
Veritas Backup Exec	23.1%
Veritas NetBackup	7.9%
Winternals Recovery Manager	7.1%
Computer Associates BrightStor Enterprise Backup	5.7%
Altiris Recovery Solution	3.1%

Best Clustering and Failover Solution	
Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Clustering Services	40.4%
Veritas Global Cluster Manager	7.6%
Veritas Cluster Server	6.0%
NSI Software Double-Take	3.1%
Stalker Software CommuniGate Pro Dynamic Cluster	2.1%

Best Load Balancing Product	
Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Network Load Balancing	42.1%
F5 Networks 3-DNS Controller	6.3%
Legato AAM	2.8%
Coyote Point Systems Equalizer	2.3%
Quest Software Shareplex	2.0%

Best Windows-based Server Platform	
Dell	33.9%
HP	27.5%
IBM	13.0%
Unisys	1.8%

Training and Certification

Best Exam Preparation Product or Service	
Transcender	26.5%
Microsoft Press	18.5%
Cisco Press	5.1%
Self Test Software	4.3%
Que PrepLogic/Exam Cram	4.1%

Best Online, Disc-based or Instructor-led Training	
Microsoft Press	15.4%
Global Knowledge	8.7%
Cisco Press	5.6%
The Training Camp	5.5%
LearnKey	4.9%
MeasureUp	4.1%

Best Windows Certification Boot Camp	
Global Knowledge	16.0%
The Training Camp	10.0%
Intense School	6.9%
Wave Technologies	6.9%
Mountain View Systems	5.3%
GlobalNet Training	4.7%