

TEN CHALLENGES WITH FREE MONITORING SOLUTIONS

We asked sysadmins and CIOs to share some of the challenges they encounter with free IT monitoring solutions. Here are their top ten:

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1 HARD TO DEPLOY

Free monitoring solutions can be hard to deploy in production; requiring time-consuming and difficult manual integration of many components.
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2 SPECIAL SNOWFLAKES

Getting a full range of monitoring features can mean custom-crafting a "snowflake" solution that's hard to integrate, manage, scale, update, and troubleshoot.
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3 NOTHING JUST WORKS

A limited range of well-supported, plug-and-play integrations can make basic monitoring harder than it needs to be.
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4 LIMITED INSIGHT

Poor support for monitoring clusters, business services, and resilient cloud services can lead to over-alerting, increased costs, and low team morale.
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5 VISIBILITY: CLOUDY

Far from adding flexibility, integrate-your-own front ends and widgets can lead to inefficient operations, poor team communications, and difficulty resolving issues.
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6 HOSTAGE SITUATION

Your home-grown, customized monitoring solution can become a ball and chain of technical debt, and leave you vulnerable if knowledgeable employees move on.
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7 TROUBLE SWALLOWING

Limited options for data ingestion, CMDB integration, device discovery, and automation can make setting up free monitoring longer and more difficult.
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8 HARD TO SCALE

Free monitoring solutions can be old-school monoliths: hard to scale, and not performant enough to meet fast-growing enterprise requirements
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9 NO THROAT TO CHOKE

Lack of commercial support means more time spent deploying, maintaining, and fixing issues; more need for (non-strategic) in-house platform expertise.
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10 YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN

Community-supported, open source monitoring projects have their own agendas, which may (or more likely, may not) reflect your business priorities.

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