

NetworkWorld Reprint

November 13, 2000 Volume 17, Number 46

The network portal: www.nwfusion.com

THE BEST ISSUE PRODUCTS



Best of the tests

Sixteen products top our testers' list as the best in their class, earning *Network World's* annual Best of the Tests Award.

BY CHRISTINE BURNS

THE CREAM OF THE CROP. THE TOP OF THE HEAP.
THE NETWORKING INDUSTRY'S PRODUCT ELITE.

That's what we have assembled in our second annual Best of the Tests Award package.

The *Network World* Best of the Tests designation goes to the top products that have gone through our rigorous, hands-on testing within a 12-month eligibility period. Many of these products have already received either the *Network World* Blue Ribbon Award as the top scorer in a comparative review or our World Class Award, for earning a 9.0 or higher (out of 10) in any review.

The Best of the Tests Award goes a step further, identifying which among the 239 products we tested from Nov. 1, 1999 to Oct. 31, 2000, deserve to

be called the best of the best. To pick our winners, we divided the tested products into 16 categories based on the type of critical enterprise network service they offer. We focused on the following product categories: access hardware and software, client administration, convergence, directories, e-mail-related software, enterprise servers, LAN management, multimedia networking, network operating system (NOS) tools, security, storage, enterprise switching, virtual private networking, WAN management, Web acceleration and Web site management.

To determine the Best of the Tests winner in each category, we considered the scores awarded to each product by the *Network World* Global Test Alliance member or independent reviewer who conducted the test. If multiple products were vying for the top spot within a category based purely on the score criteria, *Network World* reviews editors picked the winner based on how well each product out-performed or out-featured the products against which it was tested.

Now, on to the winners of this year's Best of the Tests Award.



Intel LANDesk Management Suite 6.3 desktop management suite

Client maintenance

This category includes a host of products that perform functions such as enterprise disk duplication, data synchronization for remote laptop computers and all-around desktop management tasks. LANDesk Management Suite 6.3 (since upgraded to Version 6.4) topped the five other desktop management products tested with a total score of 7.6. Coopee gave it kudos for its excellent client support, antivirus capabilities, and well-rounded software and hardware inventory, remote control, software distribution and license metering services.

Best of Tests Award winner:
LANDesk Management Suite 6.3

Company: LANDesk,
www.landeskssoftware.com

Date reviewed: Jan. 31

Score: 7.6

Score above the category mean: 0.8

Reviewer's comment:
"LANDesk offers excellent client support, provides antivirus tools and is well-rounded in most of the other categories, like reporting, remote control and software reporting."

— Todd Coopee, technical director,
Industrial Media

