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Network Instruments Introduces Observer® 10 With Faster and Deeper Network Analysis

Major New Version Reduces Network Downtime by Offering Innovative Remote Expert Analysis, VLAN Statistics, Wireless Security and Performance Measures, Expanded Data-Mining, and Probe Management

July 26, 2004 – Minneapolis, MN – Network Instruments LLC, the industry leading developer of distributed, user-friendly, and affordable network management, analysis and troubleshooting solutions, today released Observer 10 – a major version upgrade for the award-winning Observer product line. Built on Network Instruments Distributed Network Analysis (NI-DNA™) architecture, Observer 10 delivers real-time Expert Analysis on remote networks, VLAN Analysis, and over 50 new wireless Expert Conditions. These new features provide IT Administrators with a comprehensive solution for in-depth network analysis to ensure network availability.

Observer 10 presents greater capabilities for remote network monitoring through real-time remote Expert Analysis. With Observer 10 and the new Advanced Expert Probe, all Expert analysis and Expert processing is completed at the individual probe level and only the results (i.e. updated screens) are transferred to the local console. Remote issues can be reviewed and responded to in real-time, reducing network downtime at remote network locations.

To help maintain a healthy VLAN and measure WLAN security and performance, Observer 10 brings real-time VLAN Analysis and over 50 new wireless Expert Conditions. IT Administrators can view VLAN data independently or in aggregate with a new VLAN statistical display. VLAN-specific metrics allow IT Administrators to immediately determine if their VLANs are overloaded and verify VLAN setups. Network Instruments continues to expand on support for 802.11a/b/g, with new Expert Conditions such as access point encryption disabled/enabled measures, station overload indicators and authentication/de-authentication rates.

“As organizations implement WLANs, IT Administrators need robust tools to monitor and maintain their wireless networks,” said Douglas Smith, president of Network Instruments. “With Observer 10, we paid special attention to wireless, adding a considerable amount of new wireless Expert Conditions. It’s easy to set up Observer to instantly notify IT managers if WLAN thresholds are broken, when unauthorized access points are recognized, or signal strength and quality become an issue. As always, Observer works for both wired and wireless. IT Administrators need only one network analyzer to keep tabs on all their network topologies.”

Additional features for Observer 10 include:

- **Expanded Data Mining** -- For data-heavy organizations, Observer 10 adds new features for forensic data mining. By adding new functionality to filtering, IT Administrators can now easily search through large volumes of captured or stored data for a quicker breakdown.
- **Centralized Probe Management** -- Network Instruments also introduces a new Authentication Server for Probes, offering centralized management of probe users and user passwords. Developed for large-scale, multi-network enterprises, the new Network Instruments Authentication Server (NIAS™), makes authenticating probes safe, secure, and simple.
- **Ready-Made Reports** -- For proactive network management, Observer 10 introduces Ready-Made Reports, with more than 20 templates of the most commonly requested network statistics to offer instant snapshots of network health. IT Administrators can also specify time intervals (i.e. last week, yesterday, today, and more) to easily review Network Trending information.
- **WAN Probe Now Supports RMON** -- Although there is no standard for WAN RMON, Network Instruments has created an open-standards RMON-like approach to monitoring WAN traffic fully supporting RMON1, RMON2 and HCRMON MIBs.

“Observer 10 is a major new version for us with a myriad of new features driven by customer requests and industry-shifts,” said Roman Oliynyk, CEO of Network Instruments. “For example, our large enterprise clients deploy hundreds of our Probes throughout their organization to keep an eye on their remote networks from one central location. With Observer 10 we also introduced the new Network Instruments Authentication Server, which provides a quick way to manage multiple probe user names and passwords from one central location. Many organizations have security policies which require passwords to be changed periodically - the NIAS makes this effortless.”

CheckFree Corporation, America’s leading provider of financial electronic commerce solutions, is a long-time Observer user and a member of the Network Instruments Beta Testing Program. Bryan A. Larrieu, CheckFree’s vice-president of voice & data communication and information security, is pleased with the new reporting options found in Observer 10.

“Our company is focused on metrics and we depend on solutions that are fully scalable and serve our large volume needs,” said Larrieu. “In Observer 10, I particularly like the additions for reporting and data-mining. At CheckFree, we constantly add new forms of connectivity and new applications to our environment. With version 10, I can easily capture data and distribute reports on Top Talkers or Protocol Distribution without having to analyze thousands of conversations inside a packet capture. We also analyze large amounts of captured data and utilize Observer’s ability to buffer and stream hundreds of 60MB files. Observer 10 offers enhancements for data-mining such as pre-filtering making sorting through the large amounts of data much easier.”

Observer 10, NIAS, the Advanced Expert Probe and the WAN Probe with RMON support are ready to ship immediately. Pricing for Observer, Expert Observer and Observer Suite remain the same. Observer begins at \$995.00, Expert Observer is \$2895.00 and Observer Suite is still \$3995.00. The Advanced Expert Probe is licensed separately for \$2895.00. The new Network Instruments Authentication Server for centralized probe management is sold individually at \$2000.00. Hardware WAN Probe Appliances with RMON support include all necessary software and hardware. Pricing for the WAN Probe Appliance begins at \$6995.00. More information about Observer 10, the Advanced Expert Probe, NIAS, and WAN RMON are available at www.networkinstruments.com.

About Network Instruments

Network Instruments is the industry leading developer of distributed, user-friendly and affordable network management, analysis and troubleshooting solutions. The award-winning Observer family of products combines a comprehensive management and analysis console with high-performance remote Probes to provide integrated monitoring and management for the entire network (LAN, 802.11 a/b/g, Gigabit, WAN). All Network Instruments products are designed utilizing our Distributed Network Analysis (NI-DNA™) architecture. With NI-DNA, the Observer solution set simplifies network troubleshooting and management, optimizes network and application performance and scales to meet the needs of any organization. Founded in 1994, Network Instruments is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota with offices in London, Paris and throughout the USA with distributors in 50 countries. More information about the company, products, innovation, technology, NI-DNA, becoming a partner and NI University can be found at www.networkinstruments.com.

About CheckFree Corporation

CheckFree (Nasdaq: CKFR) is a provider of financial electronic commerce services and products. Founded in 1981 and celebrating its 23rd year in e-commerce, CheckFree is comprised of three divisions: Electronic Commerce, Software, and Investment Services. CheckFree launched the first fully integrated electronic billing and payment solution in 1997. In the quarter ended March 31, 2004, more than 13 million consumers initiated online payments through services offered by CheckFree’s Electronic Commerce division. Electronic billing and payment is available through more than a thousand financial services organizations, including banks, brokerage firms, Internet portals and personal financial management (PFM) software. At these sites, consumers are able to electronically receive and pay essentially all the bills most common to a U.S. household. CheckFree delivers 22.5 million e-bills each quarter. CheckFree Investment Services provides a broad range of investment management services to thousands of financial institutions nationwide. The division’s clients manage nearly 1.5 million portfolios totaling more than \$900 billion in assets. CheckFree’s Software division provides solutions through three operating units: CheckFree ACH Solutions, CheckFree Financial and Compliance Solutions (CFACS), and CheckFree i-Solutions. CheckFree ACH Solutions provides software and services that are used to process more than two-thirds of the nation’s nine billion Automated Clearing House payments, while CFACS provides reconciliation, financial messaging, workflow and compliance software and services to more than 600 organizations in the banking, brokerage, investment management, insurance and credit card industries, among others. CheckFree i-Solutions is the leading provider of e-billing and e-statement software and services for both business-to-consumer and business-to-business applications.