



Network and IT Management for School and District networks

Key Features:

- NEW: Support for 10,000 devices
- NEW: Health and Social Distancing AUP
- NEW: Audio support
- NEW: eSafety keyword enhancement
- NEW: Performance enhancements
- Hardware inventory and discovery
- Software license management
- Internet and application metering
- Endpoint security/system-wide alerting
- Energy monitoring and power management
- Remote Control and admin tools
- User management/activity monitoring
- Multi-site support and management
- Online digital safety toolkit
- Cloud-based internet safety console
- Classroom Management (optional)

NetSupport DNA v4.85

The Complete Solution for Managing School Technology

NetSupport DNA is an award-winning, easy-to-use solution that provides schools and districts with the tools to manage technology in the classroom and across the school, while protecting students online and supporting teachers.

Armed with a complete overview of school IT activity, NetSupport DNA helps technicians work smarter while maintaining a secure and reliable network. From staying ahead of any potential IT issues before they escalate, to automating tasks, NetSupport DNA not only helps save time but also boosts security and productivity. It gathers a wealth of device and usage data to inform decision making and allow accurate planning of future IT spending and refresh plans.

What's New?

In addition to now supporting up to 10,000 devices, NetSupport DNA v4.85 also provides technicians with a range of new features and enhancements, including being able to provide full audio support to staff (and students) working in school or remotely via a two-way audio chat session, plus they can now choose how NetSupport DNA gets updated across their school (e.g. smart update or GPO/SSCM).

A handy software distribution error report is now available to highlight if there were any errors during the install or if the applications were installed successfully, along with a new Health and Social Distancing AUP to help their school return to the 'new normal'.

School Counselors also gain a new enhancement. All new triggered eSafety keywords are highlighted as being 'new', and when staff are reviewing them, they can be marked as 'in progress' or 'complete'. Each status has a different colour code, and users can filter the main view to only show certain statuses (i.e. only show new triggers). This is extremely useful in helping members of staff to keep track of which ones need reviewing.



Ease of Installation

After installation of the server module (used to manage and add information to the DNA database), the deployment tool provided will automatically discover and install the DNA agent on targeted devices across the school (supports up to 10,000 devices). The DNA console (installed by the IT technician) provides full DNA system control, rich on-screen information, and real-time reporting.

Hardware Inventory

NetSupport DNA provides one of the most comprehensive and detailed Hardware Inventory modules available. A wealth of information is gathered from each device - from CPU and BIOS types to network, video, and storage information.

Inventory reports are displayed either for a single PC; a selected department; just teachers or a specific classroom PC; or condition-based "Dynamic Groups".

Hardware Inventory updates are configured to run at different times throughout the day or at start-up and can be refreshed instantly on demand. A standalone inventory component is available to run on non-networked or mobile devices and, in addition, high-value peripherals can also be associated and recorded against a device - perfect for keeping track of school assets.

SNMP Device Discovery

The SNMP Discovery view allows NetSupport DNA to be configured to scan a range of network addresses and report on any appropriate devices discovered across the school, such as printers and access points. These items can then be stored within DNA and real-time data (such as ink or toner levels) can be monitored from the console.

Software Inventory and Licensing

The Software Module is designed to help schools better manage license compliance and reduce software overspend by accurately reporting installed software and proactively identifying PCs with software that has no or low usage.

It supports the ongoing management of all software licenses for each department: recording suppliers, purchase, and invoice details, department or cost center allocation and the tracking of maintenance contracts - as well as storing PDF copies of any supporting documents.

Software Application Metering

The Application Metering module reports on all applications used on each PC or server, detailing the time the application was started and finished, as well as the actual time it was active.

Monitoring application use ensures software licenses are assigned to the right staff/students and aren't renewed without evidence of activity - thereby enabling cost savings.

Application usage can also be restricted for students, either fully or just by time of day. Lists of approved and restricted applications, together with times when restrictions apply, can be created and enforced centrally.

Efficiency View

The unique dashboard highlights at a glance how school technology is being used and the areas where efficiency can be improved to create cost and time-saving benefits, such as which PCs are least effectively used (and therefore can be redeployed) or which apps are the least used (and therefore may not need renewing).

Software Distribution

NetSupport DNA provides a multi-delivery option for Software Distribution. A software distribution package is created by either applying parameters to a collection of files or folders or by using the DNA application packager - recording the user prompts, keystrokes, and mouse clicks that are used during a test installation, and then automating these on a live deployment to bypass the need for operator intervention. NetSupport DNA also includes a Scheduling feature, allowing packages to be deployed on a specific date and time - usually out of core school hours when network traffic is at its lowest. An error report is also available to see whether there were any errors during the install.

Energy Monitoring and Power Management

The Energy Monitoring module provides a concise high-level summary of potential energy wastage across computer systems left powered on out of school hours. NetSupport DNA keeps an accurate record of each time a computer is powered on, off or hibernates, to provide an average (and customizable) "power consumption per device" calculation. With this information, Power Management policies can be set, allowing computers to automatically power off and back on at specified times. Plus "inactivity policies" can be set for systems inactive over a period of time.

School Alerting

NetSupport DNA's powerful Alerting module automatically notifies operators when any number of changes occurs across the school network. The module is easy to use and there is no limit to the number of custom alerts that you can add.

System Error Alerts also capture screenshots/videos of system errors as they occur, for faster problem-solving. This applies to all PC alerts, allowing you to choose what happens when an alert is triggered. You can direct alert notifications to specified email recipients and/or active console users (on a per alert basis, so the nature of the alert may dictate who is notified). In addition, outstanding alerts are identified against matching PCs on the main hierarchy tree view. Operators can add notes to alerts and a detailed log is accessible from the History feature.



Endpoint Security

To help maintain school network security, USB memory stick use can be controlled across the entire school or just specific departments, staff, or students. You can choose settings to allow full access, block all access, allow read-only access, or prevent applications being run from an unknown memory stick. Alternatively, you can authorize the use of individual memory sticks for the current day, a week, or indefinitely – and use can also be limited to only those authorized. It can also detect if USB drives are encrypted (BitLocker).

Internet Metering

The key to supporting an effective internet safety policy is providing effective controls. With NetSupport DNA, internet usage can be fully managed: lists of approved and restricted URLs, and/or sub-URLs, can be applied centrally to specific groups, allowing for age-appropriate group internet filtering. Once applied, NetSupport DNA can allow unrestricted access to all websites, restricted access to certain websites that have been marked as approved by the school, or block access to specific sites marked as inappropriate. It also logs start and finish times for each URL visited and the active time spent on a page. Results can be reviewed by device or user. In addition to restricting websites and applications by their specific name, apps and games can now be blocked or restricted by their window's title, helping technicians to add a broader layer of security while keeping students on task.

Internet Safety

NetSupport DNA, together with its optional classroom management module, provides a range of features to support a school-wide internet safety policy. Within DNA, this includes both Internet Monitoring and restrictions to prevent access to inappropriate websites; disabling webcams on classroom devices; controlling access to content on memory sticks; triggering alerts when violations occur – through to the enforcement of Acceptable Use Policies.

NetSupport DNA's internet safety toolkit contains a contextual intelligence-based Risk Index that automatically flags high-risk events and vulnerable students based on sophisticated contextual AI risk analysis. It helps staff by examining the context and history of a student's activities and creating a score to indicate the degree of risk they are exposed to at that time.

The Keyword and Phrase Monitoring feature provides insight into and alerts from any activity by a student that might suggest they are engaged in activity that would place them at risk. The details/context of triggered words can be reviewed, with the results (available as a log, screenshot, screen recording, and webcam image, according to severity level). Triggered events can be marked as 'in progress' or 'complete' to let supporting staff know their status.

The "Report a Concern" feature allows students to report concerns discreetly to nominated school staff. Teachers can also "Add a Concern" where they are verbally told of a student's concern.

Authorized staff can also flag 'at risk' students on the system so they can be easily identified and support provided to them.

Plus, designated staff can now access key information and alerts from triggers across the school's local network while on the go using the cloud-based internet safety console.

Acceptable Use Policies

NetSupport DNA provides a flexible module to support the delivery and tracking of AUPs across the school. Policies can be applied to specific devices or users for display each time any user logs on or for one-time display and acknowledgment. The AUP feature can support multiple policies (including a new Health and Social Distancing policy), which can then be formatted for clear presentation. Full tracking and exception reporting are also provided.

User Management

NetSupport DNA provides a range of features to locate and manage users within a networked environment. Schools can customize the data to be gathered from each user, including the tracking of user acceptance forms. DNA also keeps a history of changes to User Data and records changes to custom user details. Profiles can be set for different groups of devices or users, each with its specific component settings i.e. limited internet access for Year 7. NetSupport DNA can prevent or allow selected users to be logged on to multiple machines, allows users to locate another logged-on user and send them a message, plus enables teachers and technicians to reset students' system passwords. A single time-based summary of all activity by a specific user, PC, or department (Chronological view) is also available. Plus, technicians can remotely log in to multiple school PCs on the LAN, and also support remote schools that are not part of their main infrastructure via the secure inbuilt Gateway component. IT team can also conduct a two-way chat session between any number of selected staff or students in full audio mode.

Real-time Monitoring

The Explorer mode provides a real-time overview of all PCs on the network, highlighting which ones have current notifications and active policies, ensuring operators can identify and resolve issues quickly. The data view can be presented as Icons, Details, or Thumbnails (where the PC screens are visible). In Details mode, performance data such as real-time network traffic, CPU and memory use for each PC is now displayed to give an instant view of network health. Privacy modes can be set to provide data protection and confidentiality. Using Explorer mode, technicians can now use the Spotlight feature to help them see more details about a selected PC (e.g. any applications, services, websites, and processes in use), all in a single glance.

Vault

NetSupport DNA contains a Vault component to allow secure storage of serial numbers, passwords, or any other confidential IT data. Access to the Vault can be restricted to specific console users and activity can be recorded against the central DNA audit trail.

System Audit

NetSupport DNA includes a powerful Audit component to track all selected console activity by staff. The Audit feature records changes to policies or settings; when entries are added/deleted or where rights are changed for any user.



Desktop Utilization

NetSupport DNA ensures you have maximum visibility of your school's assets. System reports highlight PC and application usage to ensure under-utilized PCs can be identified and then re-deployed. In addition, "dynamic groups" enable technicians to designate and track technology due for replacement or upgrade.

Print Monitoring

Individual printers across the school are automatically identified and, from the central console view, costs for printing can be assigned either globally or against each printer. Where required, printers can also be excluded from the view. A full overview of printing activities and indicative costs is provided.

Enterprise Reporting

NetSupport DNA provides both on-screen and print-optimized reporting. The on-screen reports/views are provided with supporting bar and pie charts and "live" drill-down capabilities on all key summary data. As well as reporting on individual devices, users and departments, NetSupport DNA also features user-defined dynamic groups. A dynamic group could, for example, be to identify which classroom PCs are upgradeable and such a group would be created automatically from those that match the required criteria – such as "all PCs with more than 'XX' GB RAM" and so on.

Mobile Inventory

You can download NetSupport DNA's Mobile Console app free from the Google Play and Apple app stores. The app allows a technician, when away from their desk, to search for and view a detailed Hardware/Software Inventory for any PC on campus. It also includes a QR code scanner to help instantly identify any PC: either from an on-screen QR code displayed by DNA or from a label fixed to the device. NetSupport DNA also provides a QR code label creation facility that includes displaying custom details. The app also shows a history of all hardware changes, plus any software installs or removals.



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System Requirements

NetSupport DNA Server component

Minimum hardware: Single - Dual Core 2.00 GHz CPU 8Gb RAM or higher. Free space required: 20 Gb. (dependent on number of Agents supported). Windows Server 2008 R2 or above (best practice). Windows 7, Windows 8.1 and Windows 10.

Databases supported: SQL Server 2008 or later. If no version of SQL exists on the target system when installing the DNA Server, you will be prompted to either install SQL (SQL 2012 Express is included in the NetSupport DNA setup file), or to specify the address of an existing SQL Server.

DNA Cloud features: Windows Server 2008 R2 or Windows 10 or above.

Optional Server modules (SNMP Discovery, Remote Gateways etc) Windows 7 or higher. Windows Servers 2008 sp2 or higher.

NetSupport DNA Management Console

Free space required: 200 MB
Windows 7 or higher. Windows Server 2008 sp2 or higher.

DNA Mobile Console apps
Android 5 or higher. iOS 9.3 or higher.

DNA Desktop Agent (client)
Free space required: 25 MB
Windows Vista or higher.
Windows Server 2008 or higher.
Mac OSX 10.8-10.14.

NetSupport iOS Browser app
iOS 9.3 and above. (Requires V4.8 of DNA console)

NetSupport Android Browser app
Android 5.1 to 9. (Requires V4.8 of DNA console)