

## REPORT REPRINT

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# CA syncs UIM event and performance data for faster infrastructure analysis and remediation

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The latest release of the company's United Infrastructure Management product adds features to coordinate analytic data sources that help administrators rapidly ascertain and remediate infrastructure performance anomalies.

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CA Technologies recently released version 8.5.1 of its flagship United Infrastructure Management (UIM) platform. The company continues its efforts to make it a powerful contender in the highly competitive and crowded hybrid IT management market. The latest enhancements, and those coming soon in the next release, should help strengthen its position as an intelligent and predictive toolset that enables administrators to quickly – and in some cases proactively – react and remediate performance and capacity anomalies.

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## THE 451 TAKE

Recent enhancements to CA UIM position it more broadly as a common framework for enterprises to manage many distributed and disparate hybrid cloud and IT infrastructures. The premise behind the design of its architecture and feature set is pretty sensible – link, correlate and synchronize all of the data sources and data needed for infrastructure remediation into an analytic and predictive framework that can automatically discover resources and establish monitoring dashboards for them. While it's not completely there yet, the latest version of UIM seems to be well along the way.

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## CONTEXT

In our last report on CA UIM, we noted that it serves as an orchestration environment that provides a common dashboard for control and analysis using data collected across distributed and disparate IT infrastructure. The vendor is seeking to provide administrators with end-to-end predictive visibility without having to jump between screens or tools across hybrid IT environments.

## STRATEGY AND PRODUCTS

CA's strategy for UIM is to position it as an intelligent predictive uniform platform for IT infrastructure management. With it, the company believes enterprises can eliminate – or at least greatly minimize – the number of specialized or point tools needed. To do so, it enables integration with a broad set of legacy, popular and emerging IT technologies and cloud services. It accelerates troubleshooting by blending log analytics with monitoring alerts, thus making administrators more productive. Moreover, like many IT vendors today, CA fully exploits the open public APIs of a wide range of IT infrastructure providers. While the 8.5.1 version of UIM includes many enchantments, several are worthy of note.

Perhaps the most notable among them is a new Log Analytics capability that integrates with UIM. It can compare unstructured log and event data over time to identify patterns and correlate log data sets with UIM alarms. An Application Discovery feature enables administrators to automatically discover, group and monitor devices in their environment. A Monitoring Configuration Service utilities tool ensures consistent and rapid monitoring deployment. It monitors and finds configuration profile differences. A sneak peek at the upcoming Capacity Predictive Analytics feature showed how it monitors resource utilization patterns to project and alert administrators that available resource capacity may be at risk.

A notable differentiator for UIM – and critical enabler for the latest feature in the 8.5.1 release – are its integration probes. CA has developed a library of over 140 probes that are composed of data collectors and messaging technology. They use the APIs of infrastructure vendors to integrate data between UIM and the IT infrastructure under its control.

An added telemetry probe collects telemetry data from the UIM database such as hub, robot, probe inventory details, and other data that is helpful for troubleshooting. It is automatically installed using the UIM installation wizard. Finally, CA reports that the latest version's time to monitor is three to nine times faster than rivals.

Going forward, UIM will become more tightly integrated with CA Spectrum, a proactive infrastructure change management, fault isolation and root cause analysis platform. Often, monitor alerts and log file analysis are not enough for rapid remediation. When linked with UIM, CA Spectrum will synchronize events, alarms, faults and performance data, enabling administrators to immediately engage root cause analysis when needed.

## COMPETITION

The cloud management landscape is broad. The following are the players that we believe will likely compete with CA UIM.

*Emerging vendors:* Abiquo offers a unified platform to manage and control private, public and hybrid cloud infrastructure. Adaptive Computing provides a workload and resource orchestration software platform called Moab. With its Cloud Management Platform, Scalr enables enterprises to manage, automate and control multi-cloud environments via an administrative console that uses a single UI and API to orchestrate and automate workload deployments and enforce policy across multiple clouds.

*Mainstay IT providers:* BMC's Cloud Lifecycle Management automates the provisioning of multi-tier IT services across cloud and non-cloud platforms. In March 2016, Cisco acquired CliQr for its application-defined cloud orchestration platform. HPE's OneView is an infrastructure management platform for cloud and a software-defined, composable infrastructure. With CloudForms, Red Hat manages hybrid IT environments. RightScale includes a self-service portal that allows developers to access public and private cloud infrastructures, and helps automate and accelerate cloud application deployment. VMware's vRealize Suite is a management platform designed to deliver and manage infrastructure and applications across private and public clouds, multiple hypervisors and physical infrastructure.

*IT leviathans:* Amazon Web Services offers a portfolio of management tools used to control its 80+ services – it could use some rationalization. With Cloud Orchestrator, IBM automates the delivery of software and infrastructure, and reduces the number of tasks needed to manage public, private and hybrid clouds. Microsoft's Operations Management Suite is a collection of cloud-based services for managing on-premises and cloud environments that include process automation and configuration management, backup and disaster recovery, log analytics, and security and compliance audit controls. Finally, Oracle's Enterprise Manager is a cloud management platform that includes self-service provisioning guided by centralized, policy-based resource management; integrated charge-back and capacity planning; and visibility into physical and virtual environments, from applications to disk.

## SWOT ANALYSIS

### STRENGTHS

UIM is perhaps among CA's top-selling offerings due to its extensive integration capabilities and emerging analytics and intelligence features.

### WEAKNESSES

A key differentiator for UIM are its probes that make use of the APIs from multiple infrastructure suppliers. While CA has an ample API management technology, it's not being used to govern the lifecycle of probes or the APIs within them.

### OPPORTUNITIES

Hybrid and multi-cloud deployments are accelerating within enterprises in virtually all industries and will drive considerable demand for intelligent infrastructure management platforms like CA UIM.

### THREATS

Competition is fierce, as is true in many IT sectors. But the threat to UIM may come from self-inflicted wounds if CA fails to keep its foot on the accelerator to keep its intelligence and predictive qualities ahead of the market.