SOLARWINDS

SolarWinds Observability **Self-Hosted** and **SaaS**

Extend your existing investment with deeper cloud and application visibility

If you already rely on SolarWinds Observability Self-Hosted for network and infrastructure visibility, SolarWinds Observability SaaS lets you extend that foundation into modern cloud and application environments—without ripping and replacing what works today.

01 What you have today with Self-Hosted

Self-Hosted delivers broad, mature monitoring for on-premises and hybrid environments:

- **Network health and traffic:** Core network performance, flow monitoring, diagnostics, SD WAN, wireless, and IP address management in a single view.
- **Infrastructure monitoring:** Physical and virtual servers, hardware health, log monitoring, and asset inventory to keep data centers and branch sites running smoothly.
- **Cloud basics:** High-level visibility into AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud infrastructure and services alongside on-premises resources.
- **Operations dashboards and reports:** Out-of-the-box dashboards and reports make it easy to share performance and availability trends with stakeholders.

This makes Self-Hosted ideal for organizations anchored in on-premises and traditional virtualized environments that want a single-pane-of-glass view across network, infrastructure, and key cloud services.

02 How SaaS extends your cloud and application coverage

SolarWinds Observability SaaS builds on that foundation to deliver full-stack, cloud-native observability across your distributed services and user experience:

Deeper cloud coverage for AWS, Azure, and GCP

- Extensive cloud infrastructure and service discovery and topology mapping, especially for AWS, so you can see how services relate and impact one another.
- Near real-time AWS Metric Streaming and VPC Flow Logs (Tech Preview) for faster insight into performance and security issues in the cloud.

Open and extensible data collection

- Native OpenTelemetry support and an OTel agent for standardized, vendor-neutral telemetry from distributed applications and popular plugins (e.g.,NGINX Plus API, and more).

Modern application performance monitoring (APM)

- Monitoring for internally built applications—monolithic, multi-tier, and microservices—both on-premises and in the cloud.
- Distributed tracing, application and infrastructure log collection, and correlated troubleshooting across metrics, traces, logs, and exceptions for faster root-cause analysis.
- Service-level reporting, Root Cause Assist, and topology maps show how services depend on each other and where issues originate.

Digital experience monitoring

- Real User Monitoring (RUM) and synthetic transactions to measure real web application performance, availability, and user satisfaction (APDEX).

The result: you keep the strong coverage you have today while adding the deep, cloud native and application-level visibility your teams need as you modernize.

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Better together: Self-Hosted + SaaS

Using Self-Hosted and SaaS together gives you connected visibility across legacy and modern stacks:

- Monitor networks, on-prem infrastructure, and existing workloads with Self-Hosted, while sending cloud-native services, modern apps, and digital experience data to SaaS.
- **Use AIOps capabilities in both platforms** to spot anomalies faster and reduce alert noise, while SaaS adds full-stack correlation from user to service to infrastructure.
- Take advantage of **AlertStack correlated alert clustering** in Self-Hosted and view clustered alerts from Self-Hosted deployments in SaaS when both are licensed and deployed, helping teams see cross environment issues as a single incident.
- **Leverage integrations** (Service Desk, Telegraf, Incident Response and other agent-based integrations) so operations and support teams work from the same context across both platforms.

For your teams, this means a unified, phased path from traditional monitoring to full-stack observability, while preserving existing workflows.

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Simple paths to SaaS and cloud-hybrid

You can adopt SaaS at your own pace—no big-bang migration required:

1. **Start with new cloud and app projects**
   Instrument new services and applications with SaaS first, using OpenTelemetry and SaaS agents for quick, code-level insights. Existing Self-Hosted monitoring continues unchanged.
2. **Extend cloud visibility for existing workloads**
   Connect your AWS, Azure, and GCP accounts to SaaS to unlock richer service discovery, topology mapping, and near real-time cloud metrics—while keeping core infrastructure views in Self-Hosted.
3. **Unify operations with hybrid monitoring**
   Use shared dashboards and reports so NOC, SRE, and app teams see both Self-Hosted and SaaS data in a consistent way, with AI assisted triage helping prioritize issues across environments.
4. **Transition to SaaS on your timeline**
   As more workloads move to the cloud or you prefer a SaaS operating model, you can shift monitoring coverage from Self-Hosted to SaaS in phases—preserving institutional knowledge and avoiding disruption to existing teams and processes.

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When to use what

SCENARIO	BEST FIT
Predominantly on-premises or private data center, strong network focus	**Start with / stay on Self-Hosted** for rich network, infrastructure, and foundational cloud visibility.
Rapid growth of cloud-native services and modern applications	**Add SaaS** for deep APM, distributed tracing, OpenTelemetry, and expanded cloud service coverage.
Mix of legacy systems and modern apps across multiple clouds	**Run Self-Hosted + SaaS together** for end-to-end visibility from core network and infrastructure through cloud services, applications, and user experience.

Bottom line: SolarWinds Observability Self-Hosted protects the investments you've already made in network and infrastructure monitoring, while SolarWinds Observability SaaS extends that coverage to modern cloud, application, and digital experience use cases—giving you a clear, low-risk path to full-stack observability on your schedule.

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Ready to check it out?

The SaaS option is easy to trial whenever you want. It can be activated from within your self-hosted web console by clicking on *Platform Connect* and following the steps to unlock a 30-day evaluation.