FAQs for Vallum Halo Manager

What is Vallum Halo Manager?

Vallum Halo is a feature-rich network management solution that is enterprise grade without the enterprise-grade cost. Through any standard web browser, Vallum Halo delivers a breadth of functionality including device availability, CPU and memory loads, disk space, system process and services, and many other metrics. It is exceptionally easy to install and maintain and very intuitive to use without training. The solution's unique framework delivers the bulk of its functionality at the agent level, which is a significant departure from competing solutions that typically centralize their functionality within a single, monolithic server installation. The result is bloated solutions that are too complex, have too much functionality, and are therefore too expensive to manage and update from the vendor side. Vallum's decentralized architecture maintains the functionality at the agent level within specialized applications that can be easily installed or uninstalled. This allows the end user to customize the solution to their specific needs by selecting the functionality within the program that they need. One such application is the Vallum Halo Polling Agent, which collects data from specific devices with or without connectivity to a Vallum Halo Manager installation. The result is a framework that delivers superior scalability, and provides a platform for easily adding custom, specialized applications and functionality.

Does Vallum Halo Manager require any additional hardware or software?

No. Everything is included in the install EXE. To access Halo Manager, you only need a standard web browser.

What is a Halo Polling Agent

A Halo Polling Agent is an application that Vallum and The GMI Foundation co-developed. The Halo Polling Agent is installed at an existing installed GMI Agent (freeware). Each Vallum Halo Manager installation comes with one Halo Polling Agent that is installed on the same machine with the Halo Manager. Halo Polling Agents are generally designed to function on one subnet and can manage up to 256 different devices. Additional Polling Agents can be easily installed to provide additional scalability or to extend coverage to other subnets, organizations or geographical regions. Halo Polling Agents are designed to function autonomously and continually collect data metrics from the devices they are managing even in the event of communication disruption to the Vallum Halo Manager. More info on the free GMI Agent can be found below.

How many Halo Polling Agents will I need for my network?

The answer to this question is based on a number of different factors. The first is how many devices you have. A Halo Polling Agent can manage up to 256 devices (or any asset that has an IP, such as a web address). If you have more assets than this, you will need additional polling agents. Other factors that should be considered are how many subnets you have in your network and do you have different organizations or have devices in remote geographic locations. A Halo Polling Agent can be deployed to provide scalability, but also to manage groups of devices/IPs with different security requirements. Visit www. vallumsoftware.com/products/ for pricing on Halo Manager with multiple polling agents.

How do I install a Halo Polling Agent?

First, a Polling Agent is a GMI application and must be installed on a previously-deployed GMI Agent that has been installed on a server. There are two links in Halo Manager where you can install a Halo Polling Agent. The first is below the top menu with the link "Edit Agent List." This link will show you a list of current Halo Polling Agents. Click the "Upload & Install Remote Halo Polling Agent…" at the top of the window. The second link is in the Admin Tools menu at the top navigation bar. Once there, click "Install Halo App" at the bottom of the left menu bar. Both of these methods function the same and will ask you to enter an existing GMI Agent name or IP Address. If there is not a GMI Agent present or a Halo Polling Agent is already installed, you will receive an error message and will need to contact Vallum.

I see "Site ID" referenced in the Halo Manager; what is this?

The Site ID is a unique site identifier, which identifies your Halo installation and serves as the licensing element for Vallum Halo Manager. Each Site ID is unique to each Halo Polling Agent and the server it is installed on. The Site ID is used to generate a license key allowing for the use of the Halo Polling Agent on the GMI Agent and server it is installed on. Note that Each Vallum Halo installation comes with one Halo Polling Agent with its own unique Site ID.

Can I rename my devices?

Yes. On the "Device List" menu, click the device name, click "Edit Device Parms" and then you can change the Display Name as well as other information about the device.

Can I create different administrative logons to Vallum Halo Manager?

Yes. Just below the top menu is a link called "Enable Logons." This options will allow you to enable logons to the system the first time. You can also find the same menu under "Admin Tools" and "System Access" on the top left menu. You can then define your administrative logon and password, and optionally specify and enable an Active Directory group to grant other users access to the Halo Manager system.

How can I display the device metrics of a device?

You can display metrics such as CPU, Disk, memory, network data traffic, processes and services by clicking on a device name in the device list. The following menu will provide you information on the device. Click on "Device Metrics" on the left menu (second from the bottom) and CPU information will be displayed. You can click on any of the links for additional metric data.

Can Halo Manager issue an alert when a device goes down?

Yes. Halo can issue emails to various users and administrators that you specify. The Halo polling agent periodically checks the system at a user specified interval, and issues an email alert if the percent availability of one or more selected devices falls below a user defined threshold. This alerting technique, in addition to being simple to configure, also suppresses false positives, minimizes email bandwidth usage, and keeps your email alerts pertinent.

What is a Free GMI Agent?

The GMI Agent is a free program that you can install on your windows servers and desktops. It is included with the Vallum Halo Manager installation. The GMI Agent is a low-overhead, highly flexible service that provides secure management functions to the Halo Manager and Halo Polling Agents. The GMI Agent provides a variety of metrics and capabilities that complete the power of the Vallum Halo Manager solution. Since the GMI Agent is free to use, you can feel free to install it not only on all of your servers, but desktops as well.

How do I know if a Free GMI Agent is installed on a device?

On the "Device List" menu, there is a "status" column. If the device has a GMI Agent installed on it, it will show "gmi-up". Other devices will show such statuses as "ping-up" or "no-resp" with various colors with red generally indicating no communications. Note that you can click on the "Status" column to sort. You can also view the Services of the platform directly and look for the name GMI.

YOU MAY DOWNLOAD a free 30-day trial of Vallum Halo Manager at http://vallumsoftware.com/halo-manager/.

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