



Why Migrate to DSView 3 software from DSView 2?

DSView 3 management software is the newest innovation from Avocent®, the industry inventor of KVM over IP technology. We have taken years of experience managing data centers and put that expertise into the hub and spoke architecture of the DSView 3 software. The hub and spoke architecture provides failover and load balancing for up to 15 synchronized databases located throughout the world.

In addition to the new architecture, there are also many new management, security, and user features that are not found in DSView 2:

Improved Management Features	Benefit
Hub and Spoke system	The Hub and Spoke system provides multiple failover capabilities and real time or scheduled synchronization, which updates all locations where the DSView servers are located. This system also provides “zoning” or load balancing to allow users to authenticate to a local Spoke for efficient and reliable access. This limits the amount of traffic to a hub during peak hours.
Detailed Audit log with new reporting tools	Customized view, date filter, selectable events, severity levels, and categories (can be exported as a CSV file to use with other reporting tools) All switching and system activity is logged along with user, time, and date. This allows IT managers to look back over a specific period of time for specific user and/or system activity.
Email notifications	Over 100 events that can be set up to let managers know when important changes or additions take place. This allows managers to react quickly and keep informed about activities happening in their data centers.
Schedule task	Allows manages to schedule a variety of task to occur daily, weekly, or monthly. This ensures that important events occur or system information is stored without requiring human intervention. (Examples- configuration backups, export audit log files, power control, or even to upgrade Avocent appliances)
Configurable SNMP traps	Enable over 40 SNMP traps for important events that occur on the KVM system- failed authentication, appliance or server reboots, user or appliance changes, etc.

Improved Security Features	Benefit
Hub and Spoke system	The Hub and Spoke system provides multiple failover capabilities that require all users on the system to authenticate to a DSView server. If one DSView server is unavailable another may be used for authorization. This means that all users are authenticated first and all of their switching activity is logged. All components are kept in sync which ensures the integrity of the entire system.
Selectable encryption modes- including video	Different encryption modes can be selected to match the security policy of the customer. Encrypting all the traffic on the system prevents any packets from being sent in the clear.
Exit macros	Logs out each user when a session window is closed for any reason. This ensures that when a user makes a new connection to a server, they will have to log in with their own credentials and protects against one user accessing a server under the assumed identity of the user that was previously on that server.
Additional User permissions	Administrators can set user permissions to control access to all attached devices and individual appliances. It allows certain users with the ability to cycle power while other users are simply able to connect without the ability to control power. Appliance controls can be used to keep users from manipulating appliance settings or changing permission rights.
User Preemption levels	Assigning users with different preemption levels helps maintain access for administrators on the system. Users with lower levels can not interrupt or take over users with higher credentials. Users with higher preemption levels can end lower level users.

Improved User Features	Benefit
Hub and Spoke system	The Hub and Spoke system provides multiple failover capabilities that allow users on the system to use an alternate DSView server if their primary is unavailable. This means that all users will always be able to authenticate and have access to the devices they are responsible for.
Custom toolbar in Remote Viewer	Users can select up to 10 shortcut icons to be used in the remote viewer. These shortcuts allow users to quickly make adjustments or even control the power through an easy to use interface that can be customized based on their individual preferences.
Customized view (look at specific categories and then sort by specific columns, and filter)	Allows each user to organize servers and other resources in ways that are useful to their daily task or their individual responsibilities- this makes locating and connecting to a server or devices extremely fast and simple.
Installation / Configuration Wizards	Step by step instructions help guide the user through many of the features of DSView 3. These make using the system extremely easy and straightforward.
Browser based interface	This eliminates the need to install and maintain software for each user, and also allows authorized users to access and control servers from anywhere they can get online. DSView 3 includes a built in browser interface that eliminates the need for additional IIS which was previously used to enable browser access for DSView 2.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Could I have more detail on the failover and load balancing capability of DSView 3 software?

- Failover—because the DSView servers are synchronized, if the primary or “hub” server suffers a problem or is shut down for routine maintenance, a secondary or “spoke” database will become the primary without loss of data or transactions. A customer can prepare for disaster recovery or any outage with up to 15 separate, remote spokes. All components are kept in sync which ensures the integrity of the entire system.
- Load Balancing – because the centralized permissions database is distributed in real-time, Customers at remote locations can then access their spokes directly, reducing traffic on the central hub site.

Does DSView 3 software schedule backups like DSView 2 did?

DSView 3 software allows for easy creation and scheduling of tasks for configuration backup, and also audit log file exports, power on of target devices, and upgrade of Avocent appliances. The tasks may be scheduled and reoccurring times and intervals without human intervention.

How does DSView 3 software audit log differ from DSView 2?

DSView 3 software has a searchable audit log that stores all events involving any interaction with DSView 3. Searches may be done on date, event, devices or user. The audit log may be stored for any user specified period of time or may be stored on a remote media. The log may be saved to a CSV file to use with other reporting tools. DSView 2 has a flat audit log and it is not easily searched.

DSView 2 required special code (written by the customer) to notify of events. Does DSView 3 software notify a customer of events? What kind of events? How?

Yes. Over 100 Pre-programmed events can be activated based on appliances, system, users, units, tasks, access control, and sessions. Customers can run reports or choose to have an email alert or page activated when an event is triggered.

Does DSView 3 software support different authentications than DSView 2?

No, they both support LDAP, NT, and DSView internal authentication. The internal authentication difference is currently DSView 3 software authenticates through a proprietary database while DSView 2 authenticates from a flat file.

DSView 2 did not save an individual profile for each user. Can DSView 3 software?

DSView 3 software allows each user to tailor their views of servers and other resources in ways that are useful to their daily task or their individual responsibilities. For example, a customer could set a view of all appliances with a filter that would only display those with “no power.”

Does auto-scaling return in DSView 3 software?

Yes.

Unlike DSView 2, does DSView 3 software auto-discover appliances during installation?

Yes, during installation DSView auto-discovers Avocent appliances, reducing the time and effort needed for initial setup and configuration.

Will my DSView 2 permissions migrate to DSView 3 software?

Yes, the permissions migrate.

Do I still need to pay additional for Dambrackas Video Compression (DVC)?

No, it is included within DSView 3 software for no additional cost.

DSView 2 did not support video encryption. Does DSView 3 software?

Yes, it is available for every user or can be customized for individual users.

Does DSView 3 software support IPMI?

DSView 3 software supports IPMI if the DSI5100, the IPMI appliance, is on the network.

Are there any features from DSView 2.x that are lost in DSView 3 software?

DSView 3 software does not support the Mac™ or third-party Telnet in its first release. Migration utilities will be provided to move over the user and appliance information that was defined in DSView 2.x. Also, since DSView 3 is browser based, there is no longer a need for DSAuth and DSAdmin.

What browsers are supported in DSView 3 software?

Internet Explorer 6.0 and above.

How is the DSView 3 software upgrade installed?

The DSView upgrade installation is wizard-based for both firmware and software.

How many users can access DSView 3?

DSView 3 software has no limits to the number of users. Customers are required to obtain a license for the appropriate number of concurrent clients.

How can end users find their customer license information?

The System Tab in DSView 3 software provides a license summary which displays the serial number, the number client sessions in use, the number of licensed client sessions, the number of backup servers in use, and the number of licensed backup servers.

Do you have to buy a maintenance contract with DSView 3 software?

DSView 3 software includes one year of maintenance. This includes all patches and upgrades. To obtain upgrades and patches after the first twelve months, customers will need to purchase a maintenance contract.

What are the hardware and software requirements for a hub or spoke server?

Hardware:

- 1GHz Pentium 3 (2GHz Pentium 4 recommended)
- 512 Mb RAM (1GByte recommended)
- 100BaseT NIC (1GByte LAN recommended)
- One Gigabyte free disk space

One of the following operating systems:

- Windows NT Server
- Windows 2000 Server or Windows 2000 Advanced Server with the latest service package
- Windows Server 2003 Standard, Enterprise and Web Edition