SELECTOR

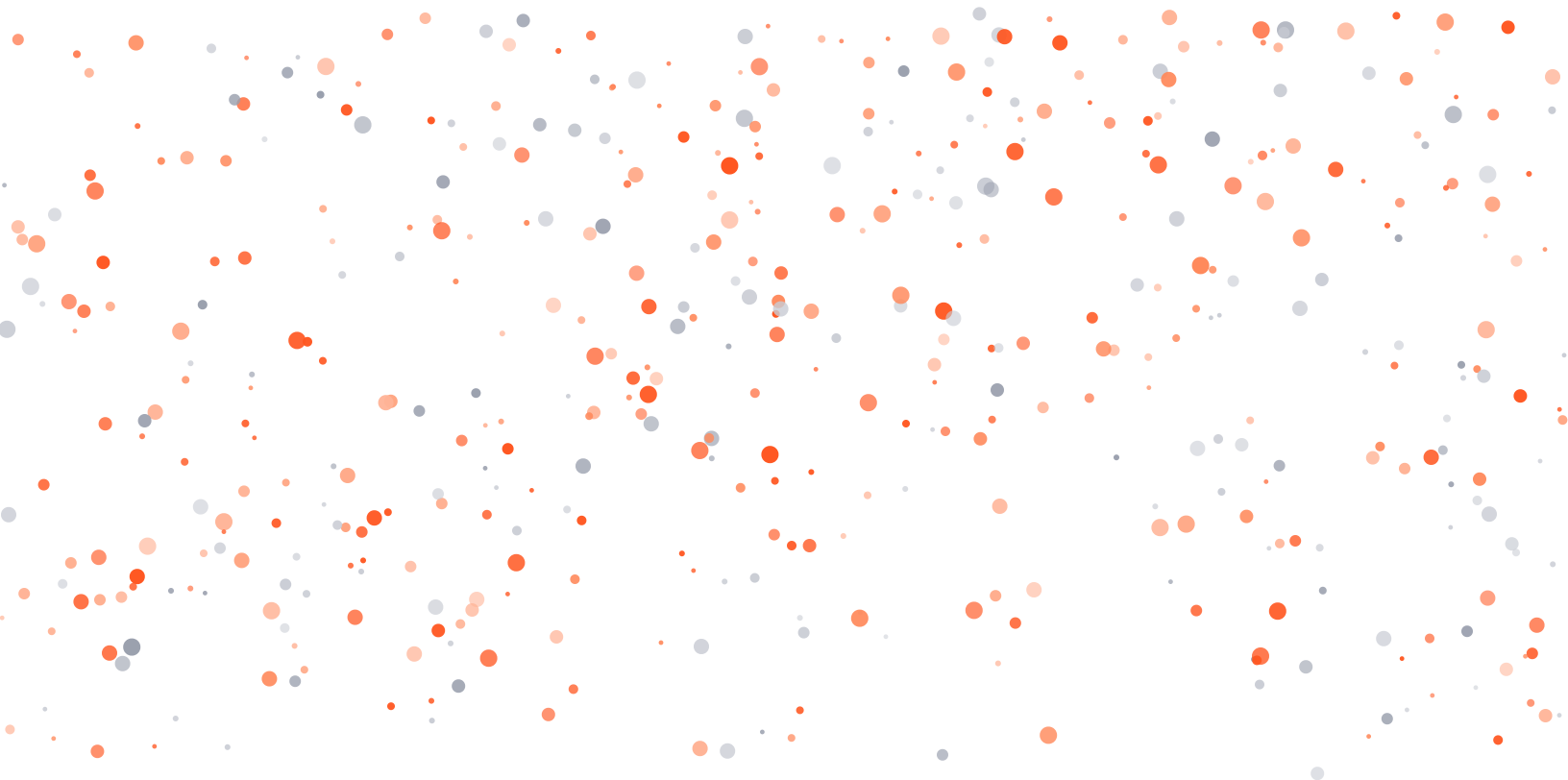
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Technical Comparison

Selector **vs.** Kentik

Observability and Event Intelligence Use Cases

October 2026



How Each Platform Builds Operational Context

Selector collects raw telemetry and operational context together from every vendor, normalizes and enriches it before any model runs, and establishes causation with purpose-built ML before agents act. Kentik is a network observability platform built around large-scale flow analytics, BGP, synthetic testing, and cloud network visibility, with an AI Advisor for natural-language network investigation.

Selector

Foundry agents	Rosetta, Loom, TicketMaster, Artist, Herald, Sculptor; MCP and A2A.
Collaboration	Natural language, dashboards, ChatOps, ITSM workflows, query-backed APIs.
Knowledge	Anomaly detection, correlation, causation, forecasting, knowledge graph.
Data Hypervisor	ML schema inference, enrichment, ELT raw preservation, routing.
Collection	Horizontal engines near the source; push and pull; independent scaling.
Sources	Any vendor's devices, cloud, CMDB, IPAM, ITSM, tools, and files.

Kentik

AI Advisor	Natural-language network investigation and summaries.
Insights and alerts	Traffic anomaly detection, DDoS detection, alert policies.
Network analytics	Flow, BGP, cloud, and synthetic analytics.
Kentik data engine	High-scale store for enriched flow and network data.
Collection	Flow ingest, SNMP and streaming telemetry, cloud flow logs, synthetic agents.
Sources	Routers, switches, clouds, internet vantage points, and synthetic agents.

Where Kentik falls short architecturally:

- **Traffic-first, not incident-first:** Kentik's core strength is traffic and routing analytics; correlation of alerts and events into incidents with a root cause is not its focus. Selector determines cause across domains.
- **Network-scoped context:** Application, log, and CMDB data sit largely outside Kentik. Selector correlates them with network data in one model.
- **Investigation-led AI:** AI Advisor helps engineers query network data; it does not establish deterministic causation. Selector does.

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USE CASE 1: OBSERVABILITY

Multivendor Data Collection

Kentik is strong in flow, BGP, cloud network, and synthetic visibility. Selector adds logs, configuration, CMDB context, and application signals in the same model.

DATA TYPE	SELECTOR	KENTIK
Metrics	SNMP, gNMI and model-driven streaming telemetry, Prometheus-compatible sources, REST APIs.	SNMP and streaming telemetry from network devices.
Logs	Syslog from any device, infrastructure, or application, structured by ML; Splunk, Logstash, TACACS.	**Log analytics not described.**
Flow	NetFlow, sFlow, IPFIX from devices or collectors, enriched with application, owner, and criticality.	Strong: NetFlow, sFlow, IPFIX at very high scale with enrichment.
Routing	BGP, BMP/OBMP, and IGP state ingested from customer devices.	Strong: BGP analytics and route visibility. **BMP and IGP state correlation with incidents not described.**
Configuration	Running and intended config via NETCONF and CLI; drift correlated with impact.	**Configuration collection and drift not described.**
Topology	From SNMP, CDP/LLDP, configuration, and telemetry, across all vendors; digital twin.	Network maps from flow, SNMP, and cloud data.
Context	ServiceNow CMDB, NetBox, Nautobot, Infoblox; owner, site, circuit, criticality.	Custom dimensions and enrichment. **CMDB integration depth not described.**
Hybrid & multicloud	AWS, Azure, Google Cloud APIs, flow logs, transit gateways, VPCs, correlated with on-prem.	Strong: AWS, Azure, Google Cloud flow logs and topology.
Digital experience	ICMP and UDP probes, ThousandEyes, traceroute, custom tests.	Synthetic testing from public and private agents.
Files / streams	Kafka, CSV, Excel, Google Sheets.	Custom dimension uploads.

Kentik gaps

- Configuration collection and drift not described.
- Log analytics not described.
- CMDB and application context limited.

Selector value

- Streaming telemetry, flow, routing, configuration, and context from any vendor in one pipeline.
- Routing changes tied to the services they affect, from BMP and IGP state on the customer's own devices.
- Ingestion from files and streams for data with no API.

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USE CASE 1: OBSERVABILITY

Data Normalization and Enrichment

Selector normalizes and enriches every signal before any model runs. Kentik enriches flow data at scale with network and business dimensions.

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR DATA HYPERVISOR	KENTIK
Schema inference	ML infers structure from free-form logs, syslog, traps, and CLI output; no parsing templates.	Flow and telemetry schemas. **ML schema inference for free-form data not described.**
Entity resolution	Named-entity and clustering models group events across vendor and format variations.	Devices, interfaces, and flow dimensions.
Enrichment	Topology, dependency, owner, site, maintenance state, and criticality added before analysis.	Flow enrichment with geo, ASN, application, and custom dimensions.
Data fidelity	ELT: raw data lands with original timestamps; transformation follows.	High-resolution flow retained per plan.
Noise suppression	Duplicate, flapping, and irrelevant signals removed before the intelligence layer.	Alert policy tuning.
Business logic	Maintenance windows, provider notices, suppression, and criticality in YAML via DevOps workflows.	Alert policies and custom dimensions.
Customization	S2ML tunes enrichment, labeling, noise rules, prioritization, and LLM output.	Custom dimensions, dashboards, and queries.
Data access	Every view is a query and can be exposed as an API endpoint; MCP server.	APIs and query builder.

Kentik gaps

- Enrichment centers on flow dimensions.
- Free-form log and CLI data not interpreted.
- Network state replay for incidents not described.

Selector value

- Learned normalization: no parsing templates or rules to maintain.
- Raw records retained with original timestamps for replay and re-analysis.
- One enrichment layer applies topology, ownership, maintenance, and criticality to every signal.

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USE CASE 1: OBSERVABILITY

AI-Powered Operational Analytics

Both platforms apply analytics to network data. Kentik's strength is traffic and routing; Selector correlates traffic with logs, configuration, and application data.

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR	KENTIK
Anomaly detection	**Self-supervised, statistical, and regression models.** A model per time series, retrained every 30 minutes, with seasonality.	Traffic baselines and anomaly detection; DDoS detection.
Log analysis	**Small language models.** Log semantics interpreted, clustered across vendors, and turned into structured events.	**Not described.**
Prediction	**Forecasting and predictive models.** Capacity forecasting and optical transceiver failure prediction.	Capacity planning for links and peering. **Optical failure prediction not described.**
Cross-domain analysis	**One model across domains.** Correlation runs automatically across network, cloud, and application signals.	Across network, cloud, and internet paths.
Natural language	**Rosetta.** Plain-language questions answered with every claim linked to source data.	AI Advisor for network questions.

Kentik gaps

- Anomaly detection centers on traffic patterns.
- Cross-domain correlation with application and log data not described.
- Optical failure prediction not described.

Selector value

- Per-series models retrained every 30 minutes detect anomalies no threshold would catch.
- Automatic correlation across network, cloud, and application signals in one model.
- Optical failure prediction and capacity forecasting before impact.

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USE CASE 2: EVENT INTELLIGENCE

Event Correlation and Root Cause

Kentik provides deep traffic and routing evidence, but event correlation and root cause are largely engineer-driven. Selector correlates events and determines cause automatically.

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR	KENTIK
Inputs	Alerts and the raw telemetry, logs, flow, and configuration behind them, correlated together.	Kentik alerts on traffic, synthetic, and device data.
Correlation method	Contextual embeddings and clustering by shared devices, interfaces, IP addresses, topology, and time.	**Cross-source alert correlation not described.**
Noise reduction	Up to 99.9% of irrelevant noise removed before correlation.	Alert policy tuning.
Root cause	Deterministic causation from topology and domain logic: reboot, then link failure, then BGP flap.	Engineer-driven analysis with AI Advisor. **Causation model not described.**
Symptom vs. cause	Downstream effects labeled as consequences, not separate faults, across every domain.	**Not described in Kentik materials.**
Change correlation	Configuration diffs and change events correlated directly with degradation.	**Configuration change correlation not described.**
Evidence and replay	Every finding links to source data; Network DVR replays past network state.	Historical flow queries. **Network state replay not described.**

Selector example

The Loom agent resolved 214 alerts across six tools to a single fiber cut on one long-haul span, labeled routing reconvergence and cloud failover as consequences, and flagged the secondary path at 78% utilization as the next risk.

What Kentik shows

Kentik can show traffic shifting away from a failed long-haul path and BGP changes. Connecting those to one root cause and labeling the rest as consequences is left to the engineer.

Kentik gaps

- Alert-to-incident correlation and causation not core.
- Symptom-versus-cause labeling not described.
- Network state replay not described.

Selector value

- Alert floods collapse into one incident with a named cause, consequences, and next risk.
- Telemetry, logs, flow, and configuration correlated with alerts in one model.
- Every finding is traceable and reproducible with Network DVR.

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USE CASE 2: EVENT INTELLIGENCE

Agents, ITSM, and Governed Action

FUNCTION	SELECTOR FOUNDRY	KENTIK
Investigation	**Rosetta.** Interprets plain-language intent, dispatches agents across domains, returns one cited thread.	**AI Advisor.** Natural-language investigation of network data.
Correlation / RCA	**Loom.** Connects time, topology, changes, and domains into one incident with a root cause.	**Not described.**
ITSM	**TicketMaster.** Bi-directional ServiceNow sync across the lifecycle, with per-customer field mapping and incident-aware deduplication.	Notification and ticketing integrations.
Communications	**Herald.** Executive briefs, ops updates, and post-incident reports from the verified record.	Reports and summaries.
Custom agents	**Sculptor.** Turns a described playbook into a governed agent with goal, tools, triggers, and approval points.	**Not described.**
Action	Agents investigate, act, and verify within operator-set limits on high-confidence findings.	**Automated remediation not described.**
MCP	Production MCP server with OAuth2, granular RBAC over insights, recommendations, and actions.	**Not described.**
Deployment	SaaS, on-premises, customer cloud, or air-gapped.	SaaS.

Kentik gaps

- AI Advisor investigates; governed agents that act are not described.
- Customer-defined governed agents not described.
- ITSM lifecycle automation not described.

Selector value

- Sculptor builds governed agents from the team's own playbooks, acting only on verified findings.
- MCP server shares insights and governed actions with other agent platforms.
- Every Foundry agent is available now, in every deployment model.

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Functionality Gained with Selector

Capabilities a Kentik customer adds with Selector, whether Selector runs alongside Kentik or replaces it.

1. From traffic analytics to root cause

Flow and BGP evidence combined with telemetry, logs, configuration, and context, with a named root cause instead of engineer-driven analysis.

2. Deterministic diagnosis

Root cause comes from deterministic topology and domain models, so the same data yields the same answer.

3. Detection beyond thresholds

Per-series models retrained every 30 minutes find conditions no static threshold or rule would catch.

4. Streaming and routing depth

gNMI streaming telemetry and BMP/OBMP and IGP analytics from the customer's own devices, plus optical failure prediction.

5. Full-fidelity history

Raw data preserved with original timestamps; Network DVR replays past network state so findings can be verified and re-run.

6. No templates to maintain

Learned normalization infers structure across vendors and formats, replacing parsing rules and custom collection scripts.

7. Your playbooks as agents

Sculptor turns the team's own runbooks into governed agents with approved tools, triggers, approval points, and audit.

8. Governed action through MCP

Selector's MCP server exposes insights, recommendations, and actions to other agent platforms under OAuth2 and RBAC.

9. Custom outcomes with engineers

Forward deployed engineers build integrations, data models, views, and agents on the customer's own data.

10. No rip-and-replace

Selector deploys alongside Kentik and ingests from existing tools and APIs, adding causal root cause and governed agents above them.

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Selector Patents Driving Innovation

The techniques that define the Selector platform are covered by Selector's U.S. patent portfolio. Patent records are available on request.

CAPABILITY	WHAT SELECTOR'S PATENTED APPROACH DELIVERS
Root Cause Analysis	Deterministic causation across every domain.
Reproducible Investigations	Network DVR replays network state so an investigation can be re-run.
Log Intelligence	Structured signal from any vendor's syslog without parsing templates.
Conversational Investigation	Learns each customer's names for sites, services, and devices without manual labeling.
Custom Outcomes on Demand	Declarative query chains for drill-downs and customer-specific views.
Operational Context	Maintenance-window-aware alerting and reporting.
Optical Failure Prediction	Flags failing optics before they cause an outage.
Capacity Planning	Forecasts capacity limits before they affect services.
Scale	Efficient storage and querying of millions of data points per minute.

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Selector vs. Kentik at a Glance

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR	KENTIK
OBSERVABILITY		
Data Collection	Any vendor, including gNMI, BMP/IGP, flow, config, and file sources, in one pipeline.	Strong flow, BGP, cloud, synthetics.
Normalization	Learned schema inference; ELT raw preservation.	Flow enrichment.
Detection	Per-series models retrained every 30 minutes.	Traffic anomaly detection.
Cross-Domain Analysis	Automatic correlation in one model.	Network, cloud, internet.
EVENT INTELLIGENCE		
Correlation	Alerts plus the raw telemetry behind them.	Not core.
Root Cause	Deterministic causation with symptom labeling.	Engineer-driven with AI Advisor.
Reproducibility	Network DVR replay; source-linked evidence.	Flow history.
Custom Agents	Sculptor builds governed agents from playbooks.	Not described.
MCP	Server for insights, recommendations, and governed actions.	Not described.
Deployment	SaaS, on-premises, or air-gapped.	SaaS.

The Bottom Line

Kentik is a leading network traffic analytics platform with high-scale flow, BGP, cloud network, and synthetic visibility.

Selector is built for a different starting point. It correlates traffic with telemetry, configuration, logs, and context in one model, determines cause automatically, and puts governed agents on top, including agents built from your own playbooks.

30 min	99.9%	8x
Model retraining cycle	Noise reduction	Faster resolution per P1

See Selector on your own data

Request a Demo

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