SELECTOR

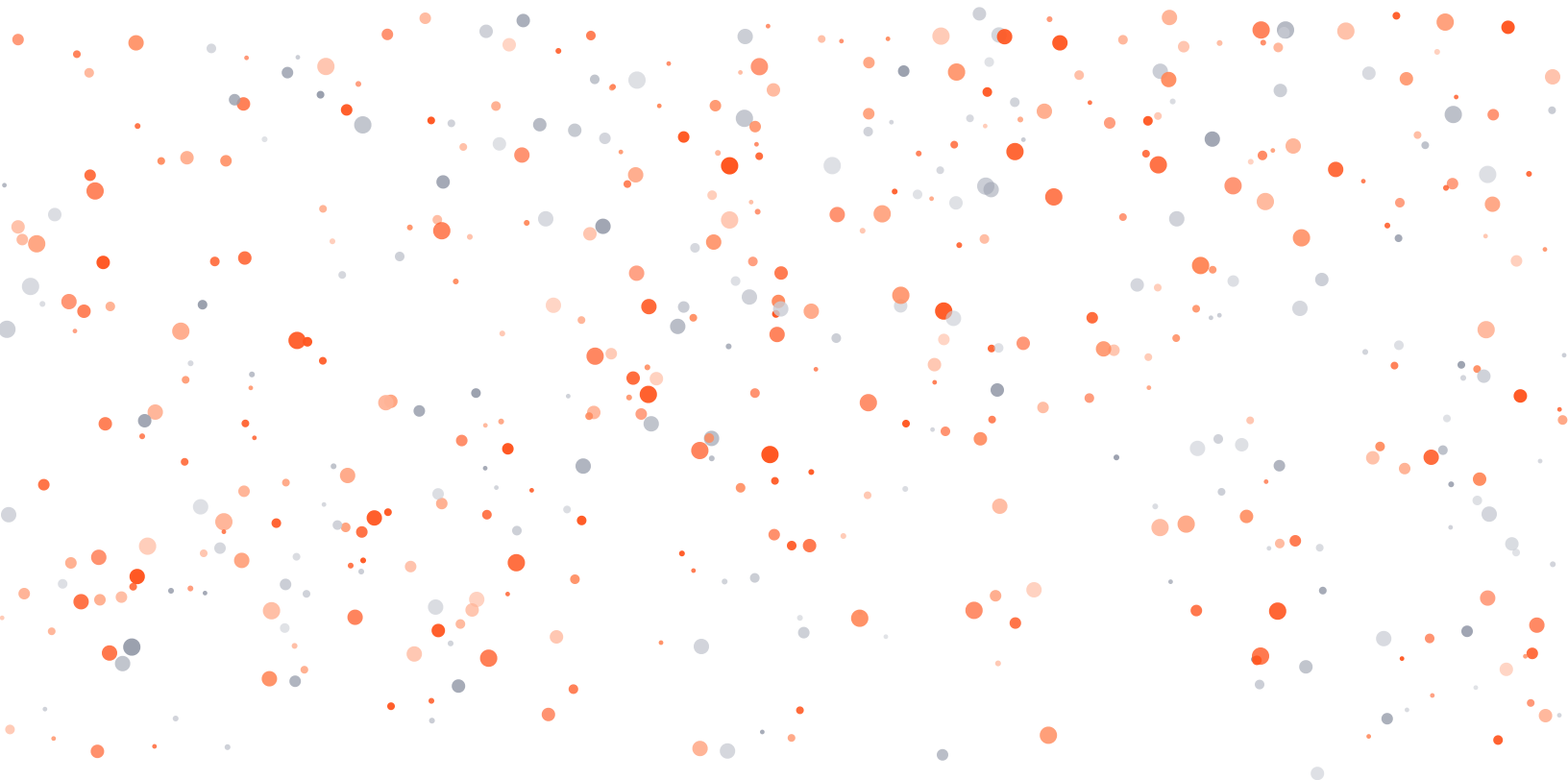
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Technical Comparison

Selector **vs.** SolarWinds

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. SolarWinds delivers observability through a portfolio of products on the SolarWinds Platform, including Network Performance Monitor, NetFlow Traffic Analyzer, Network Configuration Manager, and Server and Application Monitor, available self-hosted or as SaaS. Incident Response, the AI Agent, SW1, and the new Avior agentic system add correlation and action on top.

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.

SolarWinds

Avior and SW1	Goal-oriented agentic system; governed AI identity; AI Agent in Observability SaaS.
Incident Response	Alert deduplication, grouping, suppression, enrichment, on-call, status communication.
Correlation views	PerfStack, Orion Maps, node dependencies, Observability SaaS entity views.
Domain products	NPM, NTA, NCM, IPAM, SAM, VMAN, DPA, Observability SaaS.
Collection	Polling engines, agents, and templates per product; OpenTelemetry in SaaS.
Sources	Network, server, application, database, cloud, and third-party alert integrations.

Where SolarWinds falls short architecturally:

- **A portfolio, not one data model:** network, flow, configuration, application, and incident data live in separate products. Cross-domain correlation relies on PerfStack views, node dependencies, and the new Avior layer. Selector normalizes every source into one model before analysis.
- **Deterministic execution, probabilistic diagnosis:** Avior grounds probabilistic models in a fixed framework of goals and approvals that governs how actions run. Selector applies deterministic topology and domain models to the diagnosis itself.
- **Template-driven collection, summarized history:** pollers, templates, and custom pollers define what is collected, and detail data is summarized over time per retention settings. Selector learns structure from data and preserves raw records for replay.

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USE CASE 1: OBSERVABILITY

Multivendor Data Collection

SolarWinds has deep network monitoring heritage, with strong flow, configuration, topology, and path analysis. Selector adds streaming telemetry, BMP routing analytics, and context sources with no API, collected into one pipeline rather than separate products.

DATA TYPE	SELECTOR	SOLARWINDS
Metrics	SNMP, gNMI and model-driven streaming telemetry, Prometheus-compatible sources, REST APIs.	SNMP, WMI, API, and agent polling across NPM, SAM, and VMAN; OpenTelemetry in Observability SaaS. **Native gNMI streaming not described.**
Logs	Syslog from any device, infrastructure, or application, structured by ML; Splunk, Logstash, TACACS.	Log management in Observability SaaS; Security Event Manager; Kiwi Syslog Server.
Flow	NetFlow, sFlow, IPFIX from devices or collectors, enriched with application, owner, and criticality.	NetFlow Traffic Analyzer: NetFlow, sFlow, J-Flow, IPFIX, and NBAR2 application visibility.
Routing	BGP, BMP/OBMP, and IGP state ingested from customer devices.	BGP, OSPF, and EIGRP neighbor and route-table monitoring through SNMP in NPM. **BMP ingestion not described.**
Configuration	Running and intended config via NETCONF and CLI; drift correlated with impact.	Network Configuration Manager: backup, change detection, compliance, and rollback; Avior restores last-known-good configurations.
Topology	From SNMP, CDP/LLDP, configuration, and telemetry, across all vendors; digital twin.	Orion Maps and Network Topology Mapper with CDP/LLDP discovery; NetPath hop-by-hop path analysis.
Context	ServiceNow CMDB, NetBox, Nautobot, Infoblox; owner, site, circuit, criticality.	IP Address Manager; Service Desk CMDB and asset management; custom properties.
Hybrid & multicloud	AWS, Azure, Google Cloud APIs, flow logs, transit gateways, VPCs, correlated with on-prem.	AWS, Azure, and Kubernetes monitoring in Observability SaaS and Self-Hosted.
Digital experience	ICMP and UDP probes, ThousandEyes, traceroute, custom tests.	Synthetic, real-user, and website monitoring in Observability SaaS.
Files / streams	Kafka, CSV, Excel, Google Sheets.	**Not described in SolarWinds materials.**

SolarWinds gaps

- No native gNMI or model-driven streaming telemetry described.
- BMP ingestion not described; routing visibility comes from SNMP neighbor and route-table polling.
- Each product collects through its own pollers and templates, so data lands in separate stores.

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 from every source before any model runs. SolarWinds structures data per product through templates and pollers, and enriches alerts as they reach Incident Response.

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR DATA HYPERVISOR	SOLARWINDS
Schema inference	ML infers structure from free-form logs, syslog, traps, and CLI output; no parsing templates.	Application templates, Universal Device Pollers, and configuration templates define collection and parsing. **ML schema inference not described.**
Entity resolution	Named-entity and clustering models group events across vendor and format variations.	Nodes, interfaces, and applications modeled per product on the SolarWinds Platform; entity views in Observability SaaS.
Enrichment	Topology, dependency, owner, site, maintenance state, and criticality added before analysis.	Custom properties, node dependencies, and Incident Response enrichment with services, change history, and dependencies.
Data fidelity	ELT: raw data lands with original timestamps; transformation follows.	Polled detail data summarized into hourly and daily data per retention settings. **Raw-data replay of network state not described.**
Noise suppression	Duplicate, flapping, and irrelevant signals removed before the intelligence layer.	Alert conditions, baseline thresholds, dependency-based suppression, and Incident Response deduplication and suppression rules.
Business logic	Maintenance windows, provider notices, suppression, and criticality in YAML via DevOps workflows.	Alert rules, maintenance mode, and suppression rules configured per product.
Customization	S2ML tunes enrichment, labeling, noise rules, prioritization, and LLM output.	Custom pollers, SAM templates, NCM scripts, and SWQL queries.
Data access	Every view is a query and can be exposed as an API endpoint; MCP server.	SolarWinds Information Service API and SWQL; product dashboards and PerfStack.

SolarWinds gaps

- Structure depends on templates and custom pollers that need maintenance as vendors and formats change.
- Detail data is summarized over time, limiting precise reconstruction of past incidents.
- Enrichment and suppression are configured separately in each product.

Selector value

- Learned normalization: no parsing templates or custom pollers 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

Selector models every time series and log stream individually and correlates across domains automatically. SolarWinds detects issues primarily through thresholds and baselines in each product, with PerfStack for manual cross-domain analysis.

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR	SOLARWINDS
Anomaly detection	**Self-supervised, statistical, and regression models.** A model per time series, retrained every 30 minutes, with seasonality.	Static and baseline-calculated thresholds in self-hosted products; anomaly-based alerting in Observability SaaS.
Log analysis	**Small language models.** Log semantics interpreted, clustered across vendors, and turned into structured events.	Log search, filtering, and alerting in Observability SaaS; event correlation rules in Security Event Manager.
Prediction	**Forecasting and predictive models.** Capacity forecasting and optical transceiver failure prediction.	Capacity forecasting in NPM and VMAN. **Optical failure prediction not described.**
Cross-domain analysis	**One model across domains.** Correlation runs automatically across network, cloud, and application signals.	PerfStack lets engineers overlay metrics from multiple products on one timeline for manual correlation.
Natural language	**Rosetta.** Plain-language questions answered with every claim linked to source data.	SolarWinds AI Agent in Observability SaaS and SW1 across SaaS and self-hosted environments.

SolarWinds gaps

- Detection centers on static and baseline thresholds per product; per-series learned models for every metric are not described.
- Cross-domain correlation in PerfStack is engineer-driven.
- 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

SolarWinds combines rule-based alert grouping in Incident Response, dependency-based suppression in NPM, and Avior's new alert merging. Selector correlates alerts together with the telemetry behind them and determines cause, not just grouping.

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR	SOLARWINDS
Inputs	Alerts and the raw telemetry, logs, flow, and configuration behind them, correlated together.	SolarWinds product alerts plus alerts from third-party monitoring, cloud, APM, and log tools through Incident Response integrations.
Correlation method	Contextual embeddings and clustering by shared devices, interfaces, IP addresses, topology, and time.	Deduplication, grouping, and suppression rules in Incident Response; node dependencies in NPM; Avior merges related alerts into one incident.
Noise reduction	Up to 99.9% of irrelevant noise removed before correlation.	Deduplication and suppression rules; AI-generated summaries and automatic categorization.
Root cause	Deterministic causation from topology and domain logic: reboot, then link failure, then BGP flap.	Parent-child node dependencies mark downstream nodes unreachable; AI Agent assists diagnosis. **Causation model not described.**
Symptom vs. cause	Downstream effects labeled as consequences, not separate faults, across every domain.	Rule-based node dependencies suppress downstream network alerts. **Cross-domain consequence labeling not described.**
Change correlation	Configuration diffs and change events correlated directly with degradation.	NCM change detection and Incident Response change history attached to alerts.
Evidence and replay	Every finding links to source data; Network DVR replays past network state.	PerfStack historical views on summarized data; Avior logs every action. **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 determinism means in each

SolarWinds describes Avior as grounding probabilistic models in deterministic execution: fixed goals and approvals govern how actions run. In Selector, the diagnosis itself is deterministic: the same data produces the same root cause.

SolarWinds gaps

- Grouping is rule- and dependency-based; a cross-domain causation model is not described.
- Correlation operates on alerts from separate products rather than one model of the underlying telemetry.
- Network state replay is not described; history is summarized over time.

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	SOLARWINDS
Investigation	**Rosetta.** Interprets plain-language intent, dispatches agents across domains, returns one cited thread.	**AI Agent and SW1.** Conversational diagnostics and a governed AI identity across the SolarWinds stack.
Correlation / RCA	**Loom.** Connects time, topology, changes, and domains into one incident with a root cause.	**Avior.** Merges related alerts into a single incident; Incident Response groups and enriches alerts.
ITSM	**TicketMaster.** Bi-directional ServiceNow sync across the lifecycle, with per-customer field mapping and incident-aware deduplication.	Native SolarWinds Service Desk; ITSM integrations through Incident Response.
Communications	**Herald.** Executive briefs, ops updates, and post-incident reports from the verified record.	Incident Response status pages, stakeholder communication, and AI-generated summaries.
Custom agents	**Sculptor.** Turns a described playbook into a governed agent with goal, tools, triggers, and approval points.	Avior works from predefined goals; SW1 applies customer-defined guardrails. **Building new customer agents from playbooks not described.**
Action	Agents investigate, act, and verify within operator-set limits on high-confidence findings.	Avior restores configurations, snapshots running configs, and retires stale assets, with risk-tiered autonomy, approvals, and rollback; Incident Response runbooks.
MCP	Production MCP server with OAuth2, granular RBAC over insights, recommendations, and actions.	Avior reaches third-party systems through MCP. **An MCP server exposing SolarWinds insights not described.**
Deployment	SaaS, on-premises, customer cloud, or air-gapped.	SaaS and self-hosted; Avior available through a guided onboarding program since October 2026.

SolarWinds gaps

- Avior's goals are predefined by SolarWinds; turning the customer's own playbooks into new agents is not described.
- Avior acts on alerts and inventory, not on a deterministic cross-domain root cause.
- Avior is newly available through guided onboarding.

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 SolarWinds customer adds with Selector, whether Selector runs alongside SolarWinds or replaces it.

1. One model across the estate

Signals from NPM, NTA, NCM, SAM, cloud, and non-SolarWinds sources correlated automatically in one model, instead of across separate products and PerfStack views.

2. Deterministic diagnosis

Root cause comes from deterministic topology and domain models, so the same data yields the same answer, not only governed execution.

3. Detection beyond baselines

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

4. Streaming and routing depth

gNMI streaming telemetry and BMP/OBMP routing 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 instead of summarized history.

6. No templates to maintain

Learned normalization infers structure across vendors and formats, replacing custom pollers and parsing templates.

7. Your playbooks as agents

Sculptor turns the team's own runbooks into governed agents, rather than working only from predefined vendor goals.

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 ingests from SolarWinds, so teams add causal root cause and governed agents above existing monitoring.

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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. SolarWinds at a Glance

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR	SOLARWINDS
OBSERVABILITY		
Data Collection	Any vendor, including gNMI, BMP/IGP, flow, config, and file sources, in one pipeline.	Deep network monitoring across NPM, NTA, NCM, and SAM; SaaS and self-hosted.
Normalization	Learned schema inference; ELT raw preservation.	Template- and poller-based collection; summarized history.
Detection	Per-series models retrained every 30 minutes.	Static and baseline thresholds; anomaly alerting in SaaS.
Cross-Domain Analysis	Automatic correlation in one model.	PerfStack for engineer-driven correlation.
EVENT INTELLIGENCE		
Correlation	Alerts plus the raw telemetry behind them.	Rule-based grouping, node dependencies, and Avior alert merging.
Root Cause	Deterministic causation with symptom labeling.	Dependency-based suppression; AI-assisted diagnosis.
Reproducibility	Network DVR replay; source-linked evidence.	Summarized history; Avior action logs.
Custom Agents	Sculptor builds governed agents from playbooks.	Avior predefined goals; SW1 guardrails.
MCP	Server for insights, recommendations, and governed actions.	Avior uses MCP to reach third-party systems.
Deployment	SaaS, on-premises, or air-gapped.	SaaS and self-hosted.

The Bottom Line

SolarWinds is an established IT management and observability vendor with deep network monitoring, configuration management, and flow analysis, delivered self-hosted or as SaaS, and now adding agentic AI through SW1 and Avior.

Selector is built for a different starting point. It collects raw telemetry and context from every vendor into one model, preserves it at full fidelity, determines cause rather than grouping alerts, and puts governed agents on top, including agents built from your own playbooks. Because Selector ingests from SolarWinds, teams can add it without replacing existing monitoring.

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

See Selector on your own data

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