ClearPath MSP
ClearWatch

COMPARISON GUIDE

from ClearPath MSP

CLEARWATCH COMPARISON GUIDE · DATTO RMM

Secure by design. Signed by default.

Datto leads with security, scripts and patching. ClearWatch signs every command a machine runs, and proves its automation and patching worked.

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2026 LENGTH 7 PAGES COMPARES CLEARWATCH AND DATTO RMM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Security you can check on every machine

Datto RMM calls itself the market leader, built with a relentless focus on security, with hundreds of free scripts, patch deployment and built-in ransomware detection. Its security story is about how Datto builds its software; its agent key signs what the agent sends, not the jobs it is told to run.

ClearWatch carries security to the machine itself: every command is signed by a separate authority and checked before it runs, scripts carry sealed secrets and run under approved rules, patching proves it worked, and the security tools you chose show on every device.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Signed by default:** every command checked against a separate authority's signature.
- **Scripts with guard rails:** variables, sealed secrets and approved rules.
- **Patching with proof:** install rounds, the lockdown read back, every restart owed.
- **Your security stack:** SentinelOne, Intune and backup on each device.

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WHO THIS IS FOR

IT teams and MSPs running Datto RMM today, or choosing between the two.

AT A GLANCE

DATTO'S CLAIMS
Answered
Security, scripts, patching, ransomware.

EVERY COMMAND SIGNED
ClearWatch only
Datto's key signs agent data, not jobs.

SECRETS IN SCRIPTS
Sealed
A secret variable is withheld after the run.

INCLUDED IN CLEARWATCH
Everything here
No add-ons and no second product.

01 SCRIPTS

DATTO RMM SAYS

“hundreds of free scripts from the ComStore”

DATTO.COM/PRODUCTS/RMM/FEATURES, NOVEMBER 2026

Components take text, date, yes-or-no and selection variables. Datto publishes nothing on signing a script or approving a job before it runs.

Scripts with guard rails

ClearWatch's script library takes variables too, including a secret type Datto's components lack, read on the machine as CW_ values (1). A secret is sealed on the run and withheld once it finishes (2).

Schedules and self-healing run scripts only within rules a person approved, each signed by the command authority, and AI assistants can draft a script into the same library.

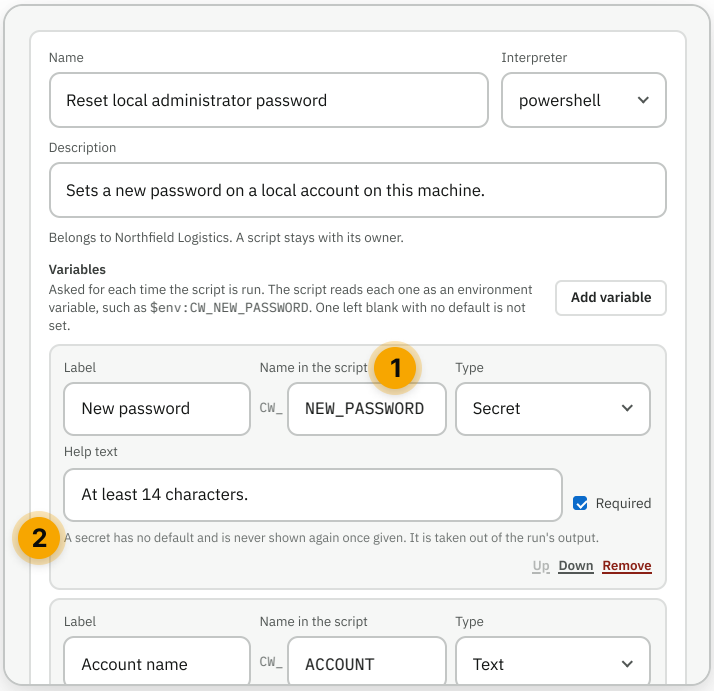


FIGURE 1 Scripts, Library: a client's script open in Edit, with a secret variable and a text variable, rebuilt with demo data.

Automation, side by side

CAPABILITY	CLEARWATCH	DATTO RMM
Self-healing A fix runs and rechecks while the alert is held.	**Restart or script, then page**	Fix runs, alert not held
Diagnosis before the page A playbook runs first; the alert carries cause, evidence and fix.	**Cause and fix attached**	Script output in alert
Inherited custom fields Values flow down to devices, lockable, with secrets from a vault.	**Lockable, vault secrets**	Variables only
AI assistants (MCP) Claude, ChatGPT and others, each as the person signed in.	**Each person's own sign-in**	Alpha, API key, runs jobs
API and webhooks A public REST API and outbound webhooks.	**REST API and webhooks**	Included

02 PATCHING

DATTO RMM SAYS

“deploy the latest patches to secure systems”

DATTO.COM/PRODUCTS/RMM, NOVEMBER 2026

Datto's patch monitors cover Windows. Policy-based third-party patching covers a short fixed list; the full catalog is the paid Advanced Software Management add-on.

Deployed is not the same as done

ClearWatch patches Windows and third-party apps from the winget catalog by policy, then checks its own work. An update that needs a second pass gets one in the same window, up to five rounds 3 .

The Windows Update lockdown is read back from each machine rather than assumed 2 , and every restart a machine owes is recorded with the update that needs it and when it happened 1 .

Linux patching works too, across the Debian, Red Hat and SUSE families, under the same policies.

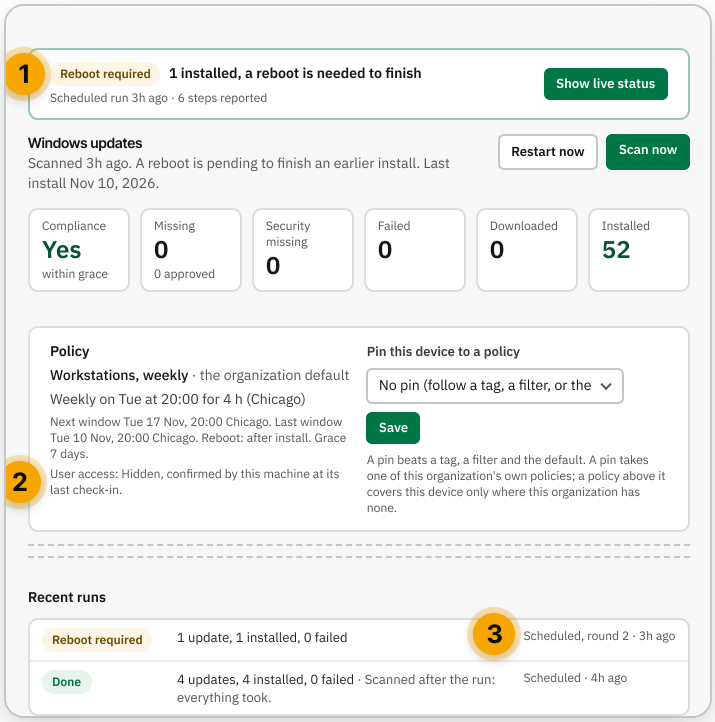


FIGURE 2 A workstation's Patches tab: the restart it still owes, the lockdown it reports back, and each install round. The update list is left out to fit.

Patching, side by side

CAPABILITY	CLEARWATCH	DATTO RMM
Windows and third-party apps Windows Update and third-party apps, patched by policy.	✓ **Windows Update plus winget**	⊕ Full catalog paid
Linux patching Approved Linux updates installed by policy, each result recorded.	✓ **Debian, Red Hat, SUSE**	◑ Script, not policy
Several install rounds per window Updates that need a second pass get one in the same window.	✓ **Up to five passes**	⊖ Not documented
Update lockdown verified The Windows Update lockdown is read back from each machine.	✓ **Read back per machine**	◑ Set, not verified
Owed-restart ledger Each restart owed, which update needs it, and when it happened.	✓ **Owed, why, and done**	◑ Reboot monitor

03 RANSOMWARE

DATTO RMM SAYS

“built-in ransomware detection to help you monitor and respond”

DATTO.COM/PRODUCTS/RMM, NOVEMBER 2026

Windows only, and it needs Datto's Ransomware Detection or Datto EDR switched on for the account, a paid add-on.

Your security tools, on every device

ClearWatch doesn't sell you another antivirus. It reads the protection you already chose and puts it on the device it protects: each machine's SentinelOne agent and threats 1, its Intune compliance 2, its Veeam, Cove or Proxmox Backup job 3.

A machine missing its SentinelOne agent, or its backup, stands out instead of hiding in a second console.

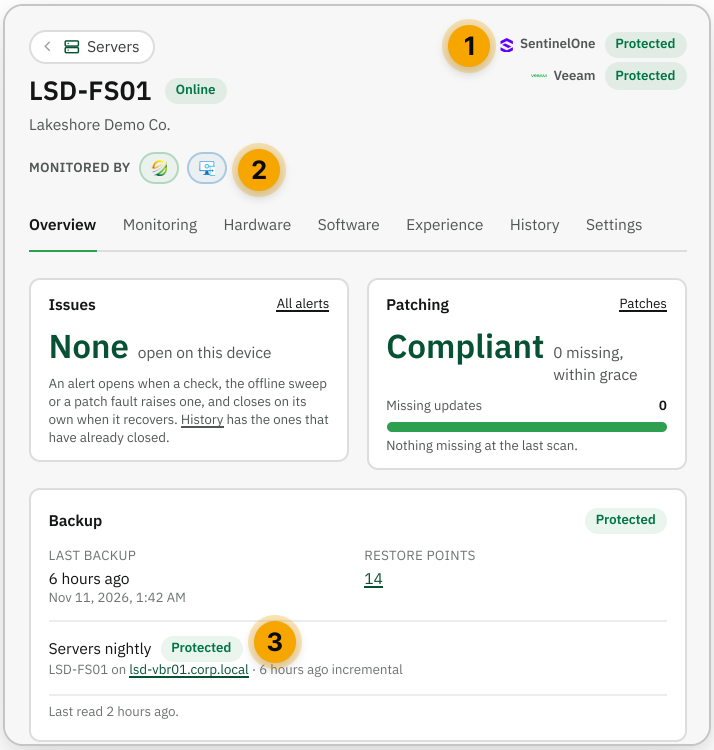


FIGURE 3 One server, three vendors' answers: SentinelOne and Veeam on the title row, Intune under Monitored by, the Veeam job on the Backup card.

Your stack, read in

CAPABILITY	CLEARWATCH	DATTO RMM
SentinelOne Agents, threats and machines missing SentinelOne.	✓ **Threats and coverage gaps**	◑ AV status only
Microsoft Intune Import devices, deploy the agent, read BitLocker keys.	✓ **Import, deploy, BitLocker keys**	◑ No BitLocker keys
Backup status per device Each protected machine matched to its device, with alerts.	✓ **Mapped to each device**	⊕ Datto backup only
Multi-vendor backup view Several backup vendors' jobs on one dashboard.	✓ **Veeam, Cove, Proxmox Backup** More vendors in development	⊖ Datto only; others by script
Password vault Credentials the RMM uses are read live from Keeper.	✓ **Keeper, read live**	⊖ Not documented

04 NETWORK

A map you can work from

Datto's help calls its map solely a visual representation. Ours is built from device reports.

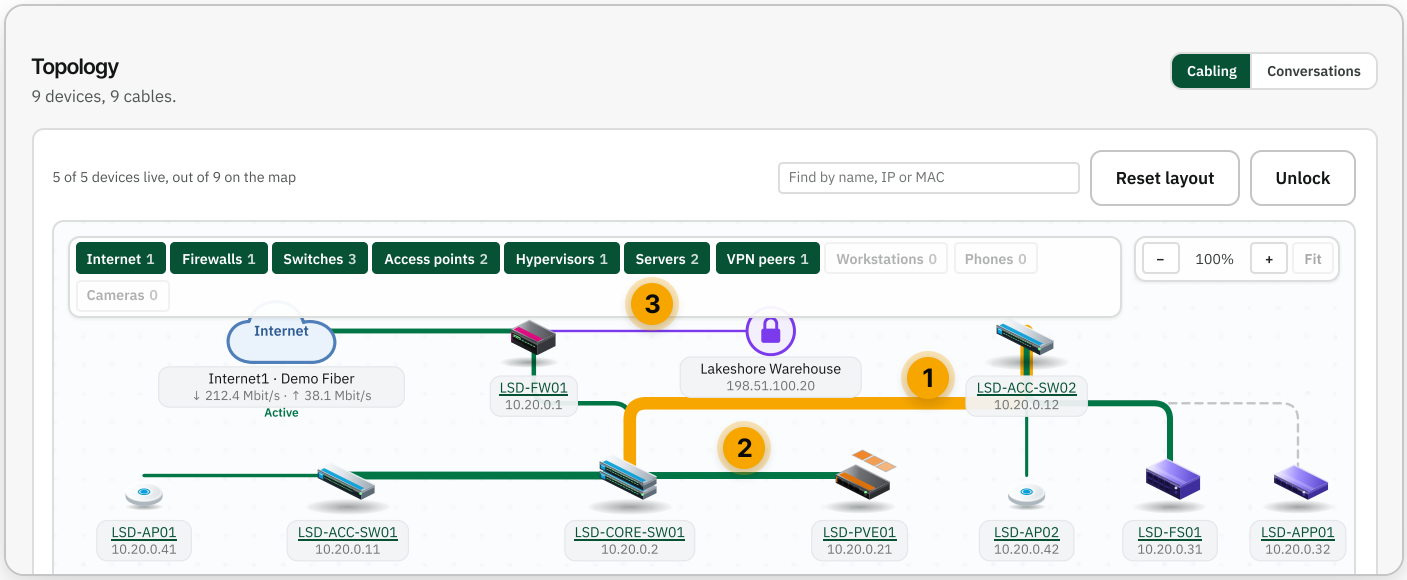


FIGURE 4 Topology, Cabling view: cables drawn from neighbor data, thicker the busier (1), an LACP link (2), a VPN tunnel (3).

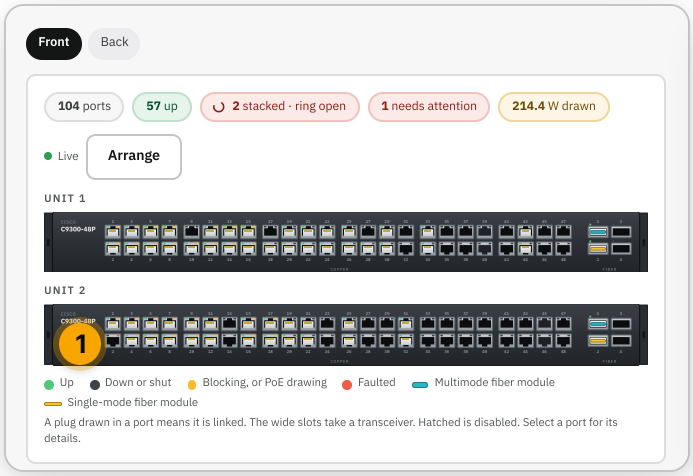


FIGURE 5 Ports, Front: link, PoE and modules per member.

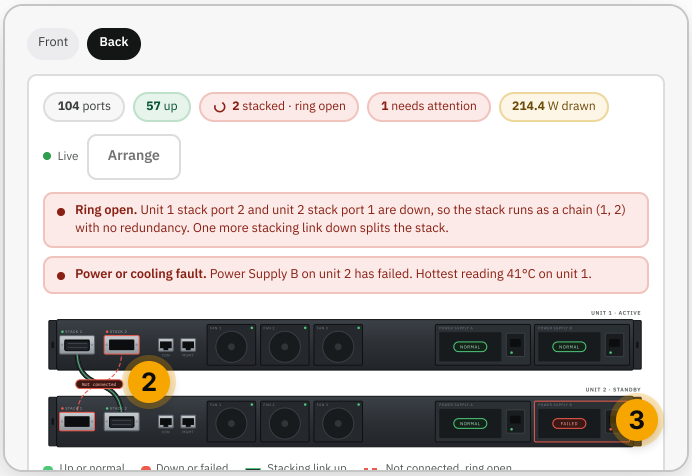


FIGURE 6 Ports, Back: stacking cables, power and fans.

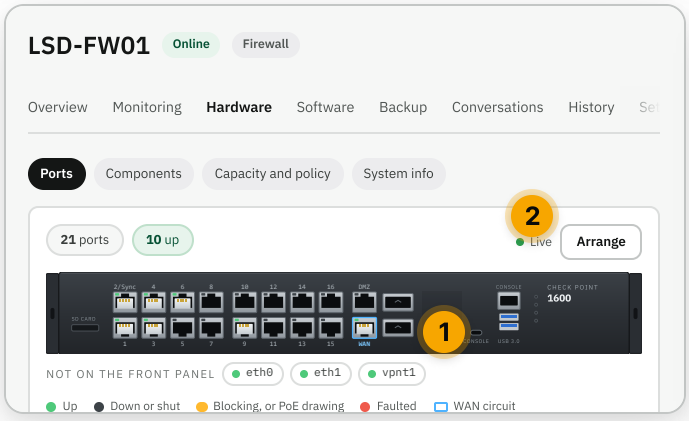


FIGURE 7 LSD-FW01, a Check Point 1600: each socket's link, on its own front.

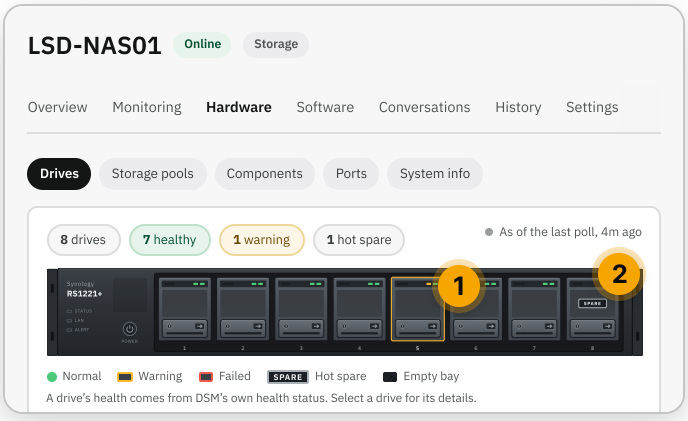


FIGURE 8 LSD-NAS01, a Synology RS1221+: each drive in its bay, one in Warning.

05 EVERY COMMAND SIGNED

> DATTO RMM SAYS
> **"created with a relentless focus on security."**
> DATTO.COM/PRODUCTS/RMM, NOVEMBER 2026

A machine acts only on a signed command

An RMM can run anything on every machine it manages, which makes it the most valuable thing an attacker can reach. ClearWatch takes the power to command machines away from the console itself.

CLEARWATCH CONSOLE
A person asks
Run a script, open a session, install updates, uninstall an agent.

→

COMMAND AUTHORITY
Checked, then signed
A separate service checks that person's own approved permission, then signs with a key held in a hardware security module.

→

THE MACHINE
Verified, or refused
The agent checks the signature against keys built into it, and refuses anything unsigned.

WHAT IT COVERS

- **Everything that changes a machine:** scripts, remote control, the terminal, patch installs, uninstalls and protection settings.
- **A key that never leaves its hardware:** held in a hardware security module, apart from the console's servers.
- **Refused when unsigned:** new agents enforce from the first day.
- **Permissions checked twice:** a raise counts only once another administrator signs it off. Nobody raises themselves.
- **Automation under approved rules:** schedules, self-healing and patch windows run only within rules a person approved.
- **Sessions signed too:** each remote control window and terminal signs its own input.

What Datto RMM documents

Datto's security assessment (BSIMM) rates how it develops software. Each agent has its own key, used to sign the data the agent sends, and FIPS mode is opt-in. Datto does not document signing the jobs it sends, a separate signing authority, or an agent refusing unsigned instructions, and its own Intune install script runs the installer unchecked.

Every action accounted for

CAPABILITY	CLEARWATCH	DATTO RMM
Every command signed A separate authority signs each action; the agent refuses anything unsigned.	✓ **Separate authority, HSM key**	◑ Agent data signed, not jobs
Audited before it runs An action that cannot be logged first is refused.	✓ **Refused if not logged**	◑ Logged after
Installers verify the signer Every install script checks the agent's signature first.	✓ **Every install script**	⊖ Intune script: no check
Agent tamper protection No uninstall without a code from the console, set per client.	✓ **Uninstall code, per client**	◑ Uninstall hidden by script
Client-controlled access A client can refuse or withdraw a provider's access.	✓ **Client can refuse**	⊖ MSP-controlled

06 SIDE BY SIDE

Datto RMM and ClearWatch: all 40 capabilities

Included · Partial · Add-on · Not offered or not documented

CAPABILITY	CW	DATTO RMM
Quiet onboarding baseline	✓	Maintenance mode only
Diagnosis before the page	✓	Script output in alert
Knows when data stops	✓	Offline, no-result alerts
Checks only where they apply	✓	Manual filters
Outage-first routing	✓	Priorities, no escalation
End-user experience score	✓	Not documented
Agentless with failover	✓	Manual reassignment
Switch config history	✓	Not documented
Browser SSH to devices	✓	Windows app only
Cabling topology map	✓	Map, no bandwidth or LACP
Switch front and back views	✓	SNMP device types only
Storage drive-bay view	✓	Generic SNMP only
Built-in IPAM	✓	Discovery subnets only
Controllers and cameras	✓	Generic SNMP only
Windows and third-party apps	✓	Full catalog paid
Linux patching	✓	Script, not policy
Several install rounds per window	✓	Not documented
Owed-restart ledger	✓	Reboot monitor
Self-healing	✓	Fix runs, alert not held
Inherited custom fields	✓	Variables only

CAPABILITY	CW	DATTO RMM
Every command signed	✓	Agent data signed, not jobs
Audited before it runs	✓	Logged after
Update lockdown verified	✓	Set, not verified
Installers verify the signer	✓	Intune script: no check
Agent tamper protection	✓	Uninstall hidden by script
Remote control	✓	Included
Recording by client policy	✓	Recording not documented
Support without an agent	✓	OnDemand agent, Windows only
Searchable terminal recordings	✓	Activity log only
Multi-vendor backup view	✓	Datto only; others by script
Backup status per device	✓	Datto backup only
SentinelOne	✓	AV status only
Microsoft Intune	✓	No BitLocker keys
Password vault	✓	Not documented
Client-controlled access	✓	MSP-controlled
AI assistants (MCP)	✓	Alpha, API key, runs jobs
API and webhooks	✓	Included
Incident paging	✓	Generic webhooks
Co-managed IT	✓	Included
Help on every page	✓	Help menu

How we compared. Each vendor's own public documentation, release notes, product and pricing pages, checked October and November 2026; quotes are from Datto RMM's own pages as of November 2026. Included means it does what ClearWatch does, in the RMM itself, at no extra license; Partial covers part of it; Add-on needs a separately licensed product or tier; Not documented means we found no public documentation, not that the vendor cannot do it. Every cell is backed by a source, available on request. Screens are rebuilt from the ClearWatch console with demo data.

Running Datto RMM today?

Start a free trial, or ask us to walk you through ClearWatch on your own devices.

clearwatch.com

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