ClearPath MSP
ClearWatch

COMPARISON GUIDE

from ClearPath MSP

CLEARWATCH COMPARISON GUIDE · N-ABLE N-CENTRAL

Flexible, without the build-out.

N-able sells N-central on near limitless flexibility, built-in AI and the deepest integrations. ClearWatch gives you the flexibility already built, and signs every command.

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2026 LENGTH 8 PAGES COMPARES CLEARWATCH AND N-ABLE N-CENTRAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Unmatched flexibility, already built

N-able leads with flexibility: the rules, filters, service templates and custom properties it now calls Infinity Core. It adds an AI assistant, security-led patching, and integrations that are mostly N-able's own products, each sold separately.

ClearWatch starts with the build-out done. Checks attach themselves where they apply, every alert arrives with its cause, patching proves it worked, your own tools are read in, and every command a machine runs is checked against a signature from a separate authority.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Flexible, already built:** checks attach by detected role, service and platform.
- **AI on every alert:** the cause and the fix arrive with the page, no chat needed.
- **Your stack, read in:** Veeam, Cove, SentinelOne and Intune on each device.
- **Every command signed:** a separate authority signs it, and each machine checks.

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WHO THIS IS FOR

IT teams and MSPs running N-able N-central today, or choosing between the two.

AT A GLANCE

N-CENTRAL'S CLAIMS
Answered
Flexibility, AI, security, integrations.

EVERY COMMAND SIGNED
ClearWatch only
By a separate authority, checked on every machine.

FILTERS TO BUILD FIRST
None
Checks attach where they apply.

LINUX PATCHING
Working today
N-central's is still in preview.

01 FLEXIBILITY

N-ABLE N-CENTRAL SAYS

“N-central delivers near limitless flexibility with our unique Infinity Core.”

N-ABLE.COM/PRODUCTS/N-CENTRAL-RMM, NOVEMBER 2026

Infinity Core is N-central's rules, filters, service templates and custom properties: powerful, and built by the MSP. Property values are pushed down; none can be locked.

The flexibility, without the build-out

ClearWatch keeps the control and does the building. A template attaches a check only where it applies, decided from the detected platform, installed services and server roles, so there are no filters to write first.

Custom fields inherit down from the organization to each device (1), can be locked at a level (2), and a secret field can be read live from a Keeper record instead of being stored (3).

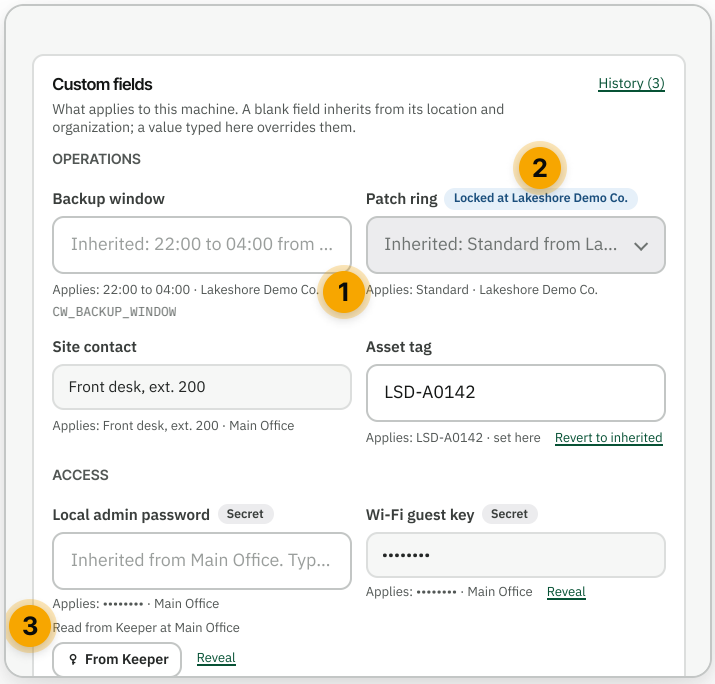


FIGURE 1 A workstation's custom fields: a value inherited from the organization, one locked there, and a password read live from a Keeper record at its office.

Configuration, side by side

CAPABILITY	CLEARWATCH	N-ABLE N-CENTRAL
Checks only where they apply Checks attach by detected platform, service and role. No filters.	✓ **By role, service, platform**	◑ Rules need filters
Inherited custom fields Values flow down to devices, lockable, with secrets from a vault.	✓ **Lockable, vault secrets**	◑ Pushed down, no lock
Quiet onboarding baseline A new client learns what is normal before anyone is paged.	✓ **14-day learning period**	⊖ No learning period
Knows when data stops Each check that stops, gaps or is misconfigured is flagged on its own.	✓ **Missing, gaps, misconfigured**	◑ Stale state, no gaps
Outage-first routing Outages and heads-ups route apart, with an optional daily budget.	✓ **Outage lanes, daily budget**	◑ Escalation, no lanes

02 AI

> N-ABLE N-CENTRAL SAYS
>
> **“N-central is the only endpoint management solution with AI woven directly into the platform.”**
>
> N-ABLE.COM/PRODUCTS/N-CENTRAL-RMM, NOVEMBER 2026
>
> N-zo is a chat assistant that answers when a technician asks. N-able's MCP server can run scripts, signed in with a pasted API token.

Answers that arrive with the alert, not when you ask

ClearWatch's answer comes without a question. Every failing check runs a diagnostic playbook first, and the page carries the cause 1 , the evidence 2 and the fix 3 .

AI assistants such as Claude and ChatGPT connect through ClearWatch's MCP server, each signed in as the person using it, with that person's own permissions and audit trail.

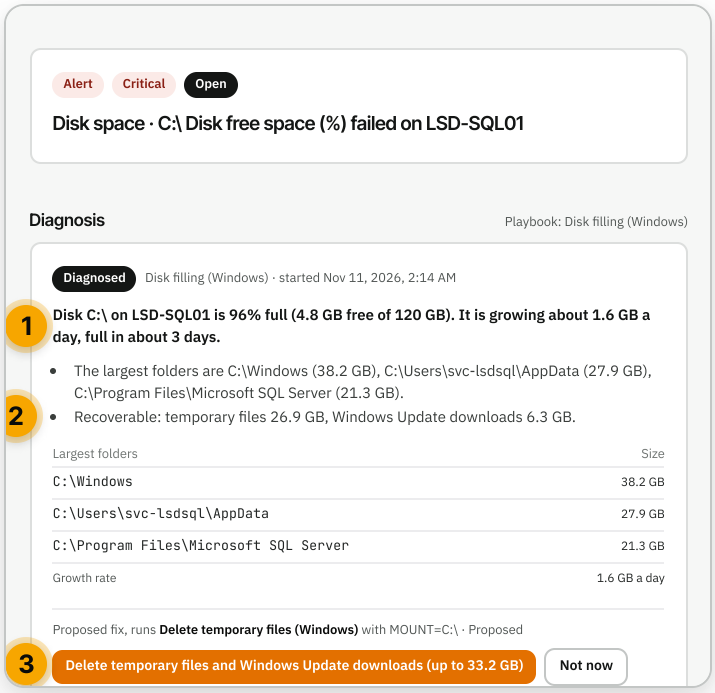


FIGURE 2 An issue on a demo SQL server as it arrives: the cause ClearWatch's playbook worked out, the evidence it read on the machine, and the fix it proposes, run only by a person's press.

From alert to answer

CAPABILITY	CLEARWATCH	N-ABLE N-CENTRAL
Diagnosis before the page A playbook runs first; the alert carries cause, evidence and fix.	✓ **Cause and fix attached**	⊖ N-zo on request, not alert
AI assistants (MCP) Claude, ChatGPT and others, each as the person signed in.	✓ **Each person's own sign-in**	◑ Token, not OAuth
Self-healing A fix runs and rechecks while the alert is held.	✓ **Restart or script, then page**	✓ Professional license
API and webhooks A public REST API and outbound webhooks.	✓ **REST API and webhooks**	◑ No webhooks
Help on every page How-to videos and guides inside the console.	✓ **How-to videos in console**	◑ No videos

03 PATCHING

N-ABLE N-CENTRAL SAYS

> **“will reduce the patching window from days to minutes.”**
>
> N-ABLE PRESS RELEASE, OCTOBER 27, 2026
>
> N-central patches Windows and over 340 third-party apps from N-able's own catalog. Its roadmap lists Linux patching as in preview.

Fast is good. Proven is better.

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 .

And Linux patching works today, across the Debian, Red Hat and SUSE families: approved updates install by policy through each family's own package manager, and each package's result is recorded.

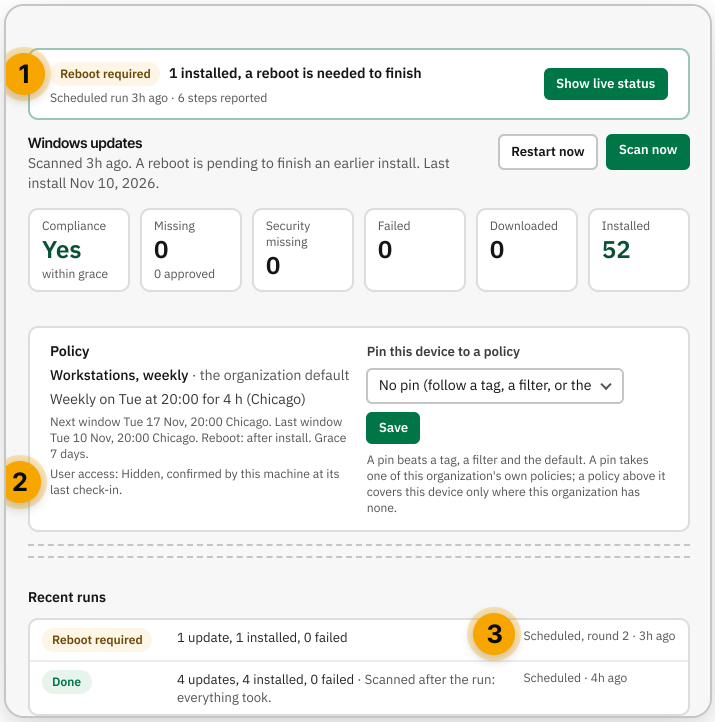


FIGURE 3 A workstation's Patches tab: the restart it still owes, the lockdown it reports back, and each install round. The update list is left out to fit.

Patching, side by side

CAPABILITY	CLEARWATCH	N-ABLE N-CENTRAL
Windows and third-party apps Windows Update and third-party apps, patched by policy.	✓ **Windows Update plus winget**	◑ Own catalog, 340+ apps
Linux patching Approved Linux updates installed by policy, each result recorded.	✓ **Debian, Red Hat, SUSE**	◑ In preview
Several install rounds per window Updates that need a second pass get one in the same window.	✓ **Up to five passes**	⊖ One pass
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**	◑ Flag, no ledger

04 INTEGRATIONS

> N-ABLE N-CENTRAL SAYS
>
> **“The deepest integrations in the industry.”**
>
> N-ABLE.COM/PRODUCTS/N-CENTRAL-RMM, NOVEMBER 2026
>
> The deepest are N-able's own products, each sold separately: Take Control for remote access, Cove for backup, N-able EDR and Passportal.

Deep integrations, with the tools you chose

ClearWatch reads the products you already run and puts them on the device they protect: each machine's Veeam, Cove or Proxmox Backup job 3, its SentinelOne agent and threats 1, its Intune compliance 2.

Remote control, session recording and one-time support codes are part of ClearWatch itself, under the same roles and audit log as everything else.

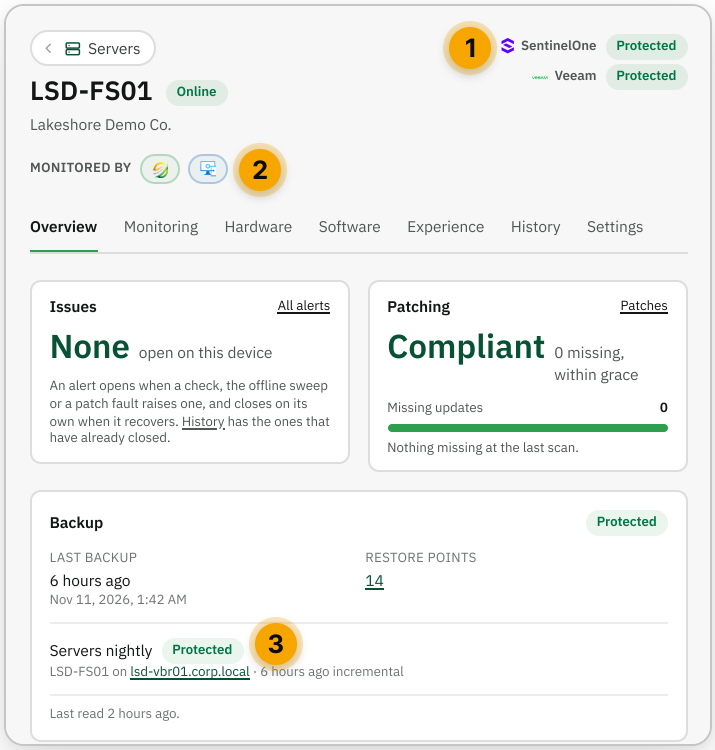


FIGURE 4 One server, three vendors' answers: SentinelOne and Veeam on the title row, Intune under Monitored by, the Veeam job on the Backup card.

Products and integrations

CAPABILITY	CLEARWATCH	N-ABLE N-CENTRAL
Remote control Full remote control in the RMM itself, no second product.	✓ **Included**	◑ Take Control, separate
Recording by client policy Each client sets session recording on, off or enforced.	✓ **On, off or enforced**	◑ Manual, saved locally
Support without an agent A one-time code reaches a machine with no agent installed.	✓ **One-time code, Windows**	⊕ Standalone Take Control
Backup status per device Each protected machine matched to its device, with alerts.	✓ **Mapped to each device**	◑ Per job, not machine
SentinelOne Agents, threats and machines missing SentinelOne.	✓ **Threats and coverage gaps**	⊕ N-able EDR

05 COMPLEX NETWORKS

Complex networks, drawn as they are

N-central scans for network devices and watches them over SNMP. ClearWatch draws them.

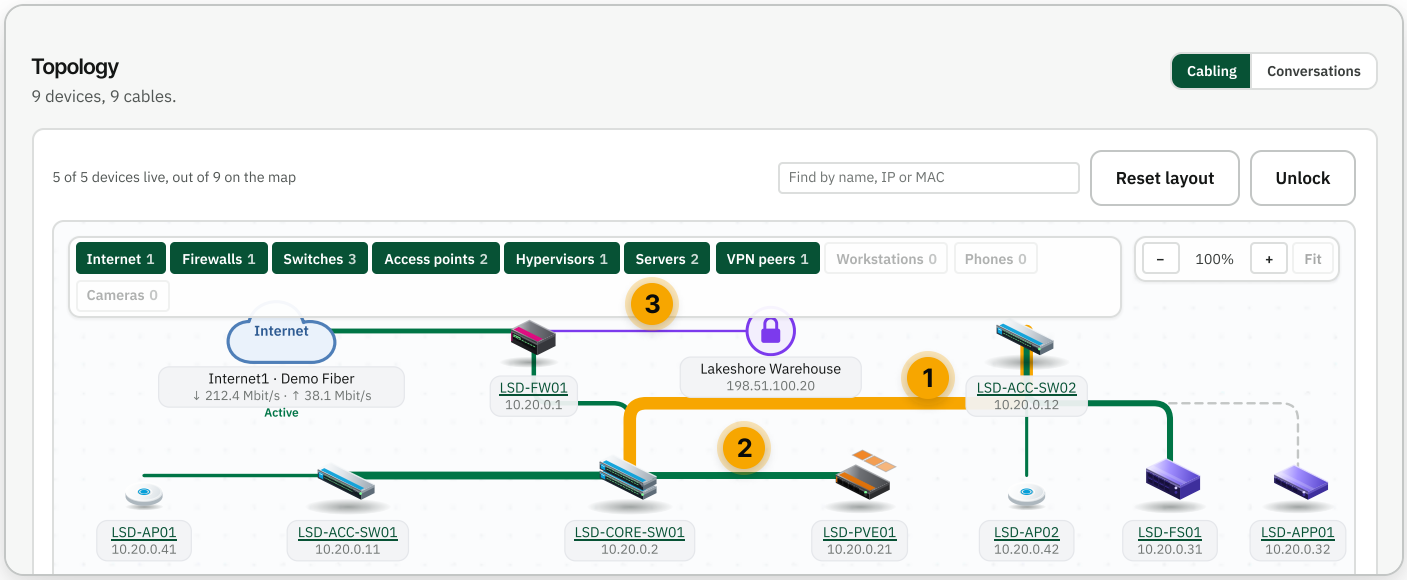


FIGURE 5 Topology, Cabling view: cables drawn from neighbor data, thicker the busier (1), an LACP link (2), a VPN tunnel (3).

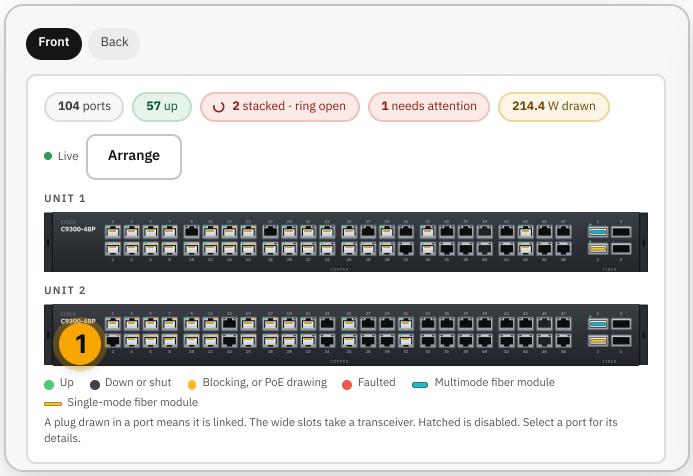


FIGURE 6 Ports, Front: link, PoE and modules per member.

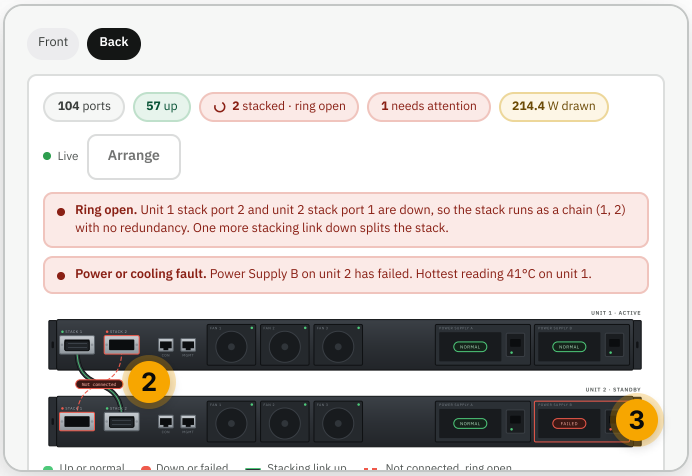


FIGURE 7 Ports, Back: stacking cables, power and fans.

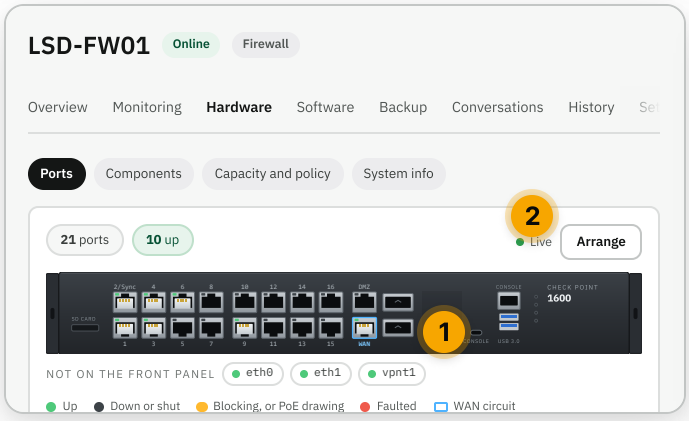


FIGURE 8 LSD-FW01, a Check Point 1600: each socket's link, on its own front.

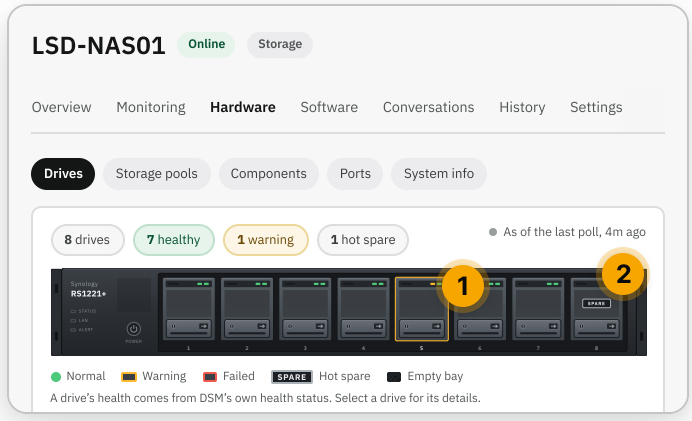


FIGURE 9 LSD-NAS01, a Synology RS1221+: each drive in its bay, one in Warning.

06 EVERY COMMAND SIGNED

N-ABLE N-CENTRAL SAYS
"Not just keep up, but stay ahead."
N-ABLE.COM/PRODUCTS/N-CENTRAL-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 N-able N-central documents

N-central signs remote control input with keys made for each session, and requires MFA at sign-in. It publishes nothing that signs scripts or tasks with a key held apart from its platform, or has an agent refuse unsigned work, and protection against uninstalling the agent is still on its roadmap.

Every action accounted for

CAPABILITY	CLEARWATCH	N-ABLE N-CENTRAL
Every command signed A separate authority signs each action; the agent refuses anything unsigned.	✓ **Separate authority, HSM key**	⊖ Remote input only signed
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**	⊖ Not documented
Agent tamper protection No uninstall without a code from the console, set per client.	✓ **Uninstall code, per client**	⊖ On roadmap
Client-controlled access A client can refuse or withdraw a provider's access.	✓ **Client can refuse**	⊖ MSP-controlled

07 SIDE BY SIDE

N-central and ClearWatch: all 40 capabilities

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

CAPABILITY	CW	N-CENTRAL
Quiet onboarding baseline	✓	No learning period
Diagnosis before the page	✓	N-zo on request, not alert
Knows when data stops	✓	Stale state, no gaps
Checks only where they apply	✓	Rules need filters
Outage-first routing	✓	Escalation, no lanes
End-user experience score	✓	No score
Agentless with failover	✓	One probe, no failover
Switch config history	✓	Not documented
Browser SSH to devices	✓	Requires Java
Cabling topology map	✓	Retired by N-able
Switch front and back views	✓	Per-port services only
Storage drive-bay view	✓	Drive checks, no bay view
Built-in IPAM	✓	DHCP checks only
Controllers and cameras	✓	Meraki only
Windows and third-party apps	✓	Own catalog, 340+ apps
Linux patching	✓	In preview
Several install rounds per window	✓	One pass
Owed-restart ledger	✓	Flag, no ledger
Self-healing	✓	Professional license
Inherited custom fields	✓	Pushed down, no lock

CAPABILITY	CW	N-CENTRAL
Every command signed	✓	Remote input only signed
Audited before it runs	✓	Logged after
Update lockdown verified	✓	Set, not verified
Installers verify the signer	✓	Not documented
Agent tamper protection	✓	On roadmap
Remote control	✓	Take Control, separate
Recording by client policy	✓	Manual, saved locally
Support without an agent	✓	Standalone Take Control
Searchable terminal recordings	✓	Text history only
Multi-vendor backup view	✓	Veeam and Cove checks
Backup status per device	✓	Per job, not machine
SentinelOne	✓	N-able EDR
Microsoft Intune	✓	Import and deploy
Password vault	✓	Asset sync only
Client-controlled access	✓	MSP-controlled
AI assistants (MCP)	✓	Token, not OAuth
API and webhooks	✓	No webhooks
Incident paging	✓	Through email
Co-managed IT	✓	Included
Help on every page	✓	No videos

How we compared. Each vendor's own public documentation, release notes, product and pricing pages, checked October and November 2026; quotes are from N-able N-central'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 N-central today?

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

clearwatch.com

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