

# AusCERT Remote Monitoring

---

We're pleased to introduce an exciting new service, exclusive to AusCERT members – the AusCERT Remote Monitoring service, or ARM for short. This service was created in response to the demand by AusCERT members for a trusted, inexpensive mechanism to inform them of server and service outages due to equipment failure, network interruption or intruder activity.

## **What does ARM do?**

ARM, at its core, performs uptime monitoring on public Internet facing hosts and services. By performing network connectivity tests using standard Internet protocols like ICMP, ARM will know if and when a host becomes unresponsive. And ARM never sleeps, so you can! However, ARM is more than just an uptime monitor...

## *True service monitoring*

What if your web site was to become non-functional, even though it remains connected? ARM can perform a *true* service test to check that your application is, in fact, operational, with a correct TCP banner. The difference between this and a basic connectivity test is that the basic test won't tell you if a service has failed.

## *Defacement notices*

You may be aware that AusCERT regularly passes information to its members about defaced web pages on their site. Now, ARM can routinely compare a 'known good' version of specified pages from your web site with what is currently public and alert you of any changes. You will need to ensure that an unchanging component on your site is available for comparison, but that's all.

## *Name server changes*

Unauthorized changes to name server records for your site can have a devastating impact on your site, as intended visitors are redirected to somewhere not in your control. ARM will regularly verify that your site's DNS entry and mail exchange (MX) record have not changed.

## **What does ARM cost?**

The basic ARM service is free to AusCERT subscribers. You may configure up to 25 hosts with ten tests each (there are five distinct tests available, but you may have multiple services on a host), with alerting covered by email. SMS messaging quota can be purchased separately.

## **OK, I'm interested – what do I do next?**

Visit the AusCERT website at <https://www.auscert.org.au/arm> for more information about ARM registration.