Currently I'm running a nice lab in my home office and wanted to evaluate a few new virtual appliances. With this in mind I stumbled over Netcordia. They provide a 30 days evaluation virtual appliance and promise to be set up within 30 minutes. So, I wanted to see that?

The product from Netcordia is called NetMRI and is a network management product focused on Network Configuration and Change Management.
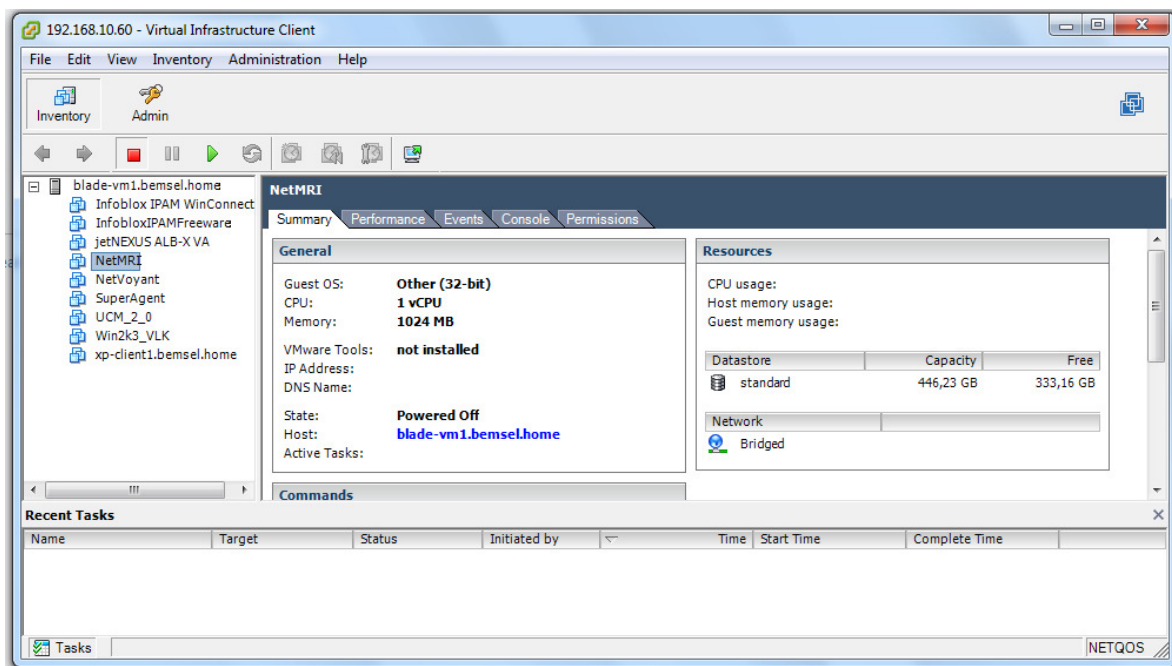
I've downloaded the 30 day full functionality virtual appliance from www.netcordia.com/eval and imported the unzipped file into my VMWare Server 2.x

1. Unpack the Virtual Appliance ZIP archive
I'm sure you know how to unzip the archive

2. Import the Virtual Appliance
If you need support on how to import a virtual appliance into VMWare, please consult your VMWare specific user manuals.
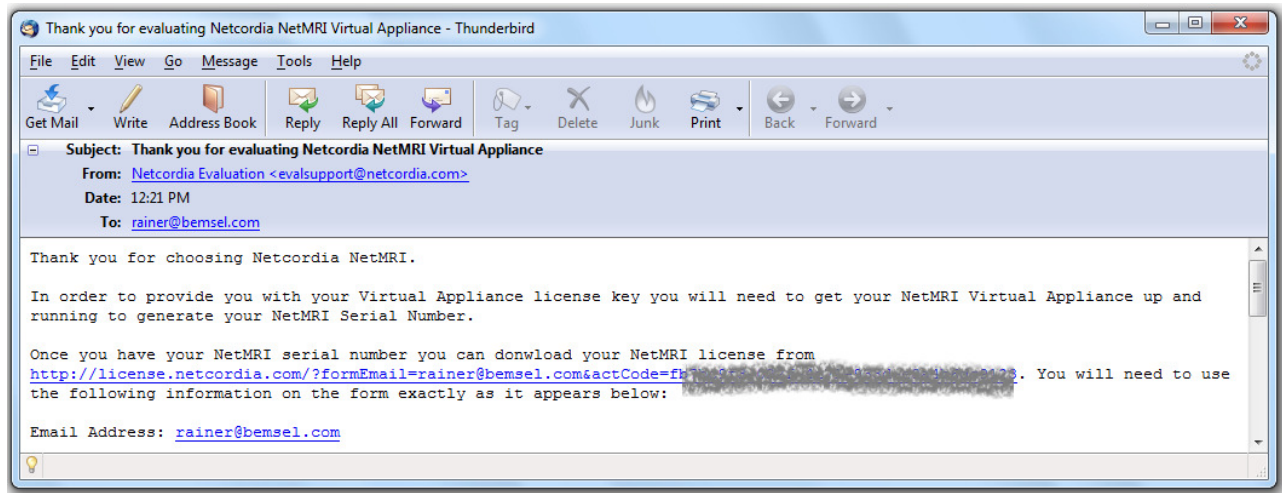
Before you start, make sure you have received the license information from Netcordia.

3. Import and run the Virtual Appliance

The first time running, will ask you about accepting license agreement. After you have accepted the license agreement, the initial script will setup the database, install scripts, etc. This will take some minutes. (took on my vmware engine 12 minutes).
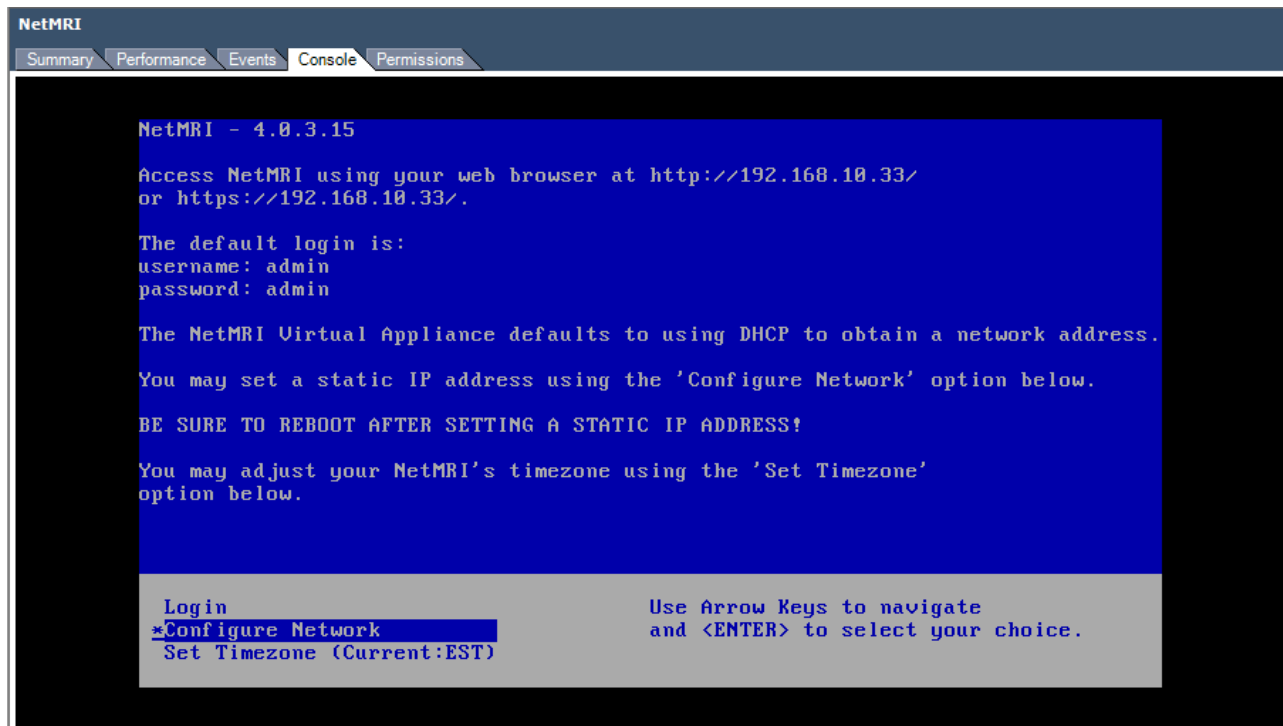
4. Configure Network

Use this small sheet to prepare your entries

	My entries	Your entries
IP Address	192.168.10.5	
Netmask	255.255.255.0	
Gateway	192.168.10.254	
DNS Server 1	192.168.10.60	
DNS Server 2	192.168.10.254	
Hostname	netcordia.bemsel.home	
Proxy Server	none	

After changing those entries you have to reboot the appliance by login into the console and type "reboot". It would be a good idea to change the local time zone, as well.

That's pretty much everything need to the initial setup. However, I did get following error message, which I couldn't interpret the first time.

So I started "setup" from the console and added some more details, like network got the server rebooted and did get into business after all.

5 more steps to go, and the system will start to discover your network.
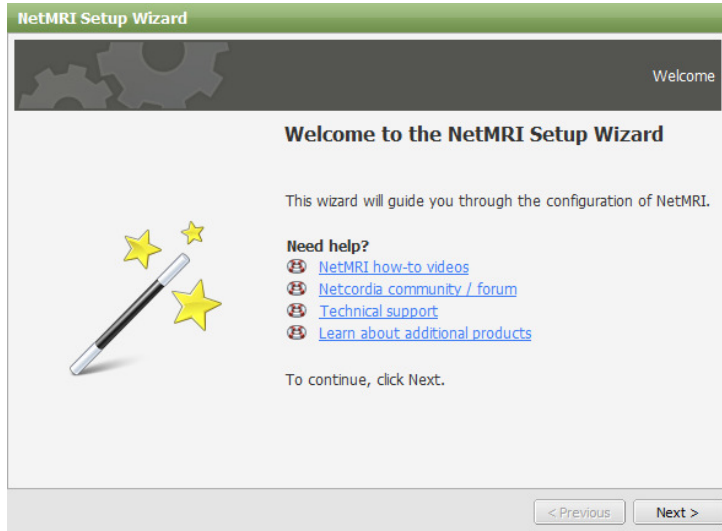
First, you have to set a admin password

If you requested the license file yet, now it needs to be done. After the system has generated the license file, you should receive it via email.

On the next page, there is my first **hint** for newbies ☺
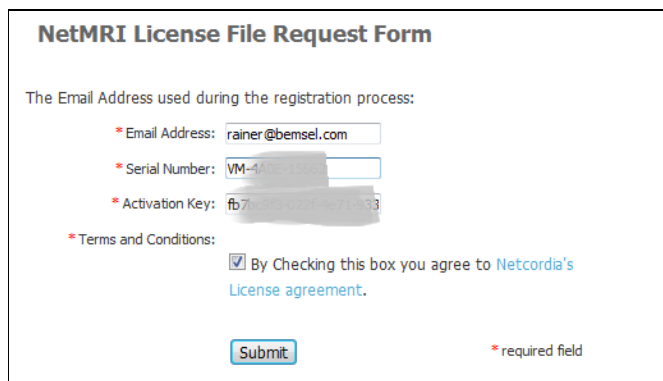
HINT: How to obtain Serial Number?

Login into the console and run the command "**show version**"

```
netcordia > show version

NetMRI Version    :      4.0.3.15
Serial Number     :      VM-4Axx-xxxx
Network Name      :      Home-Network
Server Name       :      netcordia

netcordia >
```

With your email, there is a URL string to request the license file. Click on the per email provided URL
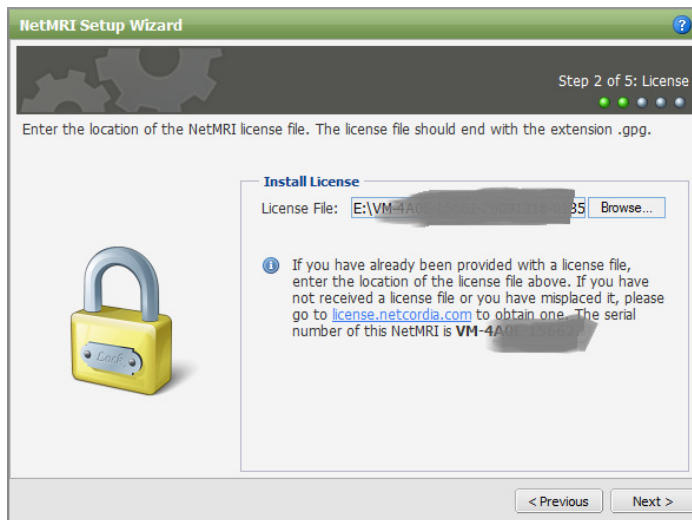
NetMRI License File Request Form

The Email Address used during the registration process:

* Email Address: rainer@bemsel.com

* Serial Number: VM-4

* Activation Key: fb7

* Terms and Conditions:

☑ By Checking this box you agree to Netcordia's License agreement.

Submit   * required field

After receiving the License File via email, save it locally, so you can attach on Step 2 of the SetupWizard

NetMRI Setup Wizard

Step 2 of 5: License

Enter the location of the NetMRI license file. The license file should end with the extension .gpg.
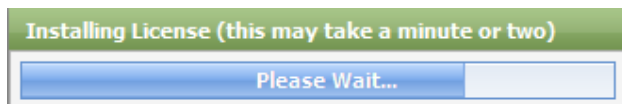
Install License

License File: E:\VM-4A...   35   Browse...

ⓘ If you have already been provided with a license file, enter the location of the license file above. If you have not received a license file or you have misplaced it, please go to license.netcordia.com to obtain one. The serial number of this NetMRI is **VM-4A...**

< Previous   Next >

This will take one or more minutes. Just take an espresso and keep going in a few moments

Installing License (this may take a minute or two)
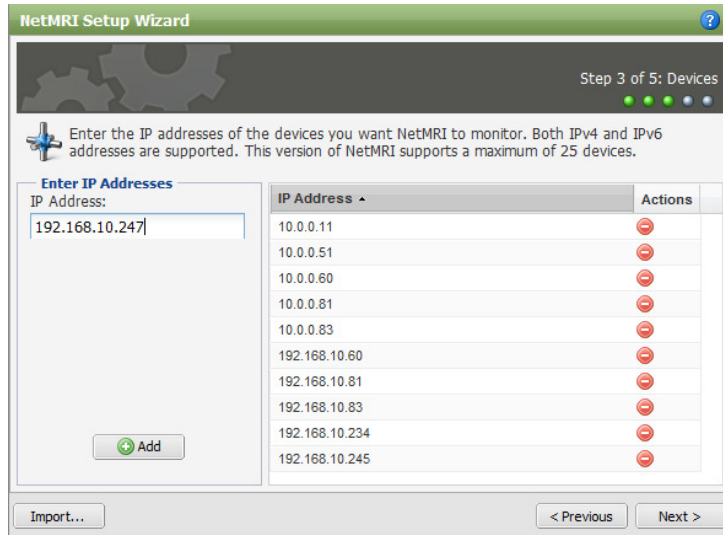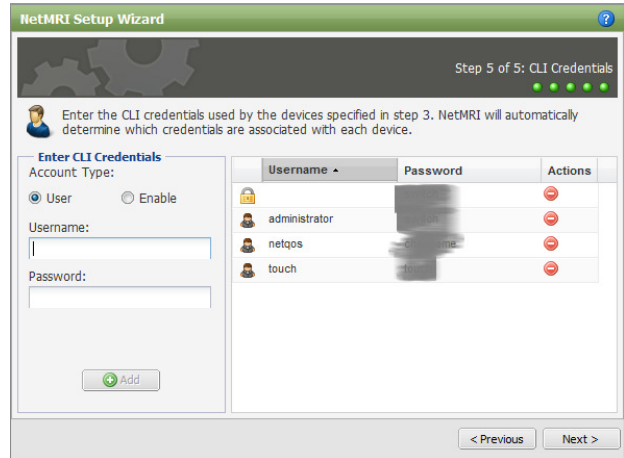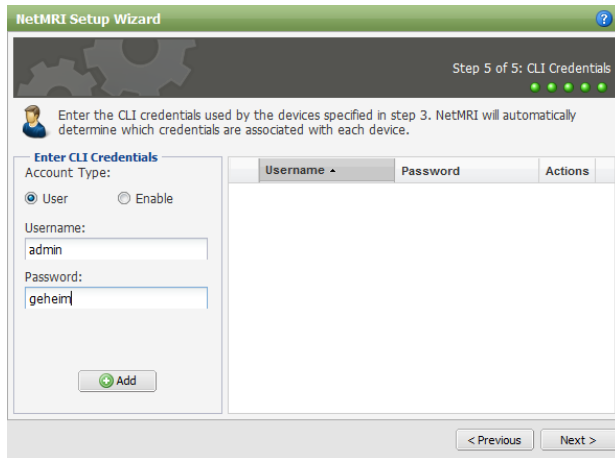
Please Wait...

With that, you can start to enter up to 25 IP Addresses with this version.
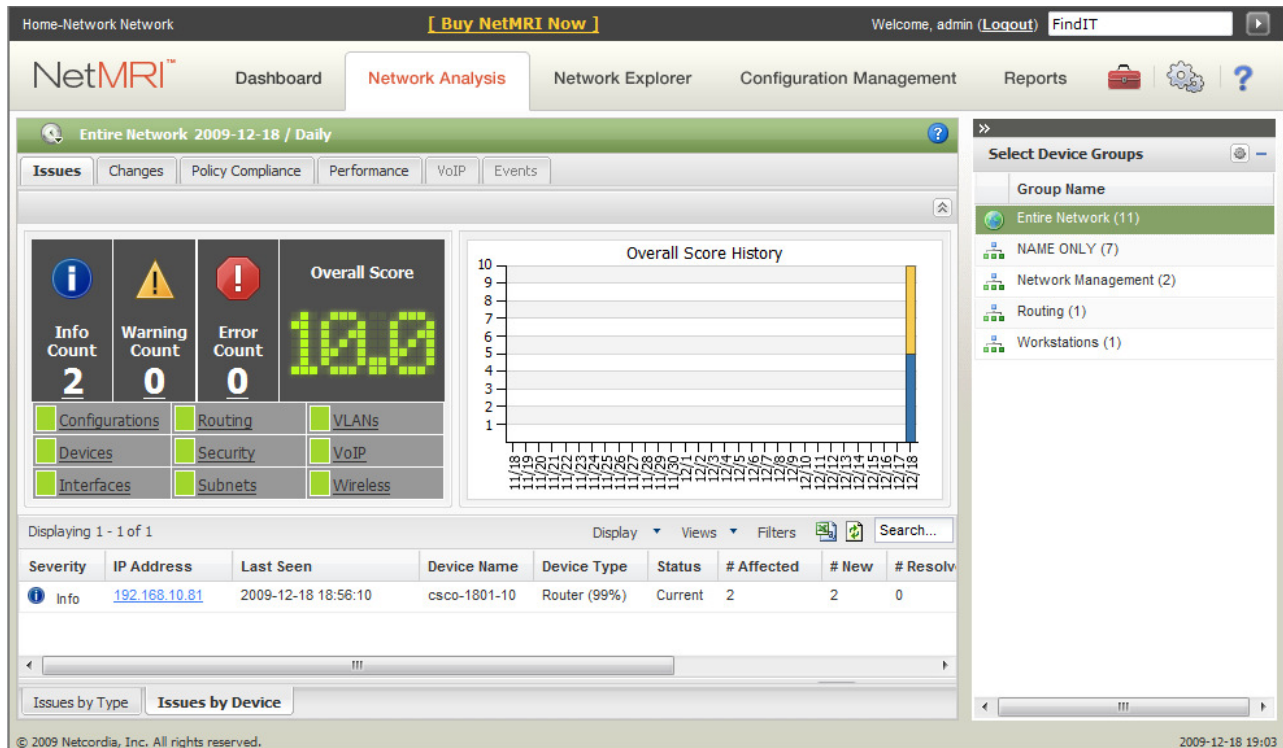

Add all community strings, you may use with above IP Addresses.

Finally, you need to add login credentials

Let the automatic discovery process run for a while.

So far there is anything done, to get a first scan on your network. There are many more things to be done to really get a feeling about the value. Personally, I like the change management as it does also store configurations, etc…