Automation Change Manager

MINIMIZE RELIANCE ON MANUAL PROCESSES AND REDUCE RISK OF HUMAN ERROR

Too often, the most experienced and busiest network managers are forced to perform mundane, repetitive, manual tasks because the IT team is afraid someone less experienced will break something or disrupt operations. These tasks typically require digging through CLI information or cobbling together Perl scripts — time-consuming and labor-intensive work.
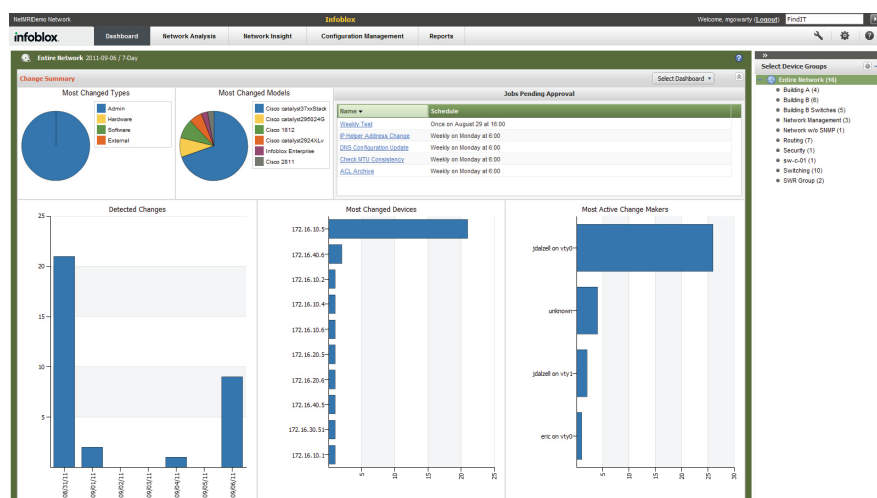
When it comes to new and growing dynamic business drivers such as virtualization and cloud computing, the network is often the bottleneck that slows deployment and success. Even the best network managers can't keep up with the real-time demands of today's complex business network environments.

Automation Change Manager (ACM) unshackles your valuable network managers and experienced IT staff by automating attributes like change detection/logging, mass changes, job management and user permission controls. The system helps your orga-nization minimize its reliance on manual processes, and reduces the risks and costs of human error. Using the embedded templates and pre-packaged tasks for common jobs, you can quickly schedule changes ranging in complexity from ordinary password alterations to full OS upgrades, all within a single system.

Reducing Time, Risk and Costs of Manual Tasks

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Reduce the time, effort and risk of human error involved in making configuration changes to network devices

- Enable the network infrastructure become dynamically supportive of virtualization and cloud computing

- Prove security requirements by documenting network changes and archiving historical configurations

- Show access control with user-based authorization and audit logs

- Simplify common network changes with intuitive Automation Task Board


Quickly identify key change attributes such as number of changes, most changed devices, most active change makers & review all pending jobs to ensure accurate job flow

Whenever IT experts say they still make changes to network devices manually through CLI because "It's fast and easy," they are usually not taking into account the number of changes that must be made and the associated risk of human error. When staff make hundreds network changes, such as password changes or VLAN updates, minutes can quickly turn into days. "Fat fingered" mistakes or shoddy copy-and-paste maneuvers can cause huge problems.

ACM enables IT teams to reduce the reliance on manual processes and unique scripts by embedding automation capabilities within a single system. In executing changes that range from basic to complex, ACM employs embedded expertise and customizable templates to reduce the reliance on labor-intensive one-off tasks. Existing investments in scripts can also be leveraged and imported into the system easily for ready use.

Enabling Dynamic Requirements of Virtualization and Cloud Computing

While server teams measure the spinning up of new virtual instances in terms of mere minutes, network teams supporting servers manually often take days to handle changes to the network infrastructure.
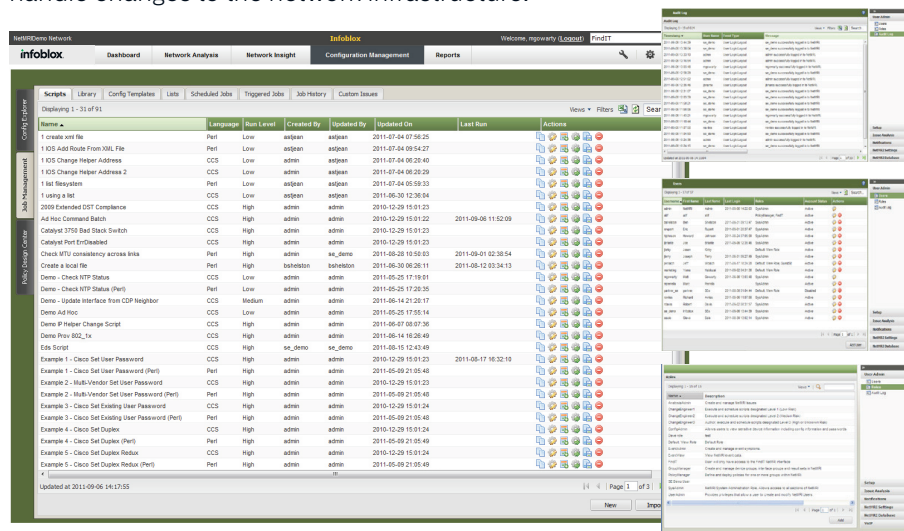
Embedded expertise and scripts automates many tasks done manually or handle by ad hoc programming with user-based access rights and role controls

ACM eliminates many of the key manual components for network change and configuration management, thereby vastly reducing the time and effort of manual methods and eliminating the unnecessary risks of associated human error. To accommodate the dynamic requirements of cloud computing and virtualization, ACM includes the ability to change and reconfigure a network much faster than any manual-based approach, and with far less risk of mistakes.

Prove Security Requirements, Document Changes, and Archive Configurations

Proving security requirements for audits can be time-consuming and difficult, involving many staff hours and lots of paperwork investigation when done manually.

ACM relieves those efforts by documenting all network changes as they occur and then archiving configurations historically. The detailed documentation also includes side-by-side comparisons of configurations to assist with audits and troubleshooting tasks, and a rollback option returns configurations to previous states, which can be especially useful during disaster recovery.

KEY FEATURES

- Includes Switch Port Manager's comprehensive multi-vendor network discovery, switch port capacity views and end-host management

- Change monitoring and tracking shows who changed what, where and when it occurred

- Collection and archiving of current and all historical configurations with easy-to-view, side-by-side comparison

- Job creation, including dynamic template selection based on device, network attributes and location

- Easily imports existing Perl scripts for access by additional staff

- Automation of complex changes with dynamic templates or script variable population

- User-based permission controls ensure individuals have access to only desired devices or locations

- Job approval process for multiple authority level and peer review enforcement when needed

- Single or multi-device change execution

- Integrate with Trinzic DDI for Automation Task Board and auto-sync of IPAM database

- Rollback option to return configuration settings to those of a previous template during a disaster recovery

- Update real-time device configuration and attributes with CMDB
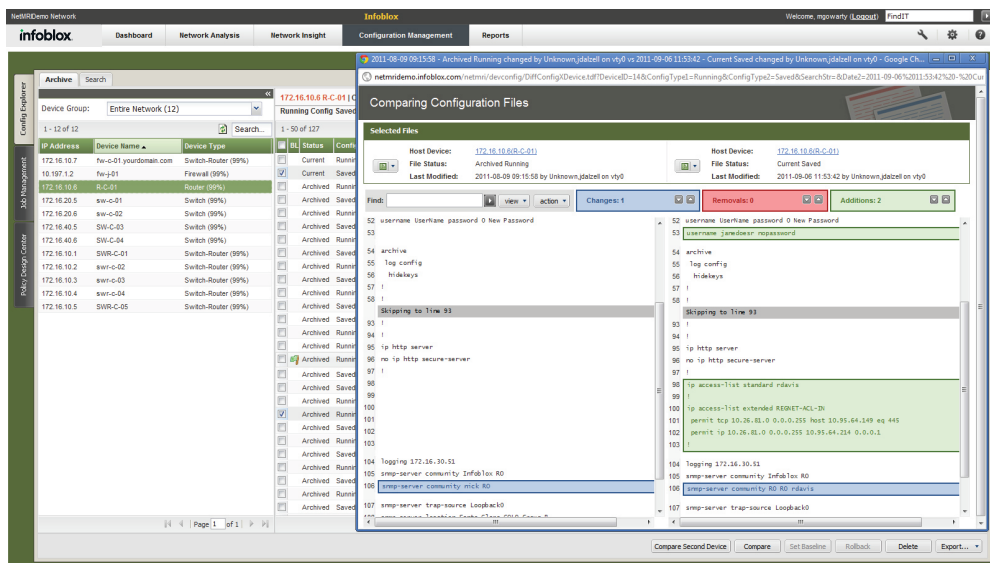
Automatically collect and save current and historical configuration files with the ability to quickly compare any two files to see side-by-side changes, additions and removals

ACM empowers the IT team to share responsibility by providing a single repository for multiple jobs, a repository that is available to the entire team. User permission controls ensure that individuals have access only to desired devices or locations. Because the job approval process allows multiple authority levels and peer review enforcement when needed, the most experienced staff can be active in the approval process, but still remain focused on business-impacting projects instead of manually overseeing every change.

Detailed Diagnostic Information for Faster Problem Resolution

The first question asked when a network problem occurs is, "What changed?" Since two-thirds of all network issues are tied to change and configuration mistakes, the ability to drill down, isolate the problem and find the culprit is critical in reducing time to repair.
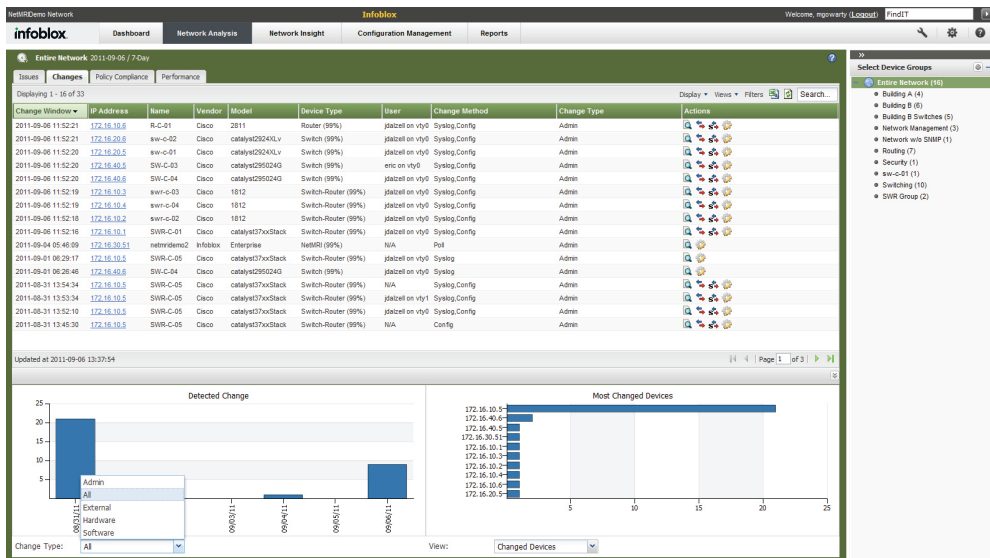

Automatically track all changes made to the network devices (including physical card changes) and answer what device changed, by who, when and what changed

ACM tracks every change, including who made the change and when, what the change was and how many changes were made. Users can document and verify that the change was planned, or determine whether the normal change management process was circumvented. By archiving every change configuration with easy-to-review side-by-side comparisons, IT teams can quickly answer the key questions — who made what change to which device, when did it occur and what changed. Armed with this information, IT teams can greatly reduce the time it takes to find and fix problems.

Automating and Simplifying Common Network Tasks

Common networking tasks that appear "simple and fast" still require extensive manual effort and multiple handoffs that all too often lead to human error and excessive delays. Turning a port up or down, reconfiguring a VLAN or creating a new subnet is not extremely complex, but still takes hours or days for most organizations.
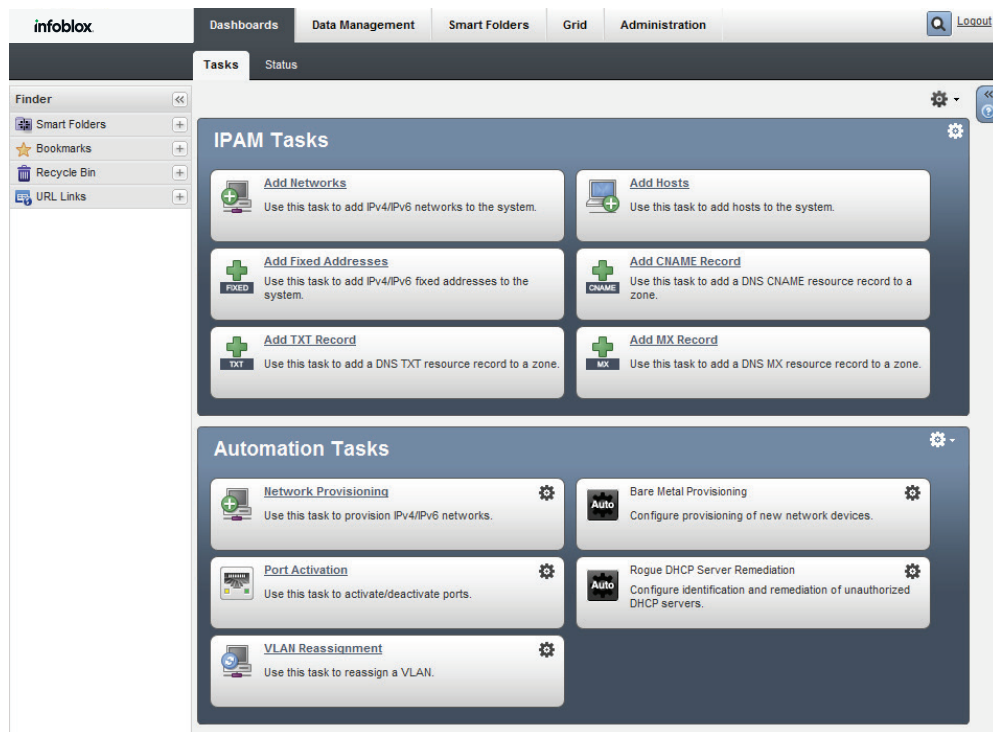

The Automation Task Board enables more staff to make common changes while maintaining complete control

By integrating Trinzic DDI and ACM, the Automation Task Board provides a single, intuitive user interface to complete a common task quickly, effectively and securely. Initiating tasks through a single interface, authorized staff can make common changes immediately, thereby eliminating the need for elaborate, custom scripts and manual processes. This rich automation capability crosses organizations boundaries allowing more experienced staff to focus on critical business initiatives, instead of dealing with manual, repetitive tasks.

Automated Network Discovery and Switch Port Management

ACM also includes the Switch Port Manager (SPM) functionality that provides comprehensive multi-vendor network discovery and management of switches, incorporating both current and historical views of IP, MAC, port, VLAN mappings and network device topology. You can automatically keep track of the status of your network devices, switches, ports and end hosts for capacity planning, troubleshooting and audit requirements.

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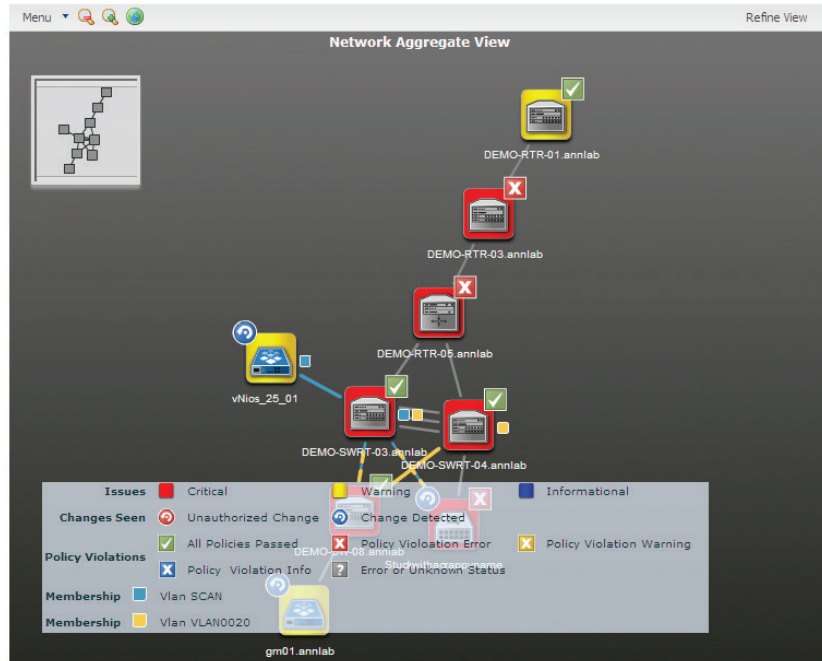
The automated network discovery ensures correct and complete
inventory and topological views at your fingertips

Automate, Log and Audit Network Change and Configuration Management

In short, ACM builds efficiencies and reduces the human risk factors associated with manual methods of network management, freeing up IT staff from mundane tasks to work on more critical matters. Besides automating many key components for network change and configuration management, the solution also logs and audits all changes, which speeds up troubleshooting. By automating network requirements, ACM meets the dynamic requirements of virtualization and cloud computing.

Infoblox unites networking and security to deliver unmatched performance and protection. Trusted by Fortune 100 companies and emerging innovators, we provide real-time visibility and control over who and what connects to your network, so your organization runs faster and stops threats earlier.

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