Product Summary: Infoblox delivers a powerful network-automation platform that gives you discovery, switch-port management, network change and configuration, and compliance management for multi-vendor network devices. In a time of increasing complexity and rapid change, this platform gives you the insight and control you need to keep up with business demands.

4 Keys to Cutting Cost, Controlling Risk, and Maximizing Productivity

Complexity is outpacing resources. Your network is handling more applications and devices every day. Virtualization and cloud technologies are creating more moving parts. Business growth means network growth. The pace of change just keeps accelerating. And in the midst of it all, your headcount and budget are not likely keeping up with the new demands.

In circumstances like these, how do you prove your network team’s value by responding to service requests at business speed? How do you avoid being seen as a bottleneck by your counterparts in the application and server realms, who seem to be able to spin new services up in minutes or even seconds while you’re taking days to reconfigure the network? Not with traditional tools and techniques—like spreadsheets and periodic scans to keep track of what’s on the network, command-line interfaces (CLIs) or custom Perl scripts to push changes, and manual data collection and analysis in response to audits.

Network automation is the key. It saves money. It reduces risk. It increases productivity.

The Power of Infoblox Network Automation

Infoblox supplies the world’s leading automation solution for managing layer-2 and -3 network devices—such as routers, switches, and firewalls—from multiple vendors. Deployable on either Infoblox security-hardened turnkey appliances or on virtual appliances, Infoblox Network Automation delivers four key types of automation that can vastly improve the contribution your network team makes to the business:

- Automated network discovery of devices and how they connect for detailed, in-depth knowledge of network components, constructs, and topologies
- Automated change and configuration management that detects, archives, and pushes out configuration changes
- Automated compliance management to verify and prove ongoing alignment with regulations and policies and to respond to audits
- Automated provisioning of access control lists (ACLs) and rules for security devices in multi-vendor networks
Automating Your Multi-vendor Network

1. Knowing What’s Connected to Your Network

The discovery features of Infoblox Network Automation offer a far superior alternative to manual processes, ping sweeps, freeware scanning tools, spreadsheets, databases, and Visio diagrams.

Network auto-discovery for multi-vendor environments gathers detailed insight into devices, virtual devices, models, operating system versions, and interfaces as well as up-to-date information on routes, subnets, VLANs, HSRP and VRRP peers, and more. The system finds every new device as soon as it connects, and begins to collect information. Then it produces topology views of how devices are linked—views that allow you to drill down to different levels.

Switch-port management capabilities provide details about switches and the end devices that connect to them, enabling you to track free and used ports and reclaim unused ones to avoid costly additions of capacity. The current and historical views of end-host information are also useful for troubleshooting and capacity planning.

Automated IPAM synchronization (for network teams using Infoblox IPAM) automatically identifies the network aspects and syncs them with the IP address database for a single, correlated view of end points and how they connect to the network.

2. Knowing What’s Changing on Your Network

More than two thirds of network performance issues are tied to changes, usually because of inadvertent mistakes. Many network teams use CLIs to make changes one by one, or try to automate change processes by writing complex scripts. These techniques provide minimal control and documentation, so when something goes wrong, finding the source of the problem is a major effort. Infoblox change-and-configuration automation features can save time, free expert staff for more important duties, and help prevent outages.

Automatic change detection and tracking identifies every change and compiles a history of configurations so that you can trace problems back to their source, do simple side-by-side comparisons to see what has changed, and roll back to previous states if necessary. And search capabilities let you drill down for specific parameters and quickly find which devices match your defined criteria in a single task, instead of going device by device.

Change automation frees you (and your expert staff) from CLIs and Perl scripts, letting you use embedded jobs and scripts to make common changes. And customizable templates make it easy to create and save your own versions. In fact, if you already have a library of Perl scripts, you can import them and let more people have access to the pre-approved and tested tasks.

An intuitive user-based rights control interface makes the power of Infoblox change automation accessible to more of your staff; and granular access control helps you make sure that their skills correspond with the functions they perform.

3. Knowing Whether Your Network Is Compliant

Compliance is a bigger deal than ever with external agencies mandating new regulations, businesses enacting new policies, and IT itself getting into the act with security policies that confront rising threats. And when most IT teams get audited, it’s “All hands on deck!” as people drop what they’re doing and start collecting and analyzing data. Infoblox knows that the only sane approach to compliance is automation.

Embedded compliance rules and policies enable the Infoblox solution to monitor and track compliance all day, every day, comparing new configurations as soon as they come on line with the desired state, flagging violations, and providing remediation options. Common mandates and security standards such as PCI, DISA, STIG, and NSA are built in, and customizable templates allow you to add internal policies.

Powerful reporting tools extend the advantages beyond preparedness to audit response. Your network team can use prepackaged reports or your own customized versions to provide audit information with a single mouse click.
4. Provisioning Your Network Efficiently

Today, a single provisioning request likely requires punching holes through multiple switches, routers, and firewalls from multiple vendors. In addition, the number of changes is skyrocketing—network teams are having trouble meeting service-level agreements (SLAs) and keeping security intact. Automated provisioning is the only answer to this dilemma.

Rule and ACL analysis capabilities make it possible to quickly and securely provision ACL and rule changes for security devices in multivendor networks. Embedded analysis and expertise help to uncover common issues such as unused, overlapping, and duplicate rules—a function normally performed by manually sifting through thousands of lines of code. Infoblox Network Automation finds them automatically—and alerts your network staff. In addition, topology views and flexible search capabilities make it easier to determine which devices will need to be changed to deploy a new service.

Integrated provisioning, a feature unique to Infoblox, makes it possible to provision changes to multiple devices from different supported vendors within the same platform. An intuitive graphical interface enables network staff to select the devices a given change applies to, then see the change in both common English and vendor-specific terminology. User-based access and control processes make sure that changes happen only as you plan. And intelligent rollback helps ameliorate unexpected impacts.

Get Up to Speed with the Times.

Infoblox Network Automation solutions are easy to deploy, user friendly, and feature rich. They are purpose-built to operate in today’s dynamic multivendor networks, and they can give you a more efficient approach to discovery, change, compliance, and provisioning—an approach that delivers dramatic cost, risk-management, and productivity improvements. If you’re ready to pick up the pace of your network management processes, contact Infoblox today.