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DEFINING SMART DDI

NetChange
Network Change Management

Key Benefits

- Increases network uptime and availability by eliminating human errors

- Reduces operating costs by automating administrator tasks

- Ensures Service Level Agreement (SLA) compliance with policy-based deployments

- Identifies unused network resources (such as switch ports and IP addresses) for capacity planning and reclamation purposes

- Helps shorten troubleshooting sessions by making many aspects of the network perfectly clear and visible

- Enhances security and productivity through role-based delegation of NetChange access levels

Device configuration is a major network maintenance expenditure on every network. Even when done carefully and correctly, the time, effort and expense your company devotes to configuring devices are considerable. However, when people occasionally make configuration errors, costs skyrocket.

Network configuration is a labor-intensive task requiring skilled, costly administrators. Unfortunately, configuration errors inevitably occur at the most inopportune times. These all-too-human errors result in expensive downtime, protracted troubleshooting efforts, embarrassing security breaches and exposure-to-lawsuit compliance issues. Reducing personnel costs, increasing productivity and minimizing risk are strategic, significant goals for any organization.

The IT Process Institute's Visible Ops Handbook reports that «80% of unplanned outages are due to ill-planned changes made by administrators («operations staff») or developers.» (Source: IT Process Institute)

A USA Today survey of 200 data center managers found that over 80% of these managers reported that their downtime costs exceeded $50,000 per hour. For over 25%, downtime costs exceeded $500,000 per hour. (Source: USA Today). Even the most trivial configuration error can cause prolonged downtimes, consume lengthy, unplanned troubleshooting sessions, allow hackers access to your network or violate your company's compliance rules.

Why NetChange

By automating the configuration of your network's switches, NetChange dramatically reduces your network maintenance expenses. It virtually eliminates costly downtime due to configuration errors. NetChange puts you in control of your network.

EfficientIP's NetChange gives you automated configuration of your network – enterprise-wide, policy-based, highly visible, secure, reversible, delegatable and auditable. Because NetChange integrates with your IP Address Management (IPAM) system, its perspective on the network is perfectly accurate and complete.

With NetChange, your company can

- Significantly reduce the time and expense of using skilled resources for configuration tasks

- Avoid stumbling into unplanned, resource-draining troubleshooting sessions to solve downtime problems

- Authorize, monitor and track configuration changes for security, accountability and compliance

- Centrally control your entire network's configuration

NetChange: How It Works

Devices and Switch Discovery

NetChange includes a network discovery tool, NetChange-IPLocator, to locally or remotely discover, identify and inventory the physical and virtual devices and their connections on your network (IP/MAC/VLAN/Switch/port/Name). Netchange-IPLocator's thorough network discoveries provide comprehensive visibility of network resource deployment and usage, delivering unparalleled resource control, from organization scheme and deployment to resources consumption and procurement.

Locally or remotely, NetChange-IPLocator uses a variety of protocols, such as CDP (Cisco Discovery Protocol), EDP (Extreme Discovery Protocol), LLDP (Link Layer Discovery) and SNMP v1/v2c/v3, to discover, identify and inventory the physical and virtual devices on your network.

NetChange-IPLocator uses network resources frugally but is nonetheless a quick performer. For example, at a rate of over 75 ports per second, NetChange-IPLocator learns details about your network's switches:

- Switch names
- Port numbers
- MAC address
- VLAN numbers
- DNS names

For each port on each device, NetChange-IPLocator obtains a wealth of information:

- Port number
- IP address
- Name
- Speed
- Duplex transmission (half or full duplex)
- Slot
- VLAN of the interface
- Status (up or down)
- POE (capable/Watts used)
- Uplink ports

Unified and Automated Network Device Deployment

NetChange easily integrates administrator defined policies and automates their deployment, simplifying switch configuration and deployment using wizard driven templates. NetChange enforces best practices and ensures compliancy with corporate's rules. From a central location, you can systematically apply myriads of settings across all or select groups of switches. These settings include:

- VLAN allocations
- Port trunk assignment
- Port access
- 802.1x parameters
- Port speed and duplex
- Port description
- Shutdown or activation of a port

Network Data Reconciliation

NetChange offers Advanced Network Data Reconciliation Management.

- Tracking changes, detecting unauthorized MAC addresses, and executing quick and accurate troubleshooting

- Reallocating unused IPs and network interfaces to avoid purchasing useless, costly devices

- Identifying non compliant switch configuration and deployment

NetChange's SmartAlerts notify you when network conditions exceed thresholds that you set. The thresholds can be quite simple, or they can be quite sophisticated. For example, you might want NetChange to notify you when a DHCP occupancy rate is greater than 80% in a range of IP addresses that you've devoted to VoIP devices.

NetChange's comprehensive reports and helpful audits will improve your capacity planning efforts, let you reclaim unused ports and IP addresses, track and document network configuration changes, correct inconsistent switch settings, detect IP address conflicts and monitor bandwidth for uplink ports. NetChange will also highlight unknown devices that are using your IP address spaces.

Network Configuration Delegation

NetChange provides easy, intelligent delegation to control who, how and where network devices are deployed.

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You can license a version of NetChange (called NetChange-IPLocator) for basic management features. These include discovering, identifying and detailing network devices as well as reports and notifications. Or you can license the full version of NetChange, which provides NetChange's full range of management and configuration functions.

ABOUT EFFICIENTIP

EfficientIP solutions address organizations' needs to drive business efficiency through the innovative use of IT. Its unified management framework for DNS-DHCP-IPAM, devices and network configurations enhances security, availability and agility of the IT infrastructure. EfficientIP's solutions have been chosen by hundreds of the most demanding organizations across all industries.
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