



IP Fabric | Air France

**Air France network teams are reaching new heights
with network assurance**



A stalwart in aviation and innovation

Air France is a major international airline, part of the Air France-KLM group, and the flag carrier for the nation of France. Since its inception almost 90 years ago, Air France has expanded its renowned service to offer more than 100 destinations in over 60 countries and territories. To maintain its premium services, Air France requires a network that can cope with its massive demand. With 3 data centers across Toulouse, Nice, and Amsterdam, Air France must proactively ensure their

network is consistently optimized. To do this, they need accurate network data. Enter IP Fabric.

We sat down with Stephane Deroch, responsible for data center automation and virtualization at Air France-KLM to discuss how their use of IP Fabric has shaped their operations since its initial implementation in 2020.



Accessing Contextualized Network Data

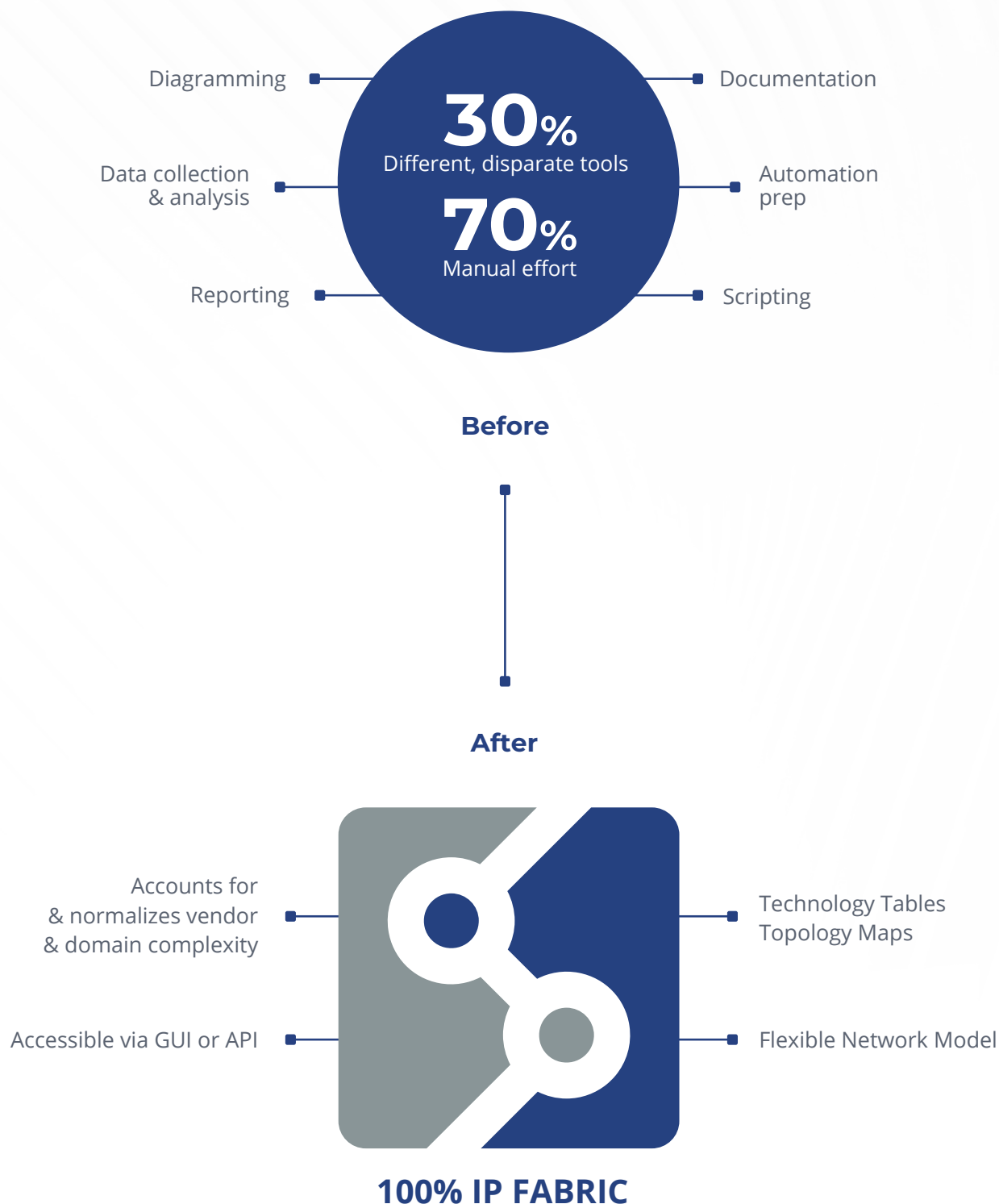
- Accurate dynamic diagrams with no manual effort
- Authoritative, trustworthy data

Putting that Data to Work in Operations

- Increased proactivity in EoL management
- Quicker onboarding of new engineers

Echoing Benefits across the Enterprise

- Open API calls to quickly find and export data
- Easily include network data in key projects like their new Administrative Portal



Your whole network at your fingertips

One of the key IP Fabric features that Air France have enjoyed is the ability to trawl through a network environment and create detailed, multi-layer diagrams automatically and quickly.

Aside from “just” providing end-to-end visibility, the data they can draw from these diagrams includes everything a network engineer could dream of – configuration information, dataflow, device behavior and state data, policy information, and much more.

Beyond simply having access to such comprehensive network information, the real benefit here is

the lack of manual effort required from the Air France team to obtain it. Without IP Fabric, the team would have to manually document their network, without considering further related tasks like determining the relationship between devices. Statically documenting their network comes with the danger that their documentation would become outdated soon after completion. This isn't a worry for them anymore.

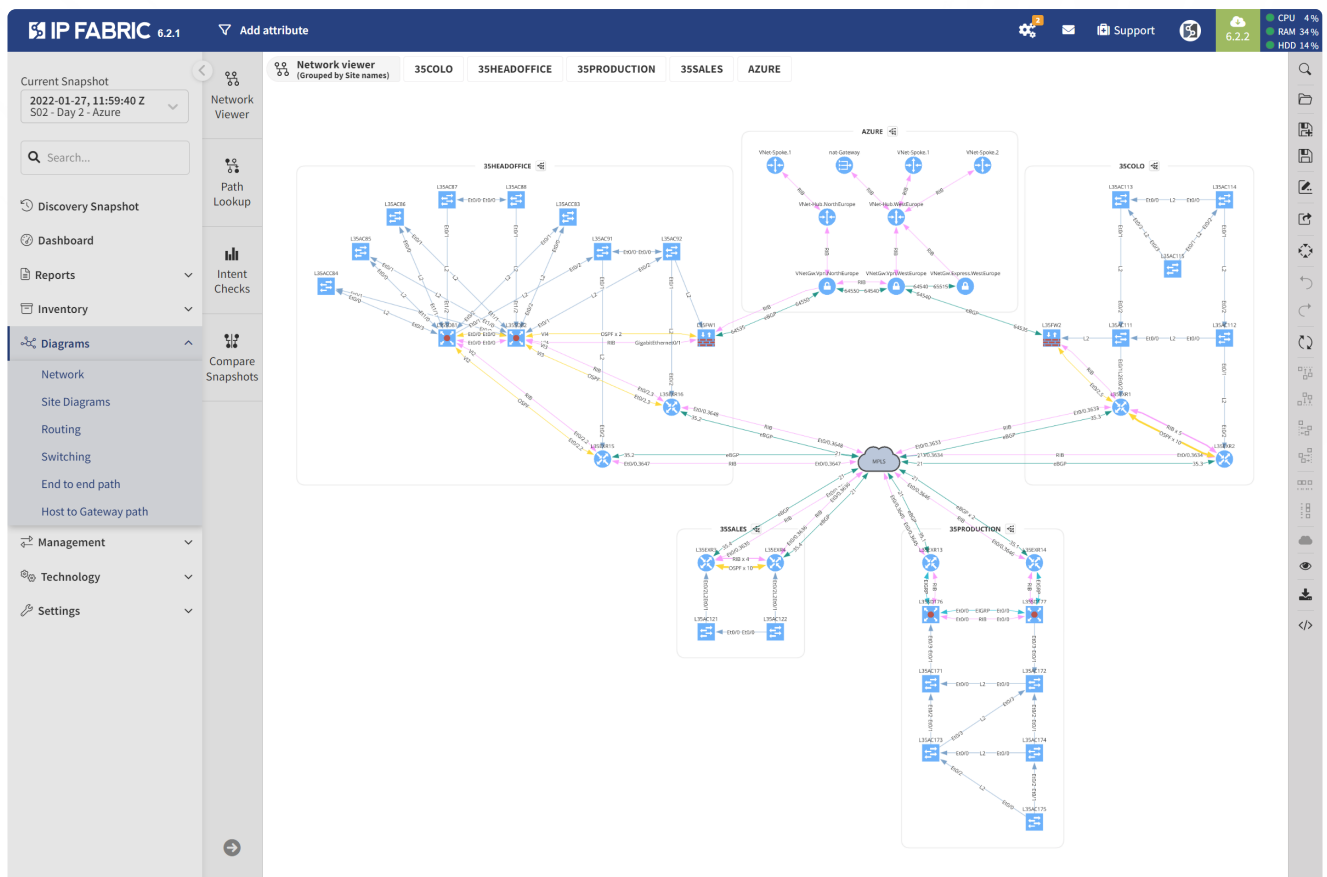
Having access to such detailed information has even more benefits. For one, access to this information means **that operational excellence becomes a reality, for everyone.**

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I don't know any other tools capable of drawing diagrams automatically with this level of detail about protocol.

— **Stephane Deroch**

Network and System Engineer in Automation & Virtualization at Air France-KLM



IP Fabric is for everyone

With all-encompassing network information at their disposal, Air France reached new operational heights on a few fronts:

End of Life (EoL) Management and Planning:

Before implementing IP Fabric, the team would have to manually check each device, record the respective device state, and update their records.

As IP Fabric provides device state data during discovery, what previously took a day per month to achieve, now takes minutes.

As a result, the teams EoL planning and management has become incredibly proactive. Gone are the days when they would have to worry about

devices' reaching EoL or support without them knowing about it – they now know months in advance and can take the appropriate action to avoid any issues, whether compliance or security related.

Welcome Aboard!

Accurate and dynamic network diagrams also have the benefit of enabling new joiners to excel from early on.

Usually, manually maintaining a sprawled network environment is no easy task. Throw in training new hires, and the task definitely isn't getting any easier. It can take up to a year for new hires to fully understand the networks they are working on – without throwing network expansion, component additions, and potentially outdated documentation into the mix.

With IP Fabric, onboarding new joiners is now a more streamlined process, as new joiners are

able to not only SEE the network, but understand the relationship between various layers, understand data flow and network behavior, and much more. All of this information at their fingertips puts new joiners in a position to make meaningful contributions to team projects – in weeks, not months.

But the networking teams aren't the only people at Air France-KLM to reap the benefits of Automated Network Assurance...

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New engineers can use IP Fabric's dynamic diagrams to view the network as a whole and, for example, understand the privacy policies we have in our network.

— **Stephane Deroch**

Network and System Engineer in Automation & Virtualization at Air France-KLM

Not just a network tool, but an enterprise cornerstone

A big factor in leading Air France to IP Fabric was the ability to leverage API calls to export network information. Through this, Air France have fostered a common understanding of their network and democratized vital and necessary network information. All of which have helped to close the gaps between specialist and non-technical teams. How exactly have they done this?

The Air France team are currently working on the implementation of an administrative portal for network information. With IP Fabric in play as the backend source of network information for this portal, teams across the business have a pool of trustworthy and authoritative aggregated data to pull from when creating statistics sheets and reports.

Need to determine when to buy new switches or introduce new port authorizations? Decision makers at Air France can easily find this information in reports generated from IP Fabric data to determine usage, capacity, and anything else they need to inform their decision.

Leveraging IP Fabric as the data source for their administrative portal has reaped a wide variety of benefits for the Air France enterprise:

- It's introduced a reliable way to access and interpret network information
- Which leads to less reliance on network teams to find and interpret information themselves
- Therefore, less focus is taken from important network projects
- Access to information results in common understanding of status and priorities
- All culminating in streamlined and informed decision making

What does the future hold for Air France and IP Fabric?

With 3 data centers in France and Amsterdam currently, the Air France team is planning to further expand with two new data centers in France and the Netherlands respectively. With IP Fabric in their ecosystem, leveraging accurate and actionable network data will provide the team with the assurance they need regarding what they have in their network, and what they need as they push toward the future.

And with the many integrations between IP Fabric and other amazing network tools currently available, the sky is truly the limit for the Air France team!



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