IP FABRIC

IP Fabric | Elica

Data provided by IP Fabric is shaping the future of
Elica's networking operation strategies

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About Elica

Elica, present in the market for over 50 years, is the global leader in the kitchen extraction systems market. It is also a leading European manufacturer of electric motors for household appliances and boilers. Chaired by Francesco Casoli and led by Giulio Cocci, with about 3,000 employees, Elica holds an industrial platform consisting of seven factories based in Italy, Poland, Mexico and China. Elica has had to match this expansion by growing their network teams and environments – now with 300 network devices across the globe, Elica recognized a need to find a tool that would grant them greater oversight and control of their network infrastructures.

What Elica loves about IP Fabric:

→ Clear picture of the network infrastructure whenever needed

→ Time saved on network discovery, documentation, and troubleshooting

→ Fosters enhanced collaboration between different site teams

→ Enables a proactive approach to compliance audits

→ Quicker discovery of previously hidden misconfigurations

→ Able to integrate data from IP Fabric with other network tools

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Discovery, Visibility, and Documentation

Challenge

The first issue Elica wanted to address was poor network visibility. Aside from having a distributed network managed by different teams at different sites, their visibility issue was compounded by an inconsistent approach to their manual network documentation. When something was changed in the network it was not always recorded, meaning teams were not always informed of said changes. This led to misalignments between teams, and vast amounts of time spent on retroactively and manually updating documentation

Solution

After introducing IP Fabric into their ecosystem, the Elica team are now able to rely on up-to-date topological overviews of their network, and up-to-date documentation. Whenever a change is made, their topologies are instantly updated. Their teams can also take point-in-time snapshots of their network to examine changes when they happen and their impact on the network as a whole. All of this with minimal manual input required from the team.

Benefits

→ End-to-end visibility of their network environments

→ Documentation is always up to date

→ Able to proactively validate network changes and remedy any drift

→ Time to onboard new engineers greatly reduced **from over a month, to a week**

> **This tool is perfect as it gives us up-to-date documentation without placing a burden on the team to produce it.**
>
> **— Alessio Caucci, IT Network & Infrastructure Manager, Elica**

Troubleshooting

Challenge

As Elica's IT and Infrastructure Manager Alessio Caucci says, he and his team know the environments they built like the backs of their hands. But what about environments at different sites, that they didn't build? Whenever there was a network connectivity issue involving one of these site environments, the team would lose valuable time simply determining where the issue was, and the scope of said issue.

Solution

With a clear overview of network topologies and data flow provided by IP Fabric, Caucci and his team can now navigate different site environments as if they were their own. When troubleshooting network connectivity issues, they can ascertain where the issue is, which devices might be impacted, and much more. **As a result, what previously would have taken the team up to a day to do, now takes them approximately 60-90 minutes – from initial investigation through to issue resolution.**

Benefits

→ Clear picture of network paths involved in connectivity issues

→ Enhanced understanding of data flow to determine wider scope of network issues

→ Massive reduction in time spent troubleshooting

60-90 min

is approximately the time it takes for the team to troubleshoot issues - from discovery to resolution

Compliance

Challenge

Ensuring network compliance is always top of mind for the Elica team. As they didn't have a configuration management tool in place, every device in their network had to be configured 1 to 1. Aside from this taking a lot of time, they also did not have an effective means of ensuring their compliance was blanket and uniform. This left the door open for potential vulnerabilities to creep into their network, and bad results come audit time.

Solution

Elica can now proactively ensure that there are no misconfigurations within their network that could affect performance, security, or the result of an audit, by deploying standard configurations to devices with IP Fabric. Through network discovery, they found misconfigurations that had previously gone undetected in their network. For example, IP Fabric quickly revealed the use of Spanning Tree Protocol where Rapid Spanning-Tree should be used – having discovered this through IP Fabric, the team were able to proactively address this misconfiguration.

Benefits

→ Proactive identification of potential compliance issues

→ Ensures blanket appliance of compliance across network devices

→ Massive amount of time saved and peace of mind when preparing for audits

> **We recently pursued a joint venture project with another company, so we needed to manage their network. With IP Fabric, we were able to immediately develop a clear picture of how many devices they had, how they were configured, and if there were any misconfigurations."**

> **Because of IP Fabric, I found a lot of information that I didn't have before we implemented the platform.**
>
> — Alessio Caucci, IT Network and Infrastructure Manager at Elica

What does the future hold for Elica and IP Fabric?

Elica have already extracted a lot of value from IP Fabric. As they look to the future, this is sure to continue. Having already integrated IP Fabric with NetBox for their IPAM and with Axonius for enhanced cybersecurity, they are planning to introduce more integrations into their environments in the future, as the data they pull from IP Fabric continues to revolution-ize and enhance their networking operations.

> **The possibility to integrate the IP Fabric solution using the API with our third-party systems is very important for our operations"**

About IP Fabric

IP Fabric   a vendor-neutral network assurance platform that automates the holistic discovery, verification, visualization, and documentation of large-scale enterprise networks, reducing the associated costs and required resources whilst improving security and efficiency.

It supports your engineering and operations teams, underpinning migration and transformation projects. IP Fabric will revolutionize how you approach network visibility and assurance, security assurance, automation, multi-cloud networking, and trouble resolution.

Don't take
our word for it

See how assurance can transform your approach to network management.

Access the demo

IP FABRIC

AUTOMATED NETWORK ASSURANCE PLATFORM

Support & Documentation
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