IP FABRIC

Thales Case Study

In this study, a Network Tribe Leader at Thales IS/IT, and a Network Engineer and Service Owner, discuss their experiences using IP Fabric in their respective roles at Thales.

IP Fabric | THALES

WITH TRUST AND SECURITY AT THE FORE, THALES EVOLVES ITS NETWORK PROCESSES AND PERFORMANCE TO TRANSFORM OUR SHARED DIGITAL FUTURE.

Thales operates with a simple mission statement: "Building a future we can all trust." Dating back to 1893, Thales has continuously made good on that statement. With over 83,000 employees based in 68 countries on 5 continents, Thales has become a global innovator in the markets of defense, aerospace and space, cyber, and digital.

In this study, Hervé Le Roy, Network Tribe Leader at Thales IS/IT, and Antoine-Gerard Ankoue, a Network Engineer and Service Owner, discuss their experiences using IP Fabric in their respective roles at Thales.

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Turning global complexity into a strategic advantage

> ❝ *We had a portfolio of improvements: from harmonizing standards, automating documentation up to creating a living source of truth about our network.*

With a footprint of roughly 300 sites worldwide, operating under diverse legal entities and regulatory environments, Thales' IS/IT Network team manages a very dynamic landscape of different networks and practices. This scale in operations could be seen as a hurdle and a major challenge for any company to build a streamlined and unified network practices based both on standard-driven and strategic priorities.

Under Hervé's leadership, the team is elevating network requirements by moving from static documentation and inconsistent practices to a single source of truth.

By bringing IP Fabric on board as a strategic ally, Thales is establishing standards-as-code, automating validation of their operational state, and creating self-updating documentation. The result is a proactive, knowledge-sharing culture that accelerates collaboration and troubleshooting, all while enabling safe, repeatable change at scale.

> ❝ *"IP Fabric delivers unified network intelligence to cultivate trust and speed transformation.*

From fragmented network insights to global knowledge-sharing

Without a unified view of the network, Thales' teams often relied on manually produced project documentation. As these documents moved across teams and borders, the speed of changes outpaced update cycles, leading to an erosion of knowledge. Over time, the impact reached beyond the network team, causing misunderstandings across functions as well as time lost on manual data collection, analysis, and reporting.

> " *When I first saw IP Fabric at Cisco Live, I was immediately impressed with the platform's ability to accurately document the network, and quickly.*

IP Fabric unifies Thales' view of the network across entities. Teams can rely on regular snapshots to obtain the most current view of the network. With this unified visibility, they can maintain a level of consistency that was previously unattainable.

The benefits of this visibility extends to post-change validation as well. Previously, the team relied on testers to validate changes, but these testers would only check the intended change scope and could not check for unintended effects. But with IP Fabric, Thales uses snapshots to quickly validate whether a change had unintended consequences, allowing for proactive remediation.

Benefits

→ **Consistent documentation** across teams regardless of location.

→ **Complete visibility** of all devices, across all sites.

→ **Lower operational costs,** and more time for pursuing strategic projects.

Compliance obligations become an opportunity for cross-functional harmony

Committed to their rigorous compliance program, Thales' teams recognized that scattered documentation could complicate audits and controls. So the network team decided to pursue a solution that simplified documentation and made it easier to access for those who needed it. The end goal? To eliminate uncertainty and foster cross-functional trust.

Since then, IP Fabric's automated network snapshots have transformed Thales' approach to documentation. On a daily basis, it delivers up-to-date and normalized intelligence for overall network topologies, as well as device inventories.

As a part of their security and compliance program, Thales also wanted to ensure that all their devices were replaced before they reached End-of-Life (EoL), End-of-Sale (EoS), or End-of-Maintenance (EoM). With IP Fabric, the entire process now takes about 1 hour from creating a list of devices to sharing this list with the team and auditors.

The ability to rapidly create accurate inventory lists and network topologies has increased internal auditor's trust in the network team and reflects their mastery of the network.

> **"** *It's easy to make a query with VLAN names to see which site they are available on. It can be done in 5 minutes.*

Benefits

➔ **Streamlined** audit processes

➔ **Proactive** device lifecycle management

➔ **Increased trust** between auditors and the networking team

What else does Thales' network team like about IP Fabric?

A light-touch approach to heavy security

As a defense and security business, Thales regularly handles sensitive and critical data. It's important therefore that any tool they leverage in their network does not present a risk to data integrity. Thanks to IP Fabric's light-touch deployment, requiring read-only rights, this is easier to track.

Transforming Thales with zero-touch provisioning

The Thales team can now target more innovative projects, now that their documentation and audit processes are under formalized control. For one, the team is using API calls from IP Fabric to extract data to feed Ansible. Thales is looking forward to implementing "zero-touch provisioning," using NetBox as their Source of Truth. NetBox integrates with IP Fabric, so the team will be able to draw from a rich source of accurate network information to pursue this goal and make it a reality.

Powerful, certainty, documentation

Antoine-Gerard Ankoue, Network Engineer and Service Owner

IP FABRIC IN 3 WORDS

Discovery, inventory, compliance

Hervé Le Roy, Network Tribe Leader

About IP Fabric

IP Fabric is the leading automated network assurance platform, offering a continuously validated view of cloud, network and security systems to improve stability, security and spend. Within minutes, the platform creates a unified view of devices, state, configurations and interdependencies, normalizing multi-vendor data and revealing operational truth through automated intent checks.

By uncovering risks and providing actionable insights, IP Fabric empowers enterprises to accelerate IT and business transformation while reducing costs. Trusted by industry leaders like Red Hat, Major League Baseball and Air France, IP Fabric delivers the foundation for end-to-end network governance.

Learn more at ipfabric.io and follow the company on LinkedIn.

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

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