

Solution Brief

Cisco Network Assessment

What it does:

The Insight Cisco Network Assessment helps clients to ensure that they are getting the best from their existing Cisco network deployment, that it is operating optimally, and provides guidance and recommendations to improve the health and stability of the environment. It will also provide details on known vulnerabilities that should be addressed.

Insight consultants will use proven methodologies customised for the user's environment to provide and make recommendations around best value, availability and performance, and provide a summary recommendation on software patching and future upgrade paths for hardware if required.

How does it work?

The Insight Cisco Network Assessment offers peace of mind for clients with an existing Cisco Local Area Network (LAN).

An experienced Insight Consultant/Senior Engineer will perform an audit of the LAN switches and routers, reviewing the health and vital signs, and checking conformance to best practice. They will then identify areas for improvement, and recommendations for potential software and hardware upgrades, if required.

The Insight Cisco Network Assessment identifies issues and areas of concern with the network configuration, software versions and any evident physical anomalies. Additionally, we will provide guidance and recommendations on maximising life-in-service of the current environment and provide a roadmap for hardware/software refresh, to help facilitate future budget planning.

A follow-up workshop will be scheduled where all of the findings and recommendations will be presented.

Why the Insight Network Assessment?

The Cisco Network Assessment is ideally suited for clients who:

- Are experiencing network performance issues
- Need to be made aware of the software vulnerabilities on their network equipment
- Have a need to meet industry compliance accreditations, such as ISO27001 and Cyber Essentials/Plus
- Require a Lifecycle review of their network equipment
- Need to understand how they can maximise life-in-service of the current network
- Need to understand the general health and operational state of the network

Deliverables:

The Insight Cisco Network Assessment will deliver the following outputs:

- **Pre-assessment workshop** call with key stakeholders to gain insight into perceived challenges, issues and desired outputs.
- **Information gathering phase** where the consultant will access the network and gather the required information. This can be completed remotely in most cases (client to facilitate remote access). The time taken for this stage will vary depending on the network size.
- **A detailed review** of the gathered data will be performed by our consultant.
- **Identification of areas for optimisation** of performance and configuration.
- **Recommendations for remediation** of faults or known weak performance areas.
- **Suggestions on new features and functionality** that are available in the current/future software versions.
- **The Summary review** of potential software and hardware upgrade paths for the environment.
- **The submission of a detailed consultancy report**, highlighting our findings and recommendations.
- **A post-assessment workshop** call to review the report and to discuss next steps.






Methodology

Overview

The days are generally broken down as follows:

- ✓ **1-2 days information gathering** phase depending on size of environment. This will involve discovery activities where Insight will gather configs and other relevant system information.
- ✓ **3-5 days for review of data**, creation of network diagram, recommendation gathering and report collation.
- ✓ **2-4 hour post-assessment workshop call** for review of report and discuss recommendations.

There are five stages in the process:

				
Planning	Pre-assessment workshop	Assessment/ information gathering phase	Report	Review Call
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Gather relevant information before the client call/workshop.▪ Attain a high-level overview of the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Insight Project lead schedules call with client.▪ Identify key stakeholders and team members.▪ Review project timeline, phases and outcomes.▪ Expand knowledge on the client's existing environment.▪ Cover what is in scope and out of scope.▪ Identify any risks for the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use CLI or any Network management tools to attain configurations, versions and status of devices.▪ Capture any logs, events or errors that would be worthy of highlighting in report.▪ Gather version information and key features and functionality in use.▪ Investigate and gather further info on any areas where the client has highlighted specific issues or problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review findings from all tools and information and consolidate into an Insight consultancy report.▪ Highlight areas where there are high-risk vulnerabilities, or security patches required.▪ Highlight areas where in-built functionality or licenses that are not used could benefit the environment.▪ Issue report to the client.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Insight Project lead schedules call with the client, ideally one-week post-report submission to allow time for the client to review and digest.▪ On the review call, the consultant will talk the customer through the report and discuss the recommendations.▪ Discuss where Insight can assist further.▪ Clarify any next steps to continue the engagement or follow-up on our recommendations.