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Network Assessments

"The Axians Network Assessment provided an accurate appraisal of our network configuration and topology.

The final report and professional assessment identified changes we could make to improve our core network availability and benefit our end customers experience."

Senior Systems Engineer
Major UK Service Provider

VERSION 2.4

VINCI ENERGIES

NETWORK ASSESSMENT SERVICE

DELIVERING INSIGHT TO DRIVE THE FUTURE SHAPE OF YOUR NETWORK

Every successful strategy is built on up-to-date knowledge and analysis of the network. With networks constantly evolving in order to meet the needs of the business, having that picture and identifying the actions to be taken can be a real challenge.

The Axians Network Assessment service is designed to deliver a rapid, detailed picture of the current state of your network that acts as a foundation for action that will help you to meet your objectives.
It involves a 3 phase programme – data collection, analysis and development of recommendations.
We start by understanding your business drivers for change, conduct an in-depth audit of the current network, services and features and those that are planned. We review this output in conjunction with your business strategy and vision for transformation.

This will lead us to recommend where and how changes could be made to enable the network as a resource to more effectively meet business requirements.

The network is a critical resource to your business. The intelligence and insight that the Network Assessment will deliver, leveraging the experience that Axians has in designing deploying and operating networks for a vast range of organisations, will ensure that you have the best picture to guide you on your network transformation journey.

IDENTIFY THE IMPACT OF THE NETWORK ON BUSINESS GROWTH POTENTIAL

- The short, medium and long term actions needed to support operational processes and business requirements.
- Any risk created by the End of Life exposure and the End of Support exposure.
- Software deployment, Security and field notices required for risk mitigation.
- Provide a better understanding of all the network services being delivered by the current install base.
- The impact and benefits to be gained by migration of services through the consolidation of services on the existing hardware or recommendation for more efficient replacement hardware.
- A possible recommendation to redesign the network architecture to better suit business needs.

NETWORK ASSESSMENT - THREE PHASE APPROACH

Collect Data

An Axians Professional Services Consultant will be dedicated to the audit, can attend site and produce bespoke reports based on your specific requirements. A physical audit of the network equipment can be carried out based on datacentre or enterprise locations. It could be either detailed or high level in an Inventory Audit / Network Audit depending on the requirements. A workshop will be held with our Consultant and your team to build a better understanding of your network strategy and business demands.

Analyse

Axians Professional Services will analyse the information from the physical audit, as well as the topology and network statistics investigations. We will assess the health of the network today and will draft out a framework for next steps and recommendations for improvements.

Recommend

At the end of the assessment our observations and recommendations from our analysis of the data gathered covering both physical network elements and network services will be documented in a report. A final workshop will be conducted for the Network Audit to discuss the findings in detail and provide further consultancy.

STEP	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	INVENTORY AUDIT	NETWORK AUDIT
1	Pre-engagement workshop with the customer experts to better understand customer strategy, vision for transformation and agree Network Assessment path.		
2	Discovery phase - Agree with the customer the scope of the project and logistical details.	✓	✓
3	Execution Plan - Share with the customer the final project execution plan. (i.e. Project Initiation Document)	✓	✓
4	Physical audit - Bespoke physical audit of the network equipment is carried out.	✓	✓
5	Logical audit - High Level logical information of the topology will be created.	✓	✓
6	Audit deliverables to be shared with the customer. 1. Physical Audit of the network. 2. Topology layout of the network	✓	✓
7	Documented Report of any findings and any recommendations.	✓	✓
8	Detailed audit - Network Service and Interfaces Audits will be carried out for the Network equipment.		✓
9	Information gathered will be analysed by the Axians - Network Professional Services experts and recommendations prepared.		✓
10	Recommendations will be shared with the customer in a workshop 3. Detailed report of the weak points which consists of the recommendations. 4. Targeted High Level Design of the network.		✓
11	Completion workshop, feedback and arrange any follow-up meetings.		✓

Table 1: Steps for Execution of the Network Assessment

NETWORK ASSESSMENT BENEFITS

A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE NETWORK OF THE FUTURE...

OPEX reduction	Rationalise unnecessary equipment by consolidating services or conduct a technology refresh which would lead to reduction in support contract costs.
	Reduce energy costs and third party rack "real estate" costs by de-commissioning redundant or duplicated equipment.
End of Life / Support	Understand the risk of End-of-life and End-of-sale network equipment.
Capability	Understand network capability to support new features and services, and the steps required to improve this.
Advance notice	Identify and mitigate hidden problems in the system before they manifest themselves to the end user.
Green credentials	Reduce power consumption and cooling, increase ethical disposal and the return of raw materials to the "circular economy".

CLARITY OF THE NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE DATACENTRE LAYOUT...

Inventory	Up to date equipment inventory, its location and what services it is delivering can help in the recovery time of service in case of emergency / service breaks
Resiliency	Ensuring service resiliency is catered for as demand and network growth changes over time.
Capacity	Detailing the exact amount of spare capacity available within the existing estate in terms of service/interface that can be used for expansion.
End of Life / Support	Understanding and avoiding the impact of legacy equipment and proactively planning to phase out and mitigate risk.
Investment	Optimising CAPEX due to increased availability and performance in equipment life.
Staff	Utilising engineering staff more effectively with less firefighting and more focus on scheduled activities.

axians

Viables 3, Jays Close, Basingstoke, RG22 4BS

Tel. 01256 312350

axians.co.uk