

Case Study - Regulatory Audit on Massive Multi-vendor Network

The Project

Per regulatory mandate a foreign company providing critical public infrastructure is subjected to government audit. One audit requirement is to report all software versions, firmware, and patches in all network devices. Deadline must be met in a short turnaround time.

The Problem and Half a Solution ...

Needless to say, it is incredibly resources demanding in a huge multi-vendor network environment to collect all the information.

To meet the deadline, an engineer with some scripting skills quickly came up with a script to do the job. But since there are different vendor devices, he needs to customize one script for each vendor. This resulted in a dozen scripts that only he knew how to run and maintain.

Therefore, the homemade script is only a partial solution and it actually created other problems. It ends up becoming tribal knowledge in the company, almost impossible for others to use, and unsustainable in the long run.

A Real Solution using **Ironwood Networks' Network Automation Assistant** ...

Using NAA, the company now has an official and sustainable automation tool. The audit is completed in time, it works on all vendor's devices, and the results are accurate. It is repeatable so any future audit from the government is no longer an issue anymore. While these are what you might expect, NAA also has more benefits.

The subtle difference compared to the homemade script is that NAA is centralized, scalable, reusable, and simple to use. NAA has made automation available and accessible to everyone on the team, including engineers with no programming skills. They can now utilize NAA in other projects and in day-to-day works, significantly improving the work quality and efficiency of the team members, and in turn making the network more reliable, secure, and easy to manage.

Problem with Homemade Script	Benefit using NAA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rely on one owner to maintain• Tribal Knowledge• Unofficial• Unsustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centralized automation for all vendors• No programming skills needed• Simple to use• Available to everyone on the team



In conclusion, in this project NAA helps

- Provide accurate and fast turnaround results
- Save costs and free up resources
- Make automation available to everyone on the team
- Improve work quality and efficiency of team member
- Avoid homemade scripts that are unsustainable