Texas A&M University Streamlines and Simplifies Network Management with Infoblox

THE CUSTOMER - TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Texas A&M University is the nation's sixth largest university in enrollment and boasts one of the largest campuses with 5,200 acres.

Unlike most large universities, Texas A&M has one centralized IT group for networking, the Computing and Information Services (CIS) Network Group, which is responsible for the backbone of the entire campus network and LAN's in over 340 buildings, including student residence halls, student labs, and data centers.

THE CHALLENGE

An Excessively Time-Consuming System of Tools

The network management group relied on a conglomerate of tools to maintain the network backbone. Managing multiple tools was time consuming and required the use of manpower to learn the tools, manage them, and try to make sense of the disparate data provided by each tool. They needed a way to simplify the management of the network and spend the time saved on more productive tasks. "Writing scripts for multiple tools takes an excessive amount of time and energy, and with the backbone being continuously modified and changed, we needed a way to streamline these tools in order to efficiently manage the network," says Matthew Almand, Chief Network Engineer for Texas A&M University.

Customer: Texas A&M University
Industry: Education
Location: College Station, Texas

OBJECTIVES:

- Simplify the management of the network

- Reallocate time to more productive IT responsibilities

- Consolidate multiple tools and unify disparate data

RESULTS:

- A proactive solution for identifying network issues

- Major reduction in network management and maintenance time

- Ability to roll out many rapid changes without major programming work

PRODUCTS:

- NetMRI

![Texas A&M University logo]

THE SOLUTION

An Incomparable and Intuitive Network Tool

After reviewing several options, Texas A&M chose NetMRI, a proactive network management solution, to manage its vast, multi-vendor network as one whole system. With its built-in expert rules engine, NetMRI monitors, detects, and reports on network issues before they become problems for Texas A&M's IT staff. After installing NetMRI, Texas A&M was able to replace most of its monitoring tools, resulting in an enormous reduction in overall network management and maintenance time. This dramatic reduction enables the Network Group to be proactive instead of reactive.

"The initial hook was that NetMRI contained all of our best practices in a box," said Almand. "It is very easy to install and simply understands how the internal network infrastructure works. NetMRI is truly a unique solution and I haven't found another product that is able to carry out the functions and tasks that it performs."

THE RESULTS

A Unified and Proactive Approach to Network Management

Overall, NetMRI has greatly simplified and streamlined Texas A&M's overall network management, which enables the network engineering staff to work more efficiently. NetMRI simplifies everything by providing Texas A&M with one solution that unifies control of key aspects of its infrastructure. Most importantly, the Network Group now has the time to proactively manage the network rather than consecutively running multiple tools.

One of the biggest benefits for Texas A&M is NetMRI's Policy Management capabilities. This feature enables the university to catalogue configurations, monitor changes, enforce policy and standards, and even execute changes whenever necessary, quickly and easily. Now, Texas A&M can make rapid changes across multiple devices from different vendors without requiring significant programming time. NetMRI also makes configuration modification of devices on the network simple and hassle free. It formalizes Texas A&M's best practices before the IT staff rolls out new pieces of equipment. NetMRI also maintains copies of current and previous configurations, which enables the network group to revert to an earlier configuration at any time. By comparing Texas A&M's currently running configurations with its previous configurations, NetMRI also serves as an excellent backup tool.

Infoblox unites networking and security to deliver unmatched performance and protection. Trusted by Fortune 100 companies and emerging innovators, we provide real-time visibility and control over who and what connects to your network, so your organization runs faster and stops threats earlier.

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