



## 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 also 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 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. A follow-up workshop will be scheduled where findings and recommendations will be presented.

## The Insight Cisco Network Assessment will deliver the following outputs:

1. Pre-assessment workshop call with key stakeholders to gain insight into perceived challenges, issues and desired outputs.
2. Information gathering phase where the consultant will attend site and access the LAN switches. The time taken for this stage will vary depending on the network size.
3. Our consultant will perform a detailed review of the gathered data.
4. Identification of areas for optimisation of performance and configuration.
5. Detailed overview of current software versions and identification of known vulnerabilities.
6. Recommendations for remediation of faults, or known weak performance areas.
7. Suggestions on new features and functionality that are available in the current/future software versions.
8. Summary review of potential software and hardware upgrade paths for the environment.
9. The submission of a detailed consultancy report, highlighting our findings and recommendations.
10. A post-assessment workshop call for a review of 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 on environment consisting of onsite physical audit. Gather all required configurations and document layout of cabinets/ devices etc.
- 3 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**
  - Attain high-level overview of environment
  - Relay access requirements to client
- **Pre-assessment workshop**
  - Project co-ordinator schedules call with client
  - Identify key stakeholders and team members
  - Review project timeline, phases and outcomes
  - Gather knowledge on the client's existing environment including any issues
  - Cover what is in scope and out of scope
  - Identify any risks for the project
- **Assessment/information gathering phase**
  - 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
  - Gather all license information
  - Gather key features and functionality in use
  - Log in to 'agreed' LAN switches and attain show commands and configurations as required
  - Investigate and gather further info on any areas where the client has highlighted issues or problems
- **Report**
  - Review findings from all tools and information and consolidate in to a report for the client
- **Review**
  - Project co-ordinator to schedule call with client, ideally one week post-report submission to allow time for client to review and digest.
  - On the review call the consultant will talk the client through the report
  - The consultant will discuss the recommendations
  - Discuss where Insight can assist with any recommendations
  - Clarify any next steps with a view to continuing the engagement with follow-up works