



Network Asset Planning
Cost, Risk and **BUSINESS AGILITY** at your fingertips

Remove **risk, uncertainty** and **waste** from IT infrastructure management

Do you know what's on your network?

Full visibility of the age, support status, and succession plans for all devices on the network is a critical element of secure, cost-effective and optimised network management.

Dimension Data's Technology Lifecycle Management Assessment service provides the compass you need to navigate and chart your IT infrastructure assets on your network, giving you the business agility to take advantage of changing market conditions and conduct a competitive and proactive business.

At Dimension Data we are IT infrastructure specialists. We have designed, deployed and managed thousands of networks for clients of all sizes and in all industry verticals, in almost every country in the world. Based on our experience, the most effective advice we can give clients is to be proactive – have a plan in place to deal with managing your network long-term. Knowing your network will give you the high level visibility to ensure your infrastructure is business-ready and has the capability to run the applications that can deliver agility and competitive advantage and support new technology investments.

It's the smart way to know your network.

Cost, Risk and Strategic Agility . . .

identified, managed and planned to deliver a Business-ready Network

Network Asset Planning is a proven methodology that helps you manage the risk, cost and agility concerns involved in running your network, based on precision identification of every component of your infrastructure.

The Technology Lifecycle Management (TLM) Assessment is a simple, cost-effective service that delivers this complex view of the network to you. TLM Assessment is secure, non-invasive and an excellent way for you to get to know your IT infrastructure assets on your network.

Agility



Managing the responsiveness of your network journey . . . **BUSINESS AGILITY**

Business agility allows you to be flexible in the market and counter the innovations of competitors. You can also be more innovative yourself: able to implement new technologies that drive efficiencies and create competitive advantage.

The success of any new technology rests on the capabilities of your communications infrastructure. It's critical to devote resources to discovering, documenting and maintaining this infrastructure, because if your network is not able to support new technology investments, you are poorly positioned to execute on opportunities or strategic business decisions.

Some examples of the ways you need network capability to power business agility include:

- ▲ **Server and data centre consolidation** can drive significant cost savings – but if the underlying network has not been addressed, then you will likely not realise the full benefits of your investment.
- ▲ If you want to deploy **unified communications**, you need power over ethernet.
- ▲ **Quality of service (QoS)** – without QoS on your network, voice calls will be trying for users and may not work at all.

Network Asset Planning is a critical success factor for business agility, because it helps you identify everything on your network. This awareness empowers you to make the right decisions to put in place the capabilities that will power your network and all the technology you want to run on it for greater business advantage. When you have a complete overview of your network, you will not only be able to plan the development and maintenance of your infrastructure, but you will know in advance whether you have the inbuilt capabilities to support new technologies . . . before having to spend a cent or make expensive mistakes.

Network Asset Planning will help your network strategy in another important way: it's not only essential to know **what's** on your network, but also **how it is configured**. It's inevitable that over time, variations in your network configuration will creep in and in practice, these tend to accumulate over time. If you have problems with configuration across your network, you'll encounter some of the following agility-defeating factors:

- ▲ Increased downtime, with greater effort, time and resources needed to identify problems and restore uptime.
- ▲ A growing waste of your scarce in-house IT resources as they are diverted from being strategic and attending to more value-driven activities and into troubleshooting and routine maintenance.

How will Network Asset Planning help support the quest for the optimised network and greater business agility?

The network is the foundation from which to exploit all the great opportunities technology can offer – for example, the increased efficiency, greater security and compliance, cost savings, and greater responsiveness and availability offered by advanced technologies like unified communications and mobility. To access these advantages, you need a secure, available platform from which to operate – and this is where Network Asset Planning plays an important role. By running a diagnostic service like TLM Assessment, you can gain complete visibility of the state of your infrastructure, and practical advice on how to enable it to support the business agility you require. It will give you visibility into where you need to spend money and when, giving

you greater control over capital expenditure and better allocation of resources. Importantly, it will also help avoid the kind of unplanned expenses that can derail major projects or stop you from fully exploiting your technology investment.

“Remove the costs and uncertainty of not knowing what’s on your network and whether it will support your business by running a simple, effective three stage assessment – we can help.”

Why Dimension Data?

- ▲ We do network infrastructure better than anyone else.
- ▲ We have an unrivalled understanding of the interdependencies and design of networks.
- ▲ We can help you gain insight and control of your network and make a proactive start to achieving greater business agility through our **Technology Lifecycle Management (TLM) Assessment**.

Technology Lifecycle Management (TLM) Assessment

What is it?

TLM Assessment is a service we recommend that executes on our approach to Network Asset Planning in a practical and effective way. By identifying and classifying assets running on your network, we present you with a report that maps and describes your current network status in detail. It identifies weak spots, highlights vulnerabilities, and updates you on the lifecycle status of your network components. When you have the high level of visibility enabled by TLM Assessment, you then have the time, knowledge and insight to plan for upgrades, make informed decisions on what assets to prolong the use of, and which will need you to budget for upgrades or source cost-effective spares. By giving you an accurate inventory of your network, it will also empower you to make the right decisions at the right time and at the right price.

Remove the costs and uncertainty of not knowing what’s on your network and whether it will support your business by running a simple, effective three stage assessment – we can help.



How does it work?

TLM Assessment is delivered in three stages:

Discovery: There are two phases to discovery. First is the Business Interview, where we collect information from about the business use of your network. In the Technical Interview, we collect more specific information about how the network is architected and gather information that is required to get a good onsite environment discovery off the ground.

Analysis: The results of the Discovery phase provide information about the network’s IOS vulnerabilities, lifecycle status information (e.g. end-of-sale), configuration and maintenance coverage that provide the insight to review and analyse its operation status and answer the question: Is your network business-ready?

Recommendations: The analysis of the information gathered in the previous steps enables the consultant to recommend remediation for the current problems, understand the gaps and recommend solutions that are appropriate to your network environment. These may include architectural design changes, equipment upgrades, process changes, training, and other areas. Recovery strategy, architecture recommendations, implementation roadmaps and solution costs are all completed in this step. The information is then compiled into a comprehensive report, giving you practical first steps on how to proceed to gain greater control over and better management of your network, focusing on cost, risk and business agility.



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