



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 IT infrastructure assets on your network is a critical element of secure, cost-effective and optimised IT infrastructure management.

Dimension Data's Technology Lifecycle Management Assessment service provides the compass you need to navigate and chart your IT infrastructure assets on the network, giving you a platform from which to achieve network compliance and avoid the penalties associated with operational risk.

At Dimension Data we are IT infrastructure specialists. We have designed, deployed and managed thousands of networks for clients of all sizes and from 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. Compliance and risk are critical factors that can only be managed and mitigated when you have insight into what's on your your IT infrastructure, where it is located and how it is configured, and how much longer it has to operate before reaching end of life.

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.

Technology Lifecycle Management (TLM) Assessment is a simple, cost-effective service that delivers that 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.

Risk



The start of the journey . . . RISK

As long as your network is functioning adequately on a day-to-day basis, you may not be aware of the **high level of business risk** you run by being in the dark about the status of your infrastructure. This silent risk is nonetheless present on the network and can result in costly disruptions to service like faults, security breaches and downtime.

The risks fall under two broad categories:

- ▲ Security threats; and
- ▲ Availability threats.

Some of the risks you run in terms of efficiency, availability and security include:

- ▲ Absence of maintenance contracts on network devices and no access to spares.
- ▲ Unmitigated IOS vulnerabilities due to operating systems being unknown.
- ▲ Incorrect configuration of both known and unknown assets, leading to longer downtime to repair.
- ▲ Security breaches.
- ▲ Last minute searches for spares that are not provided for, leading to added cost, compliance risk and delays.

Modern business practice is governed by stringent **compliance, regulation** and **legislation** and this adds to the risk posed by networks where devices are haphazardly configured and not enough is known about the network landscape and all its elements.

Regulatory compliance is more onerous for some organisations than for others, but most are required to adhere to at least one set of standards. The implications for the network are that almost all regulations state that an organisation has to have the following:

- ▲ Defined and documented set of network and configuration standards.
- ▲ Defined set of security practices enabled by device features.
- ▲ Defined set of recurring processes to ensure compliance with the documented standards.

Network devices are frequently either overlooked or the last focus of compliance reviews. However, the network often has significant security issues that ought to be addressed – even without the imperative of a compliance audit.

Our TLM Assessment service has identified a couple of key trends in clients' networks around the world:

- ▲ 73% of all devices have at least one documented security vulnerability.
- ▲ The typical device breaks 31 best practice rules as documented by published best practice standards (e.g. PCI DSS).
- ▲ A significant percentage of clients have not instituted sufficient discipline around patch management or configuration management, exposing their networks to an unacceptably high level of risk.

How will Network Asset Planning defend your network against these vulnerabilities?

Network Asset Planning will highlight your vulnerabilities by exposing the status of every device that resides on your network. It won't solve your security or device problems, but it will increase your level of visibility and control and draw your attention to

areas that need to be addressed to increase security and attain compliance. Armed with this information, you can address security and compliance gaps and secure your network against threat.

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 reducing your risk exposure 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 you will need to budget for upgrades or source cost-effective spares for. 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.



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 about the business use of your network. In the Technical Interview, we collect more specific information about how your 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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