

Network Optimisation Assessment

Networks that perform at the speed of business

Getting the most out of your corporate network is crucial in ensuring the best possible experience for all your technology users. The challenge is that the way we work today, as well as the technology architecture that supports our work, has changed dramatically... and keeps changing at a rapid rate.

Today, your people use a host of mobile devices and media-rich applications, and they want to be able to use them no matter where in the office – or in the world – they work. With the Internet of Things, even technologies themselves are starting to transact over networks without human involvement. IP traffic volumes are expected to increase three-fold over the next five years, while traffic from wireless and mobile devices will soon exceed traffic from wired devices.

In addition, applications are now typically hosted in a combination of organisation-owned data centres and hosting providers, while networks are a combination of public and private facilities. By 2019, it's estimated that 83% of all data centre traffic will come from the cloud.

These factors have had a large impact on your users' quality of experience when connecting to their business applications over the network. Many of today's networks weren't designed to carry changing traffic patterns, and in addition, many protocols widely used today aren't designed to function over a wide area network (WAN). An end-to-end approach to performance between user device and application is required to accelerate your digital business.

Dimension Data's Network Optimisation Assessment

An end-to-end approach means tying the user to the application they need, and everything in-between, as well as ensuring the infrastructure performs optimally. It requires a strong consideration of how your users use the applications, how they connect to them, and what that experience is like along the way.

Dimension Data's Network Optimisation Assessment is a network assessment service that helps you navigate the difficult waters of network performance. It delivers a performance baseline on the network and provides an analysis of the various

traffic types, patterns, and flows. The information delivered by the Assessment allows your organisation to understand your networks more intimately, and highlights areas and applications that need performance improvement.

Our approach

The Network Optimisation Assessment was designed to provide quality network performance statistics, along with actionable recommendations, rapidly. The Assessment is delivered in three phases, namely:

Discover

We conduct a series of interviews with you in a workshop format. This is to fully understand the context of the network traffic, which provides input for our recommendations at the end of the project. This phase also allows you to articulate where your challenges are and which plans are in place to address those challenges. To collect the performance data, we use specialised software to connect to your platform. This poses no security risk to you, because we don't remove any data from your network.

Construct

This is a fully automated analysis phase in which all data captured from your network is analysed. The data is uploaded to the consulting assessment platform which automates the generation of the initial report we present to you.

Recommend

Using the information gathered in the discover and construct phases, we apply our expertise in protocols, networking, data centres, and applications to make recommendations about how to improve your network performance. We compile a detailed report, containing information on the traffic patterns that exist on the network, along with recommendations for performance improvement.

The Network Optimisation Assessment applies our expert knowledge of networking and protocols to assist you with:

- **Performance statistics.** The service provides a detailed analysis of the traffic statistics collected during the assessment period, including application discovery, network efficiency, and overall utilisation.
- **Identifying application and performance problems.** The report will highlight poorly performing applications or points on the network, to enable faster diagnosis of performance problems.
- **Identifying problems before they occur.** Certain traffic patterns may be clearly problematic – we will analyse and highlight these during the service.

- **More informed network planning.** Detailed knowledge of your network usage and traffic patterns will enable you to make good planning decisions.
- **Improved network security posture.** It's possible that your network bandwidth is being consumed by unauthorised, unwanted, and malicious traffic. Once this has been identified, it's easier to block this type of traffic.
- **Better selection of performance technologies.** Once traffic patterns are understood, it becomes clear what needs to be done to improve the performance of the network. Choosing the most appropriate technology to address any performance problems becomes easier when using this information.

What this Assessment offers you:

- a network performance baseline
- complete visibility into network traffic patterns
- thorough review of application environment
- detailed performance analysis on network traffic
- visibility of unwanted network traffic
- visibility of performance problems and areas for improvement
- more informed network planning

Why Dimension Data?

- deep understanding of the network as the platform for modern business and its related pressures and challenges
- performance optimisation approach takes an end-to-end view of performance and offers a range of best practice solutions
- consultants have the appropriate technical and commercial credentials to provide relevant insights and practical advice
- we support and manage more than USD 30 billion of networking Infrastructure 24/7/365
- we've designed, built, and manage over 9,000 IP networks, enabling 13 million users to connect to their organisations' networks
- over 8,651 networking certifications across multiple technology vendors
- over 630 CCIEs – the largest number outside of Cisco

Contact us for more on how we can help you ensure that your network performs as well as your business or visit dimensiondata.com/networking.com