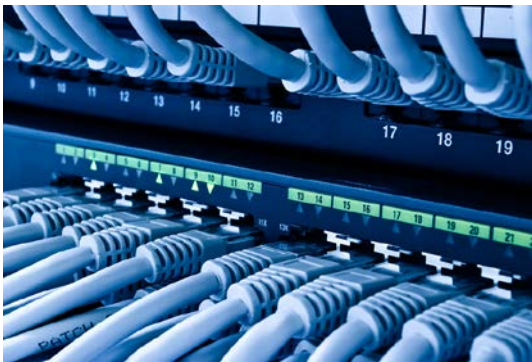


# GETTING NETWORK AUDITING AND CONFIGURATION FIGURED OUT

October, 2014

In the world of network management, knowledge is power. But many organizations know a lot less about their network than they think. With proper network auditing and configuration, businesses can fill this knowledge gap.

→ **Jim Rapoza**, Senior Research Analyst and Editorial Director,  
Information Technology



So your organization has a great network, and you've got it all figured out. "What's my network configuration? Well, I have these switches, and some routers, and it's cabled in this way, and we of course have these tools to monitor the network. Yep, I know everything there is to know about my network." Oh yeah? Would you care to bet your job, or your organization's reputation on that knowledge?

---

**Businesses that have high performing and reliable networks are those that put the time into understanding everything there is to know about their network.**

---

The fact is many network administrators don't realize how much they don't know about their network. The tendency is to think of a network as a static thing. Once it's built, it doesn't change much until the next major upgrade.

But the reality is that networks are dynamic and constantly changing entities. New software can change the entire way that data flows over the network. New devices, including switches and WiFi access points, can make their way onto networks without the administrator's knowledge. And security and access controls may not be to the level that you think they are.

And what happens when an organization doesn't know what they don't know about their network? They could be in violation of regulatory compliance and corporate governance rules. There could be major security holes in their network. And there may be software or devices on the network that are draining resources, impacting performance for critical applications and causing costly downtime.

Clearly, not understanding your network can be a problem. And interestingly enough, a consistent theme in Aberdeen's research into networks over the years is that those businesses that have high performing and reliable networks are those that put the time into understanding everything there is to know about their networks. These leading businesses use powerful tools that audit their network infrastructure and give them insight into everything that is on or touches the network— hardware, software, services, you name it.

When tied to effective configuration and management tools, this information makes it possible to effectively configure and automate key network management processes and practices. If something changes on the network, you know right away. And in many cases, automated tools can immediately take action in order to prevent changes that impact compliance or network security.

In your personal life, audit isn't a word you want to hear (as it means you are probably in tax trouble). But when it comes to an organization's network, effective network auditing, combined with powerful configuration tools, will help fill the knowledge gaps that many businesses have about their networks and make it possible to reach overall high performance and reliability.

And that kind of knowledge can be pretty comforting.

- ➔ [Read the full report, Visibility, Automation and Analysis: A Winning Combo for Reliable Networks](#)
- ➔ [Related Research Big Data in Network and Application Monitoring: The All-Knowing Approach to IT Management](#)

## About Aberdeen Group

For 26 years, Aberdeen Group has published research that helps businesses worldwide improve performance. We identify Best-in-Class organizations by conducting primary research with industry practitioners. Our team of analysts derives fact-based, vendor-agnostic insights from a proprietary analytical framework independent of outside influence. The resulting research content is used by hundreds of thousands of business professionals to drive smarter decision making and improve business strategy.

Aberdeen's content marketing solutions help B2B organizations take control of the Hidden Sales Cycle through content licensing, speaking engagements, custom research, and content creation services. Located in Boston, MA, Aberdeen Group is a Harte Hanks Company.

This document is the result of primary research performed by Aberdeen Group. Aberdeen Group's methodologies provide for objective fact-based research and represent the best analysis available at the time of publication. Unless otherwise noted, the entire contents of this publication are copyrighted by Aberdeen Group, Inc. and may not be reproduced, distributed, archived, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written consent by Aberdeen Group, Inc.