Help reduce risk and improve IT efficiency by automating network configuration and change management.

Overview

Traditionally, IT organizations waited for network health issues to occur and then reacted. Even today, many IT departments continue to manually handle network configuration, change and compliance requirements, even though manual changes cause the majority of all network outages and performance degradations. As new technologies such as virtualization and cloud computing introduce even more complexity into network administration efforts, this reactive way of dealing with network changes and configurations no longer suffices in today’s business-critical network environments.

CA Network Automation, a key component of the CA Service Automation portfolio, is designed to help organizations take control of network configurations and changes proactively—making it easy to identify hard-to-find configuration problems before they impact performance, and help meet compliance requirements in the process. CA Network Automation utilizes built-in subject matter expertise to audit, analyze and automate network change.

Benefits

CA Network Automation is quick to deploy and automatically applies its embedded analysis without customization. Built to scale for large, complex networks, the system learns your network, gathers key data, applies the built-in expertise, and generates a network health score and list of actionable issues to help improve quality—all out of the box. The built-in intelligence and automation capabilities are designed to deliver significant business benefits including:

- Improving IT staff productivity and efficiency by automating repetitive, manual network operational tasks
• Enhancing network performance and availability by proactively finding and fixing issues before they impact performance
• Enforcing standards and helping to maintain compliance by proactively monitoring defined rules and policies as well as reporting on and remediating policy violations

Product overview

Improving productivity and efficiency via automation
As IT organizations are asked to do more with less, CA Network Automation uses embedded expertise and intelligent automation to help improve staff productivity by reducing the amount of manual data collection and analysis of network information. It is designed to quickly identify and prioritize problems that are impractical for most organizations to proactively detect. Associating change information means operations teams no longer need to manually search high and low to find the changes that might have caused performance problems.

Understanding the impact of change
CA Network Automation brings together the information that network engineering and IT operations teams need to understand the cause and effect relationships between network configuration and changes, as well as their impact on network health, performance, and compliance. Further, CA Network Automation constantly monitors for change, alerting operators immediately to what changed, where, and by whom. When change happens, CA Network Automation assesses the resulting configurations to proactively identify inconsistent or incorrect settings, and facilitates rapid remediation before network performance is impacted.

Enforcing standards and maintaining compliance
Standardization of network device configurations builds consistency, thus improving reliability, reducing the risk of configuration errors impacting overall health, and easing maintenance costs over time. CA Network Automation enables users to leverage pre-built rules and policies to define standards across network devices. Its proactive monitoring capability automatically notifies you when a change causes a policy violation, so IT staff can return the device back into compliance quickly. Enhanced form-based wizards, rules, policies, and notifications allow users to meet custom requirements without the need for complex scripting.
CA Network Automation uses built-in subject matter expertise, automation, control and proactive management to help ensure that changes to the network achieve the intended results and finds any unintended consequences before users are impacted and complaints start flooding your IT staff.

Automates routine network operations
CA Network Automation enhances efficiency for experienced engineers by reducing manual, repetitive tasks and allows them to focus on key business tasks and policies. For less experienced network and IT staff, the built-in expertise and remediation tools are designed to increase their knowledge, empowering them with techniques and information to help identify hard to find problems and to implement changes efficiently and correctly.

Instead of having to manually make changes one by one or building custom scripts, CA Network Automation helps automate repetitive network operational processes and tasks such as pushing new or updated configuration settings to devices, doing OS upgrades, deploying patches, etc., and it logs the changes made in the process for tracking and auditing purposes.

Built-in expertise and analysis
A key driver to the success of CA Network Automation deployments is its built-in expertise and analysis based on networking industry best practices. This analysis enables CA Network Automation to not only track changes, but also identify deep-rooted issues that can threaten network health and stability.
It proactively discovers and analyzes poor or suboptimal configurations throughout the network without requiring manual intervention, and can then remediate issues (individually or en masse) before they impact overall performance.

**Understands relationships between devices**
As networks become more complex, the need to understand how a change on one device can negatively impact its network neighbors becomes critical. CA Network Automation analyzes data and configurations from devices, not as stand-alone entities, but as members of an integrated system and in the context of their neighbors. The topology views illustrate the multi-dimensional relationships of network devices, overlaying the status of change, network health, and policy compliance, making it easy to see how changes on one device could impact other aspects of the network.

**Detects and controls change**
CA Network Automation provides user-based, role definitions and controls so multiple access levels can be provided based on needs or level of experience. This flexibility eliminates the need to assign administrative rights to everyone, while still empowering IT staff with the access they need to perform tasks like changing device passwords, or gathering more information for problem resolution.

**Helps enforce standards and compliance**
CA Network Automation leverages built-in compliance rules, policies and reports so you can manage to your standards and quickly demonstrate compliance for either internal audits or external mandates such as PCI, ISO, SOX, HIPAA, DISA, etc. You can also edit the pre-built templates to create customizable policies based on your requirements. Instead of only focusing on compliance when the auditors come calling, CA Network Automation proactively and continuously monitors the network for non-standard, or out-of-compliance changes, can remediate violations quickly, and display the results via pre-packaged compliance reports.

**Rapid time to value**
CA Network Automation typically installs in less than 30 minutes, and can deliver in-depth network and configuration information within hours. CA Network Automation scales to handle the most diverse and complex networks with its flexible and extensible architecture. It can be deployed rapidly either as a physical or virtual appliance.
CA Network Automation helps manage layer 2 and 3 network devices like routers, switches, firewalls, WAN optimization and others for change, configuration and compliance. It uses an appliance-based approach (either a physical turn-key appliance or a virtual appliance) to collect information from devices via SNMP, CLI or configuration data and/or Syslog. CA Network Automation is optimized for multi-vendor networks and supports a wide array of network devices out of the box from network vendors such as 3COM, Alcatel-Lucent, Brocade, Citrix, Cisco and Juniper to name a few. Plus it’s easily extensible to add custom network device support or leverage your existing scripts.

**Benefits**

Through proactive management and intelligent automation, CA Network Automation not only helps improve network performance and availability but is also designed to deliver significant business value:

- **Improves productivity and efficiency**—frees experienced IT and network staff from doing repetitive, manual tasks and chasing problems to focusing on what they should be doing
- **Enhances network performance and availability**—proactively finds and fixes network issues before they impact overall performance
- **Manages and enforces standards and compliance**—leverages built-in compliance rules, policies and reports so you can quickly demonstrate compliance for internal audits or external mandates like PCI, ISO, HIPAA, DISA, etcetera

**Supported devices**

CA Network Automation automatically detects and tracks changes across the network, and reports on which devices are impacted by change.
Related products

CA Network Automation is a key component of the CA Service Automation portfolio, a modular, broad-based approach to IT and data center automation that also includes CA Client Automation, CA Server Automation, CA Configuration Automation, CA Process Automation, CA Workload Automation, and CA Applogic®.

The CA Technologies advantage

CA Technologies has over 30 years of recognized expertise in robust, reliable, scalable, and secure enterprise-class IT management software. CA Technologies has made an unparalleled commitment to emerging technologies and IT delivery models such as automation, virtualization, Software-as-a-Service, and cloud. Additionally, CA Technologies solutions deliver forward-thinking best management technologies garnered through strategic acquisition and developed from within. CA Network Automation and the entire CA Service Automation portfolio offer extensive, unified automation across the entire IT infrastructure to help enable the financial benefits and operational efficiencies you need today, while providing an evolutionary path to achieve and maximize the benefits of cloud computing.