

UNIFIED NETWORK AUTOMATION PLATFORM (UNAP)

Eliminate mistake prone & costly manual processes on your network

Networks are typically built, operated, and maintained manually. Network operators (NetOps) log in to routers, switches, load balancers, and firewalls to change configurations by hand, then log out.

Traditional, manual approaches to network configuration and updates are too slow and error-prone to effectively support the needs of rapidly shifting application and developer requirements.

These challenges are magnified in an IT organization managing a multi-vendor network environment. Each network vendor (Cisco, Palo Alto, Juniper, etc) has their own control plane to manage these systems.

The challenges created in a multi-vendor network environment utilizing a traditional manual approach include:

- X Complex lifecycle management is costly from a time & resource perspective
- X Specialization in platforms inhibits collaboration for cross-department teams
- X Lack of visibility to manage full device inventory effectively
- X Lack of consistency to maintain configuration standards across platforms
- X Network vendors focused on product capabilities vs overall operations
- X Manual management is error-prone resulting in security vulnerabilities, panic patching and system outage

Companies Who Need UNAP:

- ✓ Vulnerability patching and updates required 2x per month or more
- ✓ Multi-vendor / multi-site deployments
- ✓ Configuration management and drift challenges
- ✓ Compliance, industry regulations or audits

50+

new vulnerabilities are exposed every day – these are impossible to keep remediated without constant automated network patching (RedScan)

48%

of organizations are still relying fully or partially on manual data gathering for their data center network automation tools

\$300,000

in cost savings per year as network teams experience an average of 29% efficiency gain

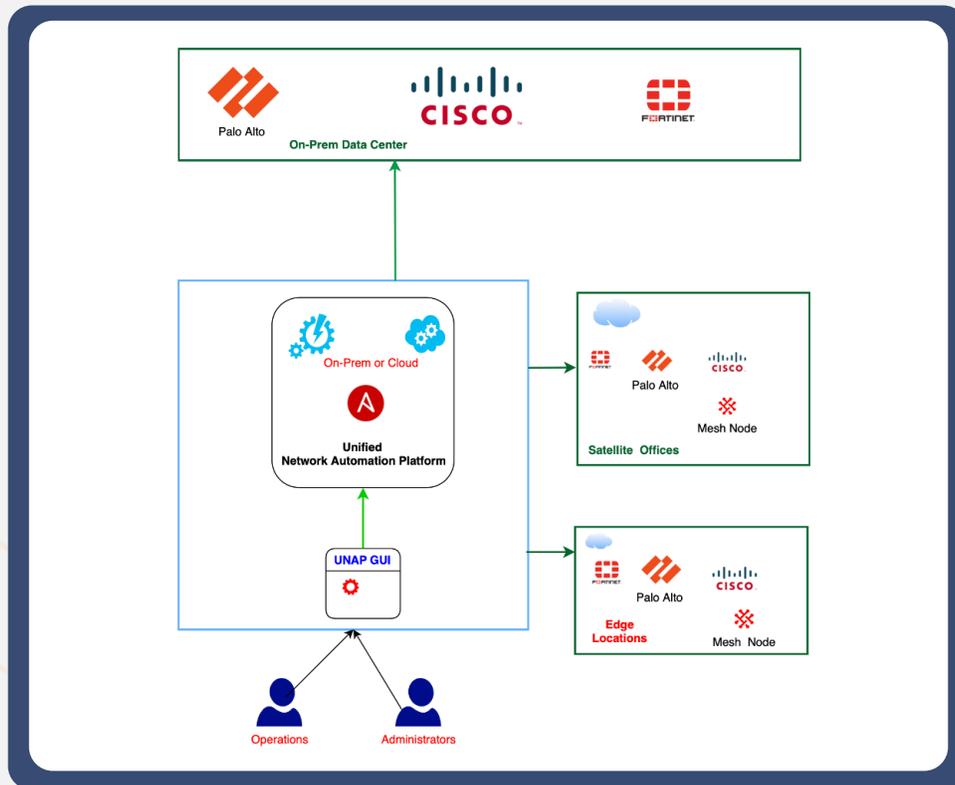
February 2022 EMA Research Report Summary

IDC Business Value of Ansible Automation

UNAP powered by Red Hat Ansible Automation enables organizations to manage the full lifecycle of network infrastructure across a multi-vendor environment within a single pane of glass.

Additional features for UNAP powered by Ansible Automation Platform:

1. Extensible and Out of the Box Network Vendor integrations where Ansible knowledge is not required.
2. Rapid on-boarding of devices in Data center and Remote locations with custom modules included.
3. Vendor API's, API Changes, Modules or Module updates are included and handled by platform.
4. No Administration overhead of AAP platform since updates are handled via UNAP console.
5. Provides real-time auditing and reporting of network device inventories
6. Tracks all life cycle events (examples: provisioning, management, and Decommissioning)
7. Integration with Enterprise tools (ITSM, Monitoring, SNOW etc.)
8. Packaged as a single node deployment (OVA, AMI etc.)



Benefits of Automating

PRODUCTIVITY – Enable faster response time with more focus on business enabling projects

REDUCED COST & CONSOLIDATION – Decrease tools for cost savings and easier training of network teams

SECURITY – Identify and remediate vulnerabilities across your entire network

COMPLIANCE – Continuous compliance with changing policies & regulations

AVAILABILITY – Increase network availability with effective testing

SINGLE PANE OF GLASS – Visibility to network inventory and collected configuration information

Automate Your Network in as Little as 3 Months

At the end of engagement, your organization will have a full operational platform to manage lifecycle events of multi-vendor network appliances across their enterprise using a single pane of glass with an ability to:

- Provision of new devices (on-prem and remote offices)
- Patching and update of firmware
- Backup and restore of configurations
- Decommission of network appliances

MONTH 1 DISCOVERY

- Identify the network appliances deployed in your enterprise
- Catalog the models and firmware versions to integrate with UNAP
- Discover your network topology to recommend the UNAP deployment architecture
- Define the sizing and deployment architecture for UNAP

MONTH 1-3 IMPLEMENTATION

- Deploy UNAP tool in your environment & validate the communication of your network devices with UNAP
- Configure UNAP tool to integrate with on-premise and remote network devices
- Build and customize related automated workflows for device management & integration with enterprise systems (LDAP, ITSM tools etc.)
- Configure role-based access policies

MONTH 3 VALIDATION

- Learn to test network device life cycle management
- Validate configurations for backup, restore, and maintenance tasks
- Knowledge transfer on UNAP administration and platform operations



Customer Story: Automated Visibility to Over 260,000 IP Addresses

A leading software vendor and hosting provider with service regions across the world has tasked Converge to generate insights into their Network Devices across their data centers in North America, LATM, EMEA, and ASPAC regions. Customer needed this information for their IT Audits and CISO reporting.

The focus of the audit is to gain meaningful insights over inbound and outbound traffic and their relationships to the application workloads deployed in their datacenters.

Using a custom-built automation tool deployed in their data center, Converge was able to connect and manage their network appliances in real-time, with an ability to scan their configurations and establish relationships on network and traffic flow across 260K IP addresses.

Operational lead time to generate reports for IP Address Mapping has been automated with real-time information to CISO and IT Auditors.

60%

of datacenter networking configuration activities will be automated by 2023, up from 30% in 2020 (Gartner)

53%

of organizations use open source infrastructure automation software like Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform for network automation

About Converge Technology Solutions

Converge Technology Solutions is a services-led, software-enabled, IT & Cloud Solutions provider focused on delivering industry-leading solutions. Converge's global approach delivers advanced analytics, application modernization, cloud platforms, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and digital workplace offerings to clients across various industries. Converge supports these solutions with advisory, implementation, and managed services expertise across all major IT vendors in the marketplace.

This multi-faceted approach enables Converge to address the unique business and technology requirements for all clients in the public and private sectors. Our goal is to provide a trusted partner that brings together world-class solutions and services to help reduce costs, increase efficiency, and create competitive advantages.

Solution Powered by Red Hat Ansible

Red Hat® Ansible® Automation Platform is a simple, powerful IT automation that helps you streamline and manage complex datacenter environments, from servers and networks to applications and DevOps. It provides support for legacy and open network infrastructure devices across multivendor virtual and physical environments so you can automate your entire network using a single tool.

To learn more how you reduce costs with network automation, contact Converge to schedule a Network Automation Workshop Discussion: redhat@convergetp.com