CASE STUDY

IP FABRIC
AUTOMATED NETWORK ASSURANCE PLATFORM

How IP Fabric became the cornerstone of Airbus' network management automation strategy

CLIENT | AIRBUS

Revenue
70 billion USD per annum

Size
130 000 employees

Location
180 locations across 5 continents

About

Airbus has built on its strong European heritage to become a truly international business – with roughly 180 locations and 12,000 direct suppliers worldwide. Next to the aerospace and helicopter devisions, Airbus Aircraft represents the biggest division with around 80% of the total network infrastructure.

Challenge

With a large region to manage and the network infrastructure's constant evolution, the Airbus Connectivity Team struggled to get a global, accurate view of their environment. Without reliable, up-to-date information on the constantly changing network, the engineers' duties were becoming reactive and time consuming.

Solution.

Airbus integrated IP Fabric as the company's single point of truth for its network tooling ecosystem. The solution serves as complete data source for the entire network configuration and its status. It also serves as a cornerstone for effective automation, outage prevention, and fast issue identification and troubleshooting.

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In order to operate on a global level, the Airbus Network has a large, diverse, global system composed of multiple technologies. These serve as a lifeline for this high-tech company that generates almost 200 million USD a day in revenues. The client was looking for an automated solution that would help the Airbus Connectivity Team of over 200 collaborators effectively manage and further scale the network, while assuring its stability, security, and outage prevention.

Challenge

- The Airbus Aircraft Connectivity Team struggled to achieve a global and accurate view of its network environment.
- The large number of technologies and vendors that made up the network meant greater complexity and increased the risk of network incidents and malfunctions.
- The Connectivity Team created homemade tools to help with compliance verification; however, those scripts were difficult to maintain and covered only a fraction of the targeted scope.

Solution

- After choosing IP Fabric, all it took to deploy the solution was to connect the IP Fabric server to the Airbus Aircraft network and to provide server read-only rights.
- IP Fabric then performed full network discovery: collecting over 1000 important parameters for each device and generating an up-to-date, fully interactive network topology map.
- The discovery process is fully automated with no additional client support needed, and solution deployment was done in a single day.

Benefits

- In case of a user incident, the network operations team now has direct access to the latest network status. The ability to compare it with the previous one allows the team to pinpoint the change and easily fix the network issue.
- Furthermore, the assurance engine now reveals misconfigurations that had previously gone undetected by the operations team. Resolution of those problems has prevented future network issues.
- Airbus Aircraft was able to integrate IP Fabric's REST API efficiently into the company's tooling ecosystem and use collected information as a datasource for other tools; especially the CMDB.

Customer's take on IPFabric

IP Fabric is a cornerstone of our automation strategy and „must have" software for network management.

„IP Fabric allowed us to have a real feedback loop on network status with a transversal view. **We saw benefits from day one.** It enabled us to consolidate internal tools into a single source, with a proper diagramming feature and extensive network data collection. Furthermore, the embedded network experience included in our predefined reports allows the operation teams to be more efficient in their day-to-day activities."

Julien Manteau
Network Solutions Architect Lead
AIRBUS