

IP Address Management

Opening the door to efficiently managed IP future



In order to connect to today's networks, clients have to have IP addresses. Without IP addresses, networks wouldn't work. Yet fail to manage them, and networks would grind to a halt anyway.

When the number of IP addresses in use by BT shot past the 70 million mark, the hidden cost of trying to keep track of them was increasing even faster. The buck stopped at Kevin Bates' door; and the answer was right there on his doorstep. Cygna IPControl™ from Cygna Labs brought things back in line. Now, although IP address numbers in BT will inevitably continue to grow, costs no longer keep pace.

Challenge

IP addresses are the unique identifiers that enable devices such as computers and printers to recognise and talk to each other across the internet and corporate infrastructures. It's essential that they're well managed: allocating the same IP address twice would be catastrophic. As a

"With more and more web-enabled devices and applications demanded, service providers have to run ever faster just to stand still. IPControl™ from Cygna Labs brings the control we need to manage IP addresses now and in the future."

Kevin Bates, Lead Designer, IP Address Management

a world-leading service provider BT already uses 70 million IP addresses. And the job of managing them is getting harder. "That quantity is growing rapidly as the company strives to support demand for new network-attached devices from both internal users and external customers," explains Kevin Bates, Lead Designer for IP Address Management in BT Innovate and Design.

Solution

IPControl is an advanced IP address management system that enables organisations to maintain a centralised IP address inventory, configure and manage servers, and track and report on usage of IP addresses and associated IP device information. Offering full

lifecycle management, from device discovery to configuration management, its intuitive user interface and standard templates simplify administration. The IPControl application can be loaded onto customers' own hardware, pre-installed on IPControl Sapphire appliances, or arranged as a hybrid of both.

In BT, numerous tools – from in-house spreadsheets to proprietary applications – had been historically used for IP address management in different parts of the company. That fragmentation spawned inefficiency in what was already a very labour intensive area. So, in just 18 months, BT moved all 70 million of its IP addresses under the management of the IPControl platform, greatly

simplifying the administration of its data centres across the globe.

Value

One of the key benefits of IPControl is its user friendliness. Kevin Bates says: “The simplicity and consistency of the IPControl interface allows administrators to rapidly climb the learning curve and quickly achieve best practice outcomes.” Furthermore, because IPControl is cloudbased and accessed via a web browser, rather than sitting on a PC, it can be managed from anywhere. And that makes it ideal for field-based staff. The benefits to BT from the IPControl solution have already started to come through. In the past extracting IP address

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and then formatting and loading the data, was a complex and expensive operation requiring specialist IT expertise. Now IP address management in BT is largely automated, with addresses identified and allocated via a software-based IPControl template. This feeds auto-build tools, before the data is downloaded onto network devices like routers and switches. Such a zero touch approach massively reduces implementation times and virtually

eliminates errors, improving customer service. Furthermore, by taking over mundane manual tasks, it lowers costs and allows IT professionals to focus on more productive work. “With IPControl we have a structured solution that complies with all relevant industry standards,” concludes Kevin Bates. “Cost reduction from IP address management consolidation means we’re looking forward to a three-year return on investment in the order of 150 per cent.”

Core services

- **Cyigna IPControl Software**
Advanced software for your DDI control plane.
- **Cyigna Sapphire Appliances**
Secure multi-platform DDI appliances.

About Cygna Labs

Cygna Labs is a software developer and one of the top three global DDI vendors. Many Fortune 100 customers rely on Cygna Labs' DDI products and services, in addition to its industry-leading security and compliance solutions to detect and proactively mitigate data security threats, affordably pass compliance audits, and increase the productivity of their IT departments.

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