

# Network of your business

## IT Planning Notes

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Keeping a good inventory of your network is critical.



## **Networks: Count the nuts and bolts**

As organizations evolve so do their computing needs and their devices. Identifying all the devices connected to the network, whether active or inactive, provides:

- Information on devices that could be susceptible to attack as they are not secured properly and/or missing the appropriate patches/updates.
- A baseline from which to do a physical accounting of all the devices, where they are located, who is using them and what applications and systems they are running.

Who is responsible for maintaining a list of all the devices connected to your network?

Do you also maintain a list of mobile devices that access your network?

Are there written processes for onboarding as well as removing devices connected to your network?

How are inactive, end-of-life or broken devices disposed of?

Is there a written policy in place regarding the disposal processes?

How is the chain of custody maintained on disposed devices?

Is there a process for conducting network assessments?

Is there a process for generating and maintaining network diagrams?

Building this documentation may be low on your priority list, but you will be in a boat without a paddle without it. No one can predict when an emergency comes up, and you'd need this data fairly quickly.

If you are utilizing a managed service company, how often are they engaging you and updating the diagrams? Are they proactively recommending solutions to save downtime, cost, and increase revenues?

Depending on your organization's size, our recommendation ranges from monthly, quarterly, to yearly for review. Not only do we update network diagrams and talk strategy, but we set our clients up for success for budget season.