Network Assessment Methodology

BlackHawk Data's Proven Approach to Evaluating Network Health

Overview

A BlackHawk Data network assessment is a comprehensive evaluation of your network infrastructure — architecture, performance, security, and lifecycle — designed to identify risks, gaps, and opportunities for improvement. Our methodology has been refined through hundreds of enterprise engagements and provides actionable intelligence to drive your network strategy.

Assessment Scope

- **LAN/WAN Architecture** — Campus, branch, and datacenter network design review

- **Wireless Coverage** — Site surveys, AP placement, channel optimization, coverage validation

- **SD-WAN Readiness** — Circuit inventory, application requirements, migration planning

- **Security Posture** — Firewall rules, segmentation, access controls, vulnerability assessment

- **Device Lifecycle** — End-of-life tracking, firmware currency, warranty and support status

- **Performance Baselines** — Traffic analysis, utilization metrics, latency and loss measurement

- **Capacity Planning** — Growth projections, bandwidth forecasting, infrastructure scaling

What Sets Our Assessment Apart

Vendor-Neutral	Data-Driven	Actionable	Proven
Unbiased analysis across all platforms	Real metrics, not assumptions	Prioritized roadmap with budgets	Hundreds of assessments delivered

Six-Step Methodology

1

Kickoff & Scoping

Define assessment boundaries, identify key stakeholders, schedule discovery sessions, and collect existing network documentation, diagrams, and configuration backups.

2

Data Collection

Network device inventory via CDP/LLDP discovery, configuration analysis, traffic flow analysis using NetFlow/sFlow, wireless site surveys, and performance baseline capture across all network segments.

3

Architecture Review

Topology validation against best practices, redundancy assessment (FHRP, link aggregation), VLAN/subnet design review, routing protocol analysis, and WAN circuit utilization measurement.

4

Security Posture

Firewall rule analysis and optimization, access control review (802.1X, NAC), network segmentation assessment, vulnerability identification, and compliance gap analysis (PCI-DSS, HIPAA, SOC 2).

5

Lifecycle Analysis

Device end-of-life and end-of-support date tracking, firmware currency assessment, hardware capacity evaluation (CPU, memory, throughput), license compliance verification, and warranty status review.

6

Executive Report & Roadmap

Executive summary with risk scoring, detailed findings organized by category, prioritized remediation recommendations, phased modernization roadmap (30/60/90 day), and budget estimates for all recommended improvements.

Sample Deliverables

What You Receive

✓ **Executive Summary** — High-level findings, risk scores, and strategic recommendations for leadership

✓ **Network Topology Diagrams** — Accurate, updated logical and physical network diagrams

✓ **Risk Register** — Comprehensive risk catalog with severity ratings and prioritization

✓ **Remediation Roadmap** — Phased action plan organized into 30/60/90-day priorities

✓ **Budget Planning Estimates** — Cost projections for recommended infrastructure improvements

Detail	Information
Timeline	Typical assessment takes 2–4 weeks depending on scope and number of sites
Cost	Complimentary for qualified organizations
Prerequisites	Read-only access to network devices, stakeholder availability for discovery sessions
Deliverable Format	Executive presentation, detailed technical report (PDF), editable network diagrams

Request Your Free Network Assessment

(877) 383-1845

info@blackhawk11.com
blackhawkdata.com