

CASE STUDY



IP Fabric delivers insight into network complexity whilst fostering knowledge transfer for technical teams at Transgourmet



CLIENT



Annual Revenue
5,6 billion EUR



Activity
41 000 clients served daily



Size
22 501 employees

About

TransGourmet is the leading food and beverage wholesale distribution and cash and carry company in Europe. TransGourmet Central & Eastern Europe is active in Germany, Poland, Romania and Russia; with more than 90 cash and carry supermarkets. The TransGourmet Group consists of specialized companies offering huge product diversity. The company's product range boasts over 35 000 unique items.

Challenge

Steep company growth and network engineering recruitment challenges resulted in inconsistent and inefficient project delivery and documentation. Manual knowledge transfer from engineers to operations teams was causing communication bottlenecks and inefficient project-to-operation handover. Technical debt across organically grown and M&A-sourced infrastructure lacked standardization.

Solution

IP Fabric fully automated the documentation and topology workload.

Knowledge of the complex, growing network is now easily accessible by all team members from a single system.

Network engineer onboarding times have drastically reduced time needed for availability of updated data and visualization capabilities.

Data is an organization's most valuable asset: network data is no exception. Rapidly increasing demand for network services meant that outdated documentation (and the fact that the most valuable network data resided purely in the brains of the engineers designing and operating the network) was no longer viable. TransGourmet sought an automated, simplified solution to address this challenge.



Challenge

- Rapid growth, coupled with technical recruitment challenges in the competitive German market, meant that the number of man-hours available were insufficient for the number of tasks in the queue.
- Poor documentation that led to blind spots and inadequate management visibility had been a problem for a long time. With upcoming major infrastructure investments, documentation and visibility became a top priority and would be crucial to success.
- Technical debt from organically grown and M&A-sourced infrastructure represented a huge burden on already stretched resources. Thus, standardization was crucial to delivering necessary efficiency gains.



Solution

- On the day IP Fabric was installed, manual network documentation became immediately obsolete and is no longer needed.
- Knowledge transfer processes have been streamlined: not only within the Network Engineering Team, but also for collaboration with IT Security, Operations and Leadership.
- A standardized view across a multi-domain and multi-vendor environment has allowed network compliance to be tracked more easily and for critical network issues to be visualized and analyzed in a consumable way.



Benefits

- The time required to onboard a skilled network engineer, to the point of fully understanding the network, has been reduced from 6 months to a matter of days.
- Automated documentation and compliance trackers, captured once or twice daily, provide a safety net for assured technical project delivery.
- Standardized network inventory and access to the IP Fabric open community simplify TransGourmet's engineers' first steps on the network automation journey.

Customer's take on IP Fabric

Thanks to IP Fabric our documentation is finally complete and accurate.

When I joined the company it took me 6 months to get an overview of the infrastructure. With IP Fabric, I installed the VM, entered the IP addresses, and that was it; we had the network fully documented. Since then, I have stopped using Visio completely, and I don't have to update any documentation anymore. What had before taken me 6 months can now be assimilated by a skilled engineer in just a few days.



David Keenan
Senior Network Engineer
Transgourmet