

# Network Documentation & Visualization

Network engineers and operators often face the problem of maintaining a usable and up-to-date form of network documentation of their networks. The heterogeneity of the networks, the widespread variance of OS versions and the fast pace of network changes make it extremely difficult to have current, accurate network documentation that operators can rely on. As a consequence, they often have to deal with more than one and not always accurate “single source of truth” about the network.

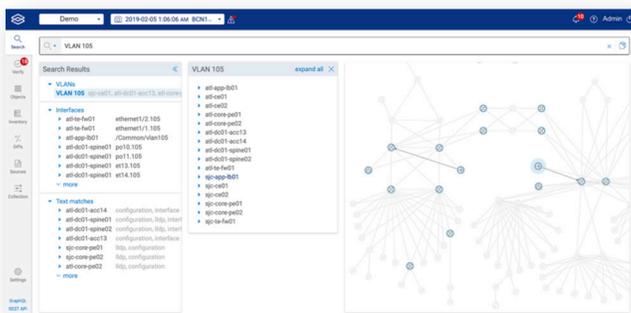
A large media company was previously unable to gather information on device details, configuration, connectivity or on IP localization because there was no single repository for all the network elements. Every time a change was implemented in the network, a manual update was required to keep the information current. This was not a scalable process anymore. In their quest for a dynamic searchable database, the media company realized that Forward Enterprise was able to solve this problem by integrating current network configurations and state into a documentation, topology diagramming and audit tool.

## INDUSTRY

- Media

## NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

- Two primary data centers with a third offline for disaster recovery
- Thousands of applications with new applications being developed daily
- Mix of new network architectures and legacy architectures
- 5+ network equipment vendors
- Red Hat Ansible used to automate significant portion of network changes
- Many network changes outside of scope of automation



Forward understands how devices are connected, subnets defined, routing tables created, and how network paths are determined. Forward Search then is able to create an up-to-date network topology diagram, with the option to quickly search and analyze configuration files on a particular device in order to drill down on specific issues, or to localize and display VLAN and IP information end-to-end across the network. Furthermore, the inventory tab provides easy access to physical and logical device details, for both on private and public cloud deployments, and offers a powerful hygiene check to know for instance VLANs, VRFs or specific OS versions running on the platforms of interest.

For the first time, network engineers have a centralized, searchable repository of all network information that can be used for training, diagnostics, maintenance or audit purposes. A usable single source of truth to quickly identify critical information.