



DreamWorks Animation simplifies networking

Intelligent Management Center

Stress of network management

Networks today are pressured by large amounts of data. As a result, network administrators have the challenging task of making the network function optimally. Administrators need to detect, diagnose, and resolve network performance issues before they stall the organization in any way.

Given this situation, it's easy to see how an administrator can benefit hugely from a network management tool that monitors the health of all network devices—regardless of the vendor manufacturer. HPE IMC is that tool. It is a comprehensive, multivendor network management platform that enables organizations to see every aspect of the network clearly. It helps optimize the network for maximum performance—from data center to the wired edge of the network.

IMC enables complete management of resources, services, and users and delivers full FCAPS (Fault, Configuration, Accounting, Performance, Security) capabilities. Built on a scalable platform, IMC can support organizations, regardless of their size, and deliver increased performance, enhanced security, reduced complexity, and cost savings. IMC supports over 7000+ multi-vendor devices that include Juniper and Cisco.

DreamWorks Animation: Powering network management with IMC

DreamWorks Animation is a global family entertainment company with business interests that span feature film and television production; licensing and consumer

products; location-based entertainment; and new media properties. The company's feature film heritage includes many of the world's most-beloved characters and franchises, including *Shrek*, *Madagascar*, *Kung Fu Panda* and *How to Train Your Dragon*.

In order to meet the technology demands of Computer Generated animation, DreamWorks Animation relies on Hewlett Packard Enterprise, their preferred technology partner, to support the studios' movie production, digital infrastructure and business divisions. This collaboration has successfully enhanced artist creativity while providing fans with world-class movie experiences that push the boundaries of digital animation.

DreamWorks Animation Networking Operations Supervisor, Keith McKay, spoke to us about their experience using IMC. When DreamWorks Animation redesigned their network a few years ago, they were looking to incorporate a network management tool to replace their outdated proprietary management platform. DreamWorks Animation was using these tools to maintain the configuration of their legacy Foundry devices, and should a disaster occur, they would have a recovery method for all of the configurations. IMC proved as a natural choice for DreamWorks Animation, with its end-to-end device management capabilities and easy integration in multi-tenant environments.

Natural integration

The DreamWorks Animation network is designed as a flat network for simplicity and efficiency. DreamWorks Animation deployed the IMC Standard V7.2 platform running on Linux®. This installation covers all their nodes. Initially DreamWorks Animation used IMC to administer version control and device configuration retention. Being a flat network, the studio buys bandwidth whenever it needs to and does not implement QoS, Class of Service, perform optimizations, or anything that needs custom route maps.

IMC is now used for configuration management and version controls of DreamWorks Animation's worldwide network. It is the central console for administering 90 day password changes, managing multivendor network devices, global VLAN deployments, and new hardware configurations.

“Utilizing IMC for VLAN Global management is invaluable to the studio. It allows us to access the exact number of VLANS and determine the device they're deployed on from any location”.

– Keith McKay – Networking Operations Supervisor, DreamWorks Animation

One of the best attributes of IMC that allowed DreamWorks Animation to have an easy transition was the way it could plug directly into the studio's enterprise Oracle® database without any investments in a standalone database. This enabled the networking team to off load database management to their internal database team without a hitch.

Real-time monitoring— all the time

IMC manages between 2,000-2,500 network devices for DreamWorks Animation. These devices come loaded with IRF technology, which drives high availability and service levels. DreamWorks Animation has multiple 10G links connecting Northern California to Southern California where they can lose a link and not notice any network

performance hits. IMC is “fine-tuned” to VIP links, thanks to the Network Traffic Analyser Module, which allows the team to easily detect if a link is down.

IMC enables DreamWorks Animation to determine anyone's location and then deploy VLANs where it was not extended. It is used for network management and is not deployed on workstations or servers. With IMC, DreamWorks Animation can manage how they use their own IP space and VLAN space internally on a global basis.

One-stop network management solution

IMC is designed on a service-oriented architecture (SOA) and is capable of including additional (20+) modules that are optional to either IMC Standard or IMC Enterprise. These modules provide more advanced functionality for businesses and organizations to gain a deeper level of functionality across the FCAPS model. This powerful network management solution includes RESTful API's in the Standard and Enterprise IMC platforms for automation customization flexibility.

Learn more at
hpe.com/net management



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