



How To Build a Reliable Source of Record

At the enterprise scale, it can be difficult to find the data you need to make controlled changes. Usually network teams cobble together their data across several siloed sources, from Visio diagrams to Excel spreadsheets to management tools. However, by the time you're ready to use this data, odds are it's already obsolete. IP Fabric makes it easy to gather a complete and contextualized view of your actual network state, so you can compare it against your intent data in NetBox for continuous validation. Read on to see how this works in 5 steps.

☐ Step 1: Discover Your Network with IP Fabric

IP Fabric uses CLI commands and API calls to communicate with each device in your network, mapping its neighbors until 100% of them are discovered, whether they were previously logged in NetBox or not. IP Fabric also captures every configuration, dependency, and protocol, and normalizes this data to build a vendor-neutral digital twin of your network.

☐ Step 2: Compare Your SoT With Your Network Reality

When IP Fabric compares network data with NetBox, it creates a new branch rather than writing over your existing NetBox records. This way, you can easily spot any differences between your intended network state (your existing NetBox documentation) and your actual network state (the new branch created by IP Fabric).

☐ Step 3: Detect Diffs & Initiate Changes

Once you have a breakdown of the differences between IP Fabric and NetBox, it's up to your team to decide if you want to remediate them or not. When a difference does require action, then IP Fabric can initiate a webhook to populate a ServiceNow ticket with information on relevant devices and configurations. From there, the ticket kicks off a standard change management workflow, ready for approval and provisioning.

☐ Step 4: Push Changes to Your Network

After the ticket is approved, the actual change is handled by your automation tool (e.g. Ansible). IP Fabric's role at this stage is twofold: first it makes sure your automation tool is working with accurate data, and then it validates the change once it's been implemented.

☐ Step 5: Validate That Intent Is Met

In every snapshot, IP Fabric runs a series of intent checks to confirm the network is still aligned with your security, regulatory, and operational standards. The results are automatically gathered into multi-view dashboards, where anyone from executives to auditors can get the proof of compliance they need. Now all that's left is to merge that new NetBox branch into main, and you're done. If something didn't go to plan, IP Fabric's historical snapshots and configuration backups offer an easy route to roll changes back.

Get In Touch.

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