CORMANT-CS
Infrastructure Management

InteropNet – A Case Study



The InteropNet is a temporary network that powers the Interop New York and Interop Las Vegas events, providing a reliable, high-speed network that serves the exhibitors, conference rooms and attendees at the event. Each vendor involved in the InteropNet is hand-selected based on innovation and expertise. These vendors, along with volunteer engineers, come together to create a completely interoperable network using the industry's leading, cutting-edge technology.

Undertaking such a large-scale project requires extensive planning and documentation, which are not without challenges, even with a perfect set of circumstances. Documenting the deployment of the InteropNet was previously a paper-heavy, spreadsheet-driven process, with many inconsistencies in reporting. These inconsistencies created additional work, slowed down the deployment process, made troubleshooting difficult and ultimately led to lost assets at the end of the show. A further challenge was the lack of power connectivity documentation.

"A BIG goal of InteropNet is a cutting edge, high performance, but fool-proof and quickly deployed network within which we must have a high level of trust in the deployed infrastructure. Documentation is key for this and the ability of Cormant-CS to manage the entire process with a totally paperless deployment and documentation of the InteropNet infrastructure helped us achieve this."

- Brian Chee, show floor team lead

Knowing these challenges, the InteropNet organizers set five key deployment goals to help the process run more smoothly:

1. Deliver verified working Internet to every vendor that requested the service
2. During the deployment of the onsite network, the entire deployment process and reporting should be paperless
3. Document physical data connectivity from booth back to switch
4. Track all core network equipment, including power connections in host cabinets
5. Track asset location for easy retrieval at the end of the show

InteropNet Specs:

- Up to 260,000 sq ft of show floor
- Up to 350,000 sq ft of off-show floor
- Three Co-Location Facilities: San Jose, Denver, Newark
- Approximately:
  - 2000 IT Assets
  - 18,000 Connections
  - 90 Wi-Fi Access Points
  - Over 120,000 Infrastructure Attributes
- Two weeks to stage infrastructure
- Six days to deploy Las Vegas (Three days for NY)

Enter Cormant and Cormant-CS

Cormant-CS (formerly CableSolve) was hand selected as the physical layer IT infrastructure documentation and management solution for InteropNet 2011 and beyond. Cormant-CS provides a holistic approach to management of IT assets, power, connectivity and space. More than a connectivity management system, Cormant-CS is the most trusted configurable, flexible and portable data center infrastructure management solution available. It provides complete visibility into the physical layer, including all assets and connectivity along with live, logical layer data from SNMP, WMI and XML devices. Additionally, with Cormant-CS portable handheld management module, InteropNet volunteer engineers were able to move, change, track and audit the entire IT infrastructure, including the assets and connectivity, using a pocket PC handheld device or smartphone.

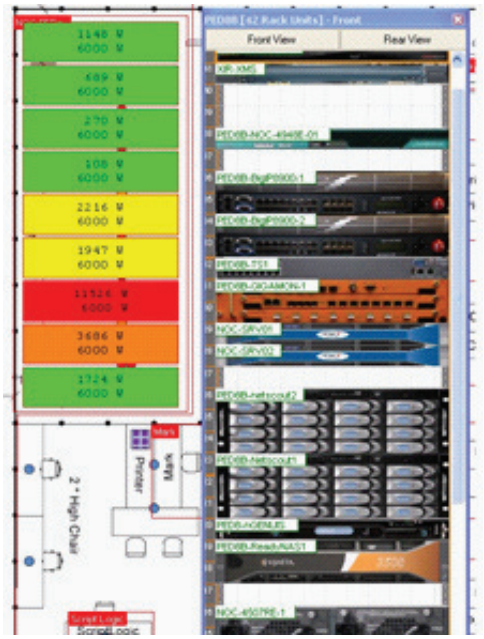
Brian Chee, show floor team lead explains how Cormant-CS helped InteropNet achieve their goals, "The InteropNet is in essence a large enterprise network deployed in a couple of days, and you just can't pull this off unless you can trust the documentation. Documentation that cuts down the time it takes us to put the system together when we get to the show venue, and the time it takes to troubleshoot problems

CORMANT-CS Infrastructure Management

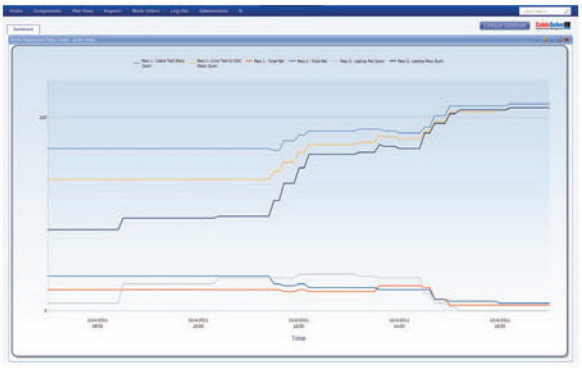
INTEROP NET



during operations. The Cormant-CS (formerly Cable-Solve) workflow identified which pieces were deployed and which ones were still pending. The bottom line is the time that was saved and the steps not missed that all add up to dramatically less trouble tickets and happier exhibitors." Cormant's Cormant-CS solution became an integral part of the InteropNet, utilizing its unique portability feature to document the entire physical IT infrastructure, ensuring every asset, data and power connection were recorded to maximize uptime, ensure fast and efficient changes and facilitate rapid trouble-shooting. This information recorded in Cormant-CS was then used to manage the live infrastructure, troubleshoot, and in helpdesk operation on-site at the Interop event.



A Cormant-CS elevated rack view; live, top-of-rack view of power data; and visio of plan facility



Booth deployment statistics on the Cormant-CS dashboard

"The inclusion of Cormant-CS in the select list of companies delivering the InteropNet has provided valuable and unique insight into our assets, configuration, connectivity and environmental position," said Glenn Evans, lead network engineer for Interop.

The End Result

> *"**Cormant-CS** has been used to turn a paper-heavy, spreadsheet-driven deployment process into a paperless process with real time visibility of the deployment status."*
>
> **– Glenn Evans, lead network engineer**

Through the use of Cormant-CS, the InteropNet team was able to achieve all five goals originally laid out to ensure a seamless deployment process, saving both time and frustration. As Evans concludes, "The NOC helpdesk also used Cormant-CS on site at the show to verify customer connectivity and reduce trouble-shooting when issues were reported."

Scan to see Cormant-CS live

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