

CASE STUDY

Standard School District Advances Multi-Campus Network Management Using Auvik

Standard School District
Learning Today for a Better Tomorrow

Challenges

- Lack of network visibility
- Configuration & backups
- Standardize hardware

Solution

- Proactive alerting
- Performance monitoring
- Automated network diagramming

Benefits

- Operational efficiency
- Time back to focus on bigger projects
- Reduced MTTR

About Standard School District

At the turn of the 20th century, oil was discovered just north of Bakersfield, California. People from all walks of life flooded to the area to support the Standard Oil business and the Oildale community was established.

With any new community comes the need to educate its youth. And in 1909, the Standard School District opened its doors with 27 students and one teacher. Today, the Standard School District encompasses multiple K-12 educational campuses and serves over 3,000 students

Challenges

Before Auvik, the Standard School District tried a few open source tools to manage the network but found them to be too configuration heavy and cumbersome to use. The time it was taking to deploy and properly set up these tools was more of a time suck than they were worth. One after another was eventually abandoned.

Working with a limited budget and small team, the team needed a solution that could offer a great ROI and top-class support. It had to be affordable, easy to set up, and could automatically map the network to provide visibility, access device configurations to back them up, and be able to monitor events in order to prevent bigger user issues.

"This solution has stopped me from looking at other stuff."



Solution in Detail

Faster troubleshooting with real-time visibility
The team lacked visibility into their network. Using Auvik's collector to scan the network and map the topology of the network, the team can now find problems before they become apparent to the end user. And they can do this without leaving their desk. With Auvik's remote management and command line options, there's no more having to traverse the campus to find that switch or dead port.

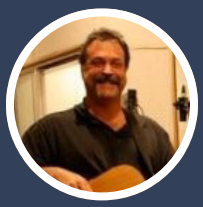
Automated device configuration backups
Creating manual configuration backups for network devices can be time-consuming, and prone to being out of date. Using Auvik's out-of-the-box configuration backups to automate this process allows the network team to get their time back to focus on other priorities. Standard School District's Director of IT, Jeff Davis, discusses, "...we would then have to go from device to device, get it to spit out its config, copy it to the clipboard, paste it to a file, and organize it all. That is all now automatic, which is great."

Elaborate network mapping that help discover and resolve
When it comes to the automated mapping of the network, the team can easily identify and if need be, raise concerns to higher-level techs using Auvik. Jeff says, "We can look at our network and visually see what's going on and if there are any issues.", Before Auvik, it was difficult to track down an individual device to perform simple operations like change a port setting or change a switch from a printer to a phone, or assign VLANs. Having an easy-to-use tool, like Auvik, built with out-of-the-box monitoring and alerting, allows junior-level techs to find and resolve issues directly, which frees up time for senior-level staff.

"Auvik has been really handy. I really can't say enough good things about it. I have just been really impressed with the quality of the product, support, and training. It just works well."

Ease of set up, use, and support
The ease of setup and configuration was a huge factor for the team at Standard School District. Deployment is simple with Auvik and requires minimal configuration when SNMP and WMI are enabled. Jeff's team had the entire school district's network up and running within Auvik in just under an hour. Another great aspect of using Auvik? There's no maintenance required. Staff no longer have to worry about manual patches and updates to the system, or waste time notifying and navigating system downtime for end users. "Auvik has been really handy. I really can't say enough good things about it. I have just been really impressed with the quality of the product, support, and training. It just works well.", says Jeff.

Automation is king!



"The automation of the network mapping enables junior network specialists to resolve issues directly, freeing up senior-level team members to perform higher-value tasks. They can see if it is something as simple as a power issue in a wing of a building. This lets them pick the low hanging fruit. Then, if a configuration needs a more skilled person, they can easily escalate it."

Jeff Davis
Director of IT

Business Benefits

Auvik has helped network team members through better business operations where it's now easier than ever to find devices, get their IP, and reconfigure remotely.

Automation has helped to streamline time savings where junior network specialists can now easily resolve issues directly which frees up senior-level staff to invest time into larger projects.

Working in a small team where many hats are worn to support multiple campuses, it's important that the technology adopted is easy to install, set up, and ultimately used by anyone. "It took us just a few days to get a return on value from the whole implementation," says Jeff.

*Ref: ITCentral Station Review



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