FABRIC NETWORKING 101

Introducing fabric networking to non-IT stakeholders

A practical toolkit for professional services providers

Demonstrate the benefits of Extreme Fabric Connect to colleagues, stakeholders and other influencers in a powerful way that resonates with your organisation's vision and objectives.
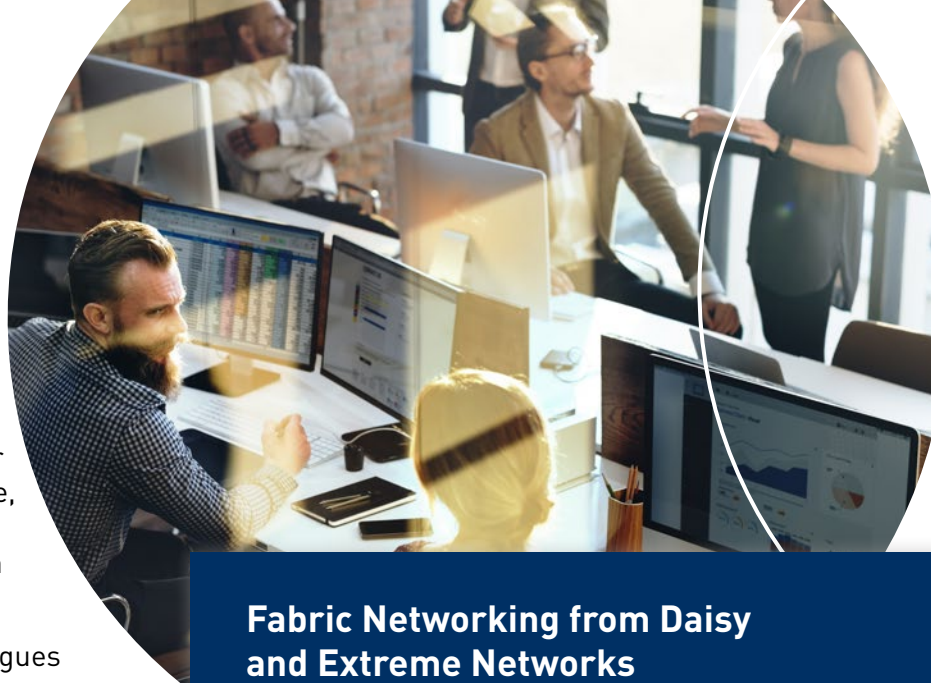
How to use this tool

Your network is the backbone of your organisation's ability to communicate, allowing computers, devices and servers to connect seamlessly within and between departments.

For the benefit of your clients, colleagues and future success, you've decided the time is right to "take the complexity out of networking" by switching from traditional networking technologies to **fabric networking**. It's now time to get your fellow decision-makers on board.

The benefits and applications that are most relevant will, of course, depend on the unique needs and features of your business. So too will the way you present those benefits to stakeholders.

This guide provides a structured, jargon-free and comprehensive menu of fabric networking benefits, designed to chime with the priorities of key executives from CEO and CFO to sales and marketing directors and beyond. It allows you to "mix and match" these benefits to create a coherent, tailored business case for your organisation.

Fabric Networking from Daisy and Extreme Networks

A clear and obvious choice

Daisy Corporate Services has been providing customers with enterprise networking solutions as an Extreme Networks partner for over 10 years. Daisy and Extreme Networks work with hundreds of professional services providers in the UK. Choose us to design and deploy your fabric networking solution and be fully confident of enjoying the following:

- Cutting-edge fabric networking know-how from **Extreme Networks**, a **leader** in **Gartner's 2019 Wired and Wireless LAN Magic Quadrant**

- Thirty years of **Daisy expertise** in empowering organisations through integrated technology

- World-class fabric networking solutions for professional services providers who need scalability, flexibility and ease of administration

Contents

Click on the tab you'd like to visit.

1. Yesterday and today

The rise and relevance of fabric networking.

Networks of the past were designed for simple, static workflows like connecting an office user to the Internet or email.

What's needed is a simpler, automated, secure network environment with the agility to change and adapt. Enter **fabric networking.**

Fast forward to today, and traditional networks can no longer keep pace with the speed of innovation. In the dynamic, mobile professional services sector, complex and cumbersome legacy infrastructure simply doesn't cut it.

Although fabric technology isn't new, its capabilities have been greatly developed and enhanced, giving it renewed relevance to professional services firms designing a next-generation network.

Fabric networking allows you to scale on demand, create operational room-to-manoeuvre with redundant network paths, improve your security and so much more.

You can now say goodbye to the inflexible, convoluted networks of the past and build a modern, scalable and secure infrastructure that sets you up to thrive.

Contents

2. How it transforms your business

Instead of being the bottleneck, your network becomes an enabler of success.

- Through its innovative approach to design, operation and management, fabric networking avoids the traditional bottlenecks that slow the deployment of apps and services.

- **Extreme Fabric Connect** is a standards-based fabric networking technology that makes networks more flexible, automated and secure. Rather than layering protocols, it simplifies the network by using a **single, advanced control plane** for all of your routing, switching, multicast, and segmented traffic.

- Extreme Fabric Connect brings the benefits of fabric technology out of the data centre to the whole enterprise.

- Having one single protocol makes the network far simpler to design, operate and troubleshoot.

- Services become more elastic, with the ability to extend and retract on demand as devices connect and disconnect across the network.

Contents

3. Agility and performance

Build a supple, dynamic network to help you meet any opportunity or challenge.

Greater agility

Compared to a traditional network, Extreme Fabric Connect creates a dynamic, agile infrastructure that's easier to plan, build and run.

More simplicity

As you gradually migrate from legacy overlay technologies to a single technology that enables all services, you'll experience unprecedented levels of simplification and resilience.

Improved flexibility

Eliminate the unwieldy design constraints of the past and give network operators the freedom to build services wherever and whenever they need.

Faster performance

Improve the performance of real-time applications while enabling faster, easier scaling of your network to support apps that need higher bandwidth.

Greater efficiency

Fabric Connect gives you a scalable, reliable and efficient way of supporting IP Multicast Routing, without the need to configure, deploy and maintain a complex configuration.

A more rewarding user experience

Enjoy full visibility and control of your network users and applications, along with actionable business insights to constantly improve user experience.

4. Strategic advantages

See the benefits of fabric networking ripple through your business.

Improved time-to-service

Fabric networking allows you to automate network changes, so they happen in minutes rather than days or weeks.

No downtime from human error

In a fabric network, adding and removing network services is done "at the edge", usually from a centralised management system. This makes mistakes far less likely and the network more stable while minimising the need for disruptive maintenance windows.

Better resilience

By reducing the number of protocols in use, fabric networking simplifies your infrastructure, leading to faster recovery times.

Bringing wired and wireless together

Extreme Fabric Connect integrates wired and wireless networks, simplifying wireless deployment and improving wireless user experience through the automated extension of fabric services all the way to the wireless access point. This makes it far simpler to deploy wireless apps, while ensuring consistent quality of service for all types of network access.

Enhanced quality of experience (QoE)

Fabric technologies use algorithms to calculate the shortest path between any source and its destination. So whatever the network, users and devices are connected to their applications by the shortest, most efficient path, with minimal latency.

5. Cost-effectiveness

Harness simplicity to streamline network-related IT expenditure.

- Network operating costs increase with the complexity of your infrastructure, so traditional interoperability can have a major financial downside. Fabric networking, by contrast, can do the opposite, helping to reduce operating costs through simplicity and automation.

- Extreme Fabric Connect has been field-proven to reduce operational costs by as much as 66%[1] while increasing time to service by 11x.[2]

- New services, or changes to existing services, can be configured easily at the edge of the network, eliminating more error-prone, time-intensive network-wide configuration practices that accumulate unnecessary costs.

1 Based on internal analyses by Extreme Networks

2 Based on Fabric Connect Customers Experience third party survey

6. Improved security

Keep your systems watertight against all types of threat – malicious or accidental.

- Fabric Connect is inherently secure. Its speedy set-up and modification processes, along with "edge-only" provisioning, help to eliminate instability and reduce the risk of error.

- Want to isolate critical users, applications and/or IoT devices? Fabric networking makes the deployment of a segmented network easy, protecting critical data and containing breaches.

- Rich, relevant data analytics give you a fuller understanding of user behaviour, helping you to spot trends and anomalies as a basis for optimising security.

- By eliminating back-door entry points to the network, you can further enhance your organisation's security posture.

- With the unrivalled visibility offered by Fabric Connect, you'll have 20:20 insight into unapproved applications, unusual traffic and shadow IT, while being able to proactively monitor network and app performance.

7. Making it happen

With Daisy and Extreme Networks, you can expect an easy, cost-effective set-up and roll-out.

Extreme Fabric Connect is a next-generation technology that combines the best of Ethernet and IP.

Extreme Fabric Connect is a "sophisticated but simplified" way of designing, building, managing and troubleshooting your network.

8. Sample applications

Extreme Fabric Connect in action.

By combining simplicity and agility with inherently secure technology, Fabric Connect provides a unique way of solving the limitations of traditional network designs. Here are some powerful examples of its use in the professional services sector:

Enterprise Technology Refresh

Are you managing an aging network and keen to increase resilience and bandwidth capacity? Want to simplify operations and cut time to service? Fabric Connect will help you:

- **Increase IT efficiency** by eliminating cumbersome, manual tasks.
- **Strengthen resilience** so that failures no longer impact service.
- **Improve agility and reduce costs** by deploying and modifying services "at the edge", all during business hours.
- **Reduce time to service** with simplified provisioning requirements.
- **Eliminate complexity** by streamlining your network and completely eliminating protocol overlays.

Secure Traffic Separation

Professional services firms are custodians of immensely sensitive and valuable information. Fabric Connect lets you isolate any critical data, applications or user groups within their own separate IP network. Benefits include:

- **Easy management and troubleshooting.** Replace complex protocol overlays with a single protocol to control traffic separation.
- **Easy to add, move and change tenants.** Using end-point, single protocol provisioning, Fabric Connect enables quick, easy changes to tenant or application networks.
- **Secure Zones** can be set up all the way from "campus edge" to the "data centre edge", allowing you to meet regulatory requirements effortlessly.
- **Enjoy unprecedented flexibility** to isolate groups of users, types of traffic or different departments/entities.

For a tailored assessment of how fabric networking can help you meet your organisation's unique goals and challenges:

Call
0344 863 3000

or visit
dcs.tech/extreme-professional-services

we are **daisy.**

dcs.tech