



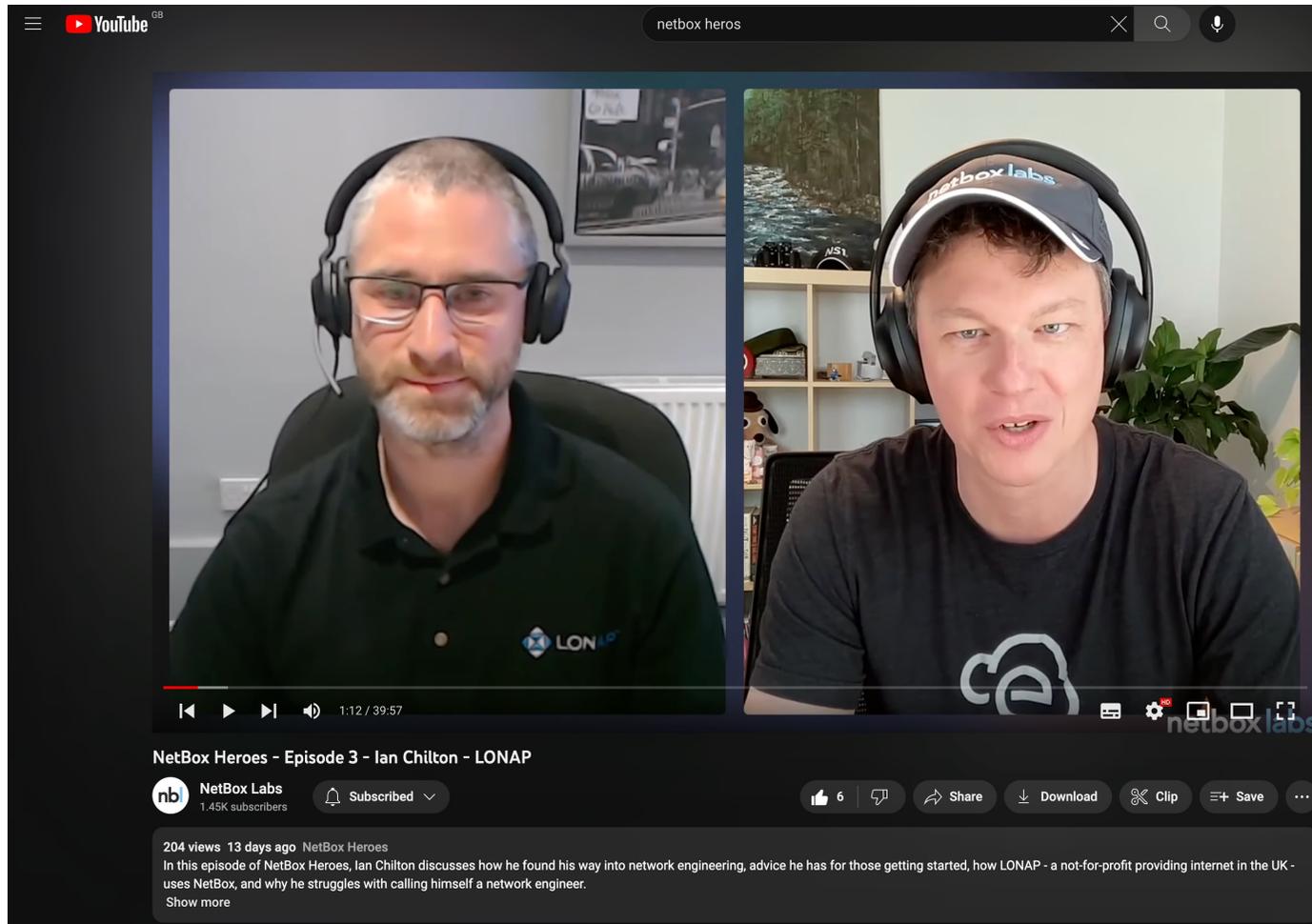
Network Automation at an Internet Exchange Point

Ian Chilton

UKNOF 52

28th September 2023 | London

Recently...

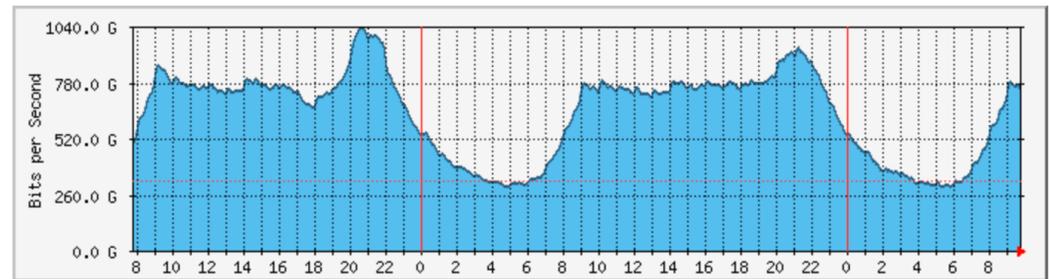


The image shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top, the YouTube logo and 'netbox heros' search bar are visible. The video content is a split-screen video call with two participants. The participant on the left is a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a black polo shirt with a 'LONAP' logo. The participant on the right is a man wearing a black t-shirt with a cloud logo and a 'netbox labs' cap. Below the video, the title 'NetBox Heroes - Episode 3 - Ian Chilton - LONAP' is displayed. The channel name 'NetBox Labs' with 1.45K subscribers and a 'Subscribed' button are shown. The video has 204 views and was posted 13 days ago. The description states: 'In this episode of NetBox Heroes, Ian Chilton discusses how he found his way into network engineering, advice he has for those getting started, how LONAP - a not-for-profit providing internet in the UK - uses NetBox, and why he struggles with calling himself a network engineer. Show more'. Interaction buttons for likes (6), comments, share, download, clip, and save are also present.



LONAP

- Not-for-profit, neutral Internet Exchange Point (IXP).
- Established in 1997.
- Members are all equal stakeholders.
- 8 Points of Presence across 7 of the major London data centres.
- ~250 members.
- ~350 connected ports.
- 1Tbps, ~130Mpps peak traffic.
- 4x full time staff.
- Board of elected non-exec directors.

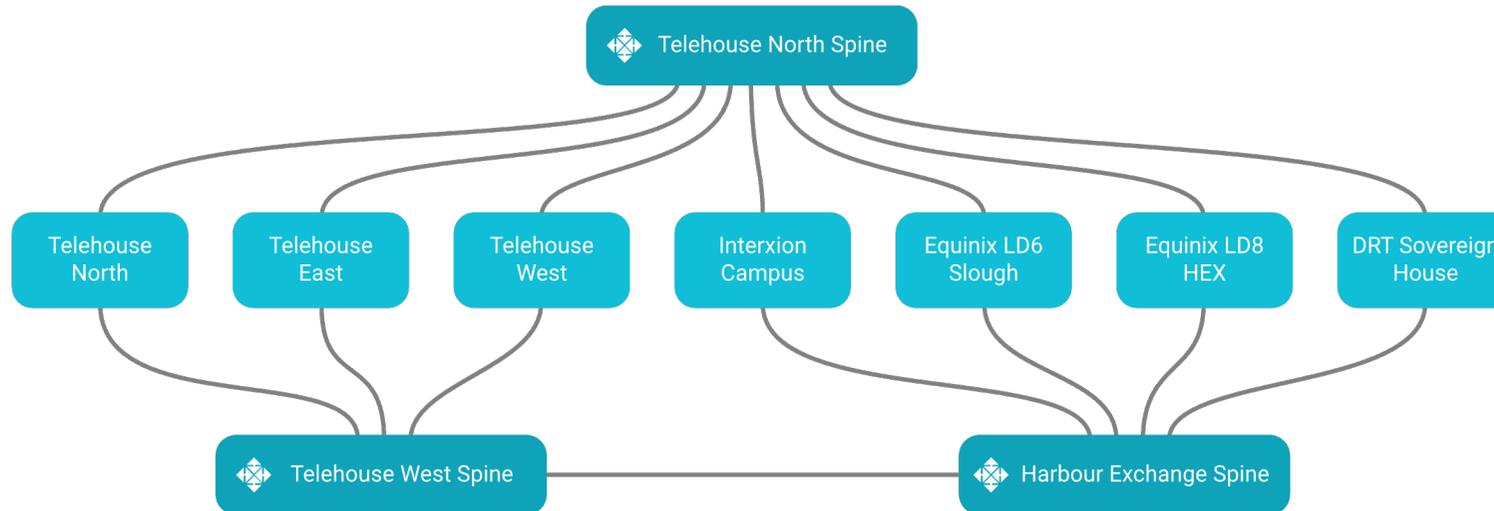


	Max	Average	Current
In	1029.6 Gb/s	634.8 Gb/s	750.6 Gb/s
Out	1030.5 Gb/s	634.9 Gb/s	750.5 Gb/s

- Connected networks are a mix of Internet Service Providers, content/hosting networks and CDNs. They include: Google, Netflix, Microsoft, BBC, Apple, Twitter, TikTok, eBay, Sky, Vodafone.
- Full list: <https://lonap.net/members>



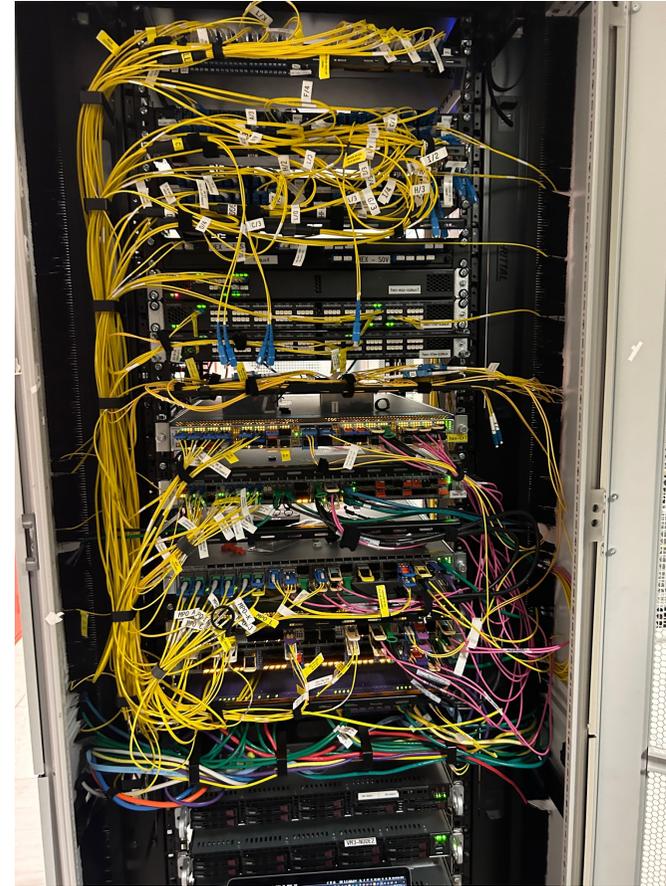
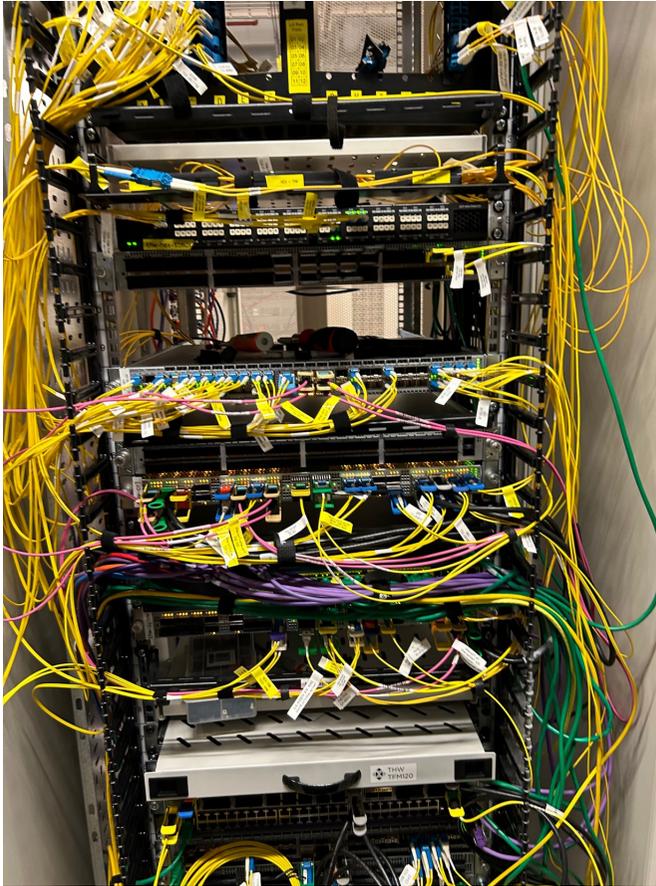
Points of Presence



- **TELEHOUSE NORTH BUILDING**
 - TELEHOUSE NORTH 2
- **TELEHOUSE EAST BUILDING**
- **TELEHOUSE WEST BUILDING**

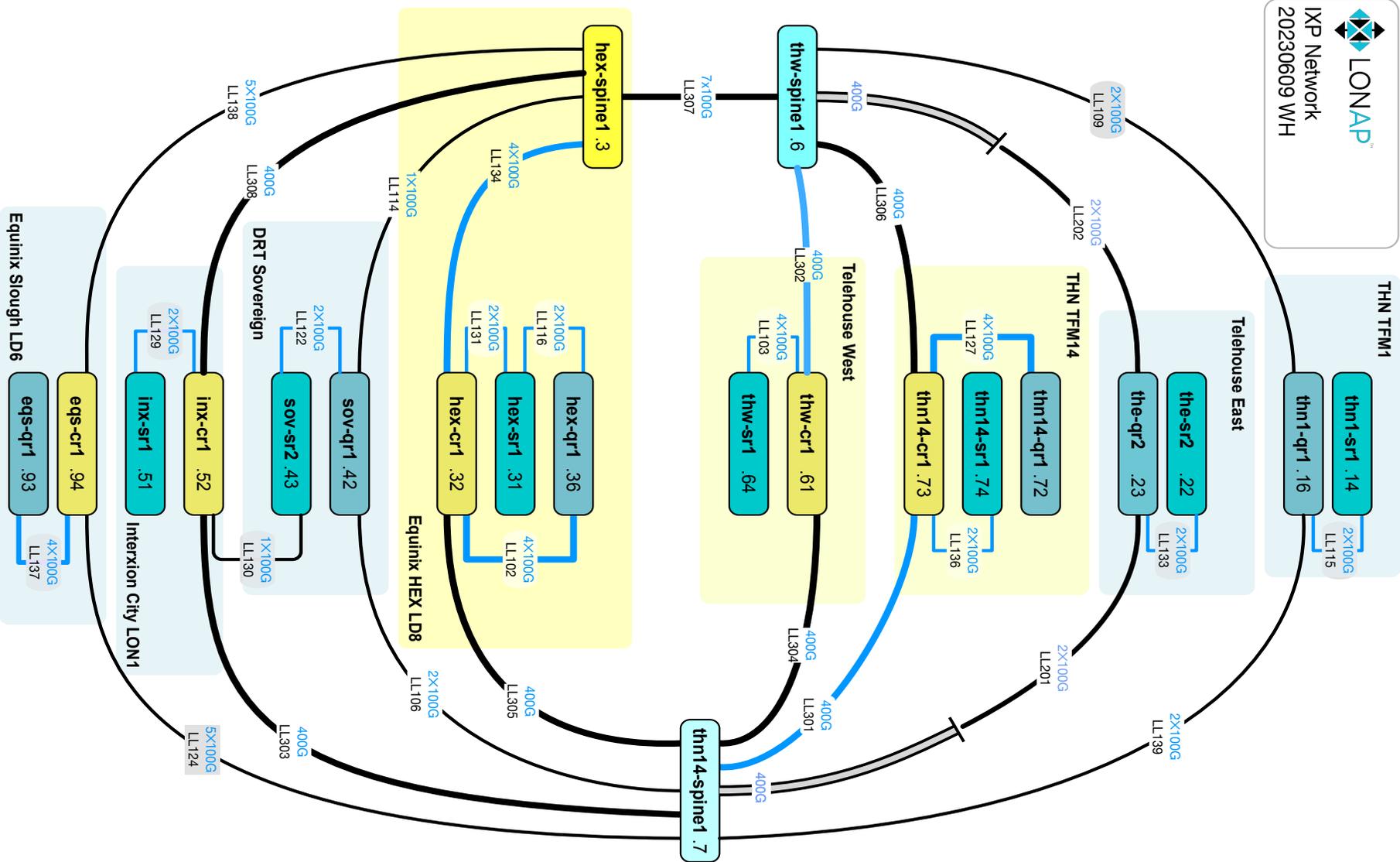
- **EQUINIX LD8, 6-7 AND 8-9 HARBOUR EXCHANGE**
- **INTERXION LONDON (SOVEREIGN HOUSE)**
 - INTERXION LONDON (CLOUD HOUSE)
- **EQUINIX LD6, SLOUGH**
 - EQUINIX LD4, LD5, LD7 & LD10, SLOUGH
- **INTERXION LON1 CAMPUS HANBURY STREET**
 - INTERXION LON2, LON3

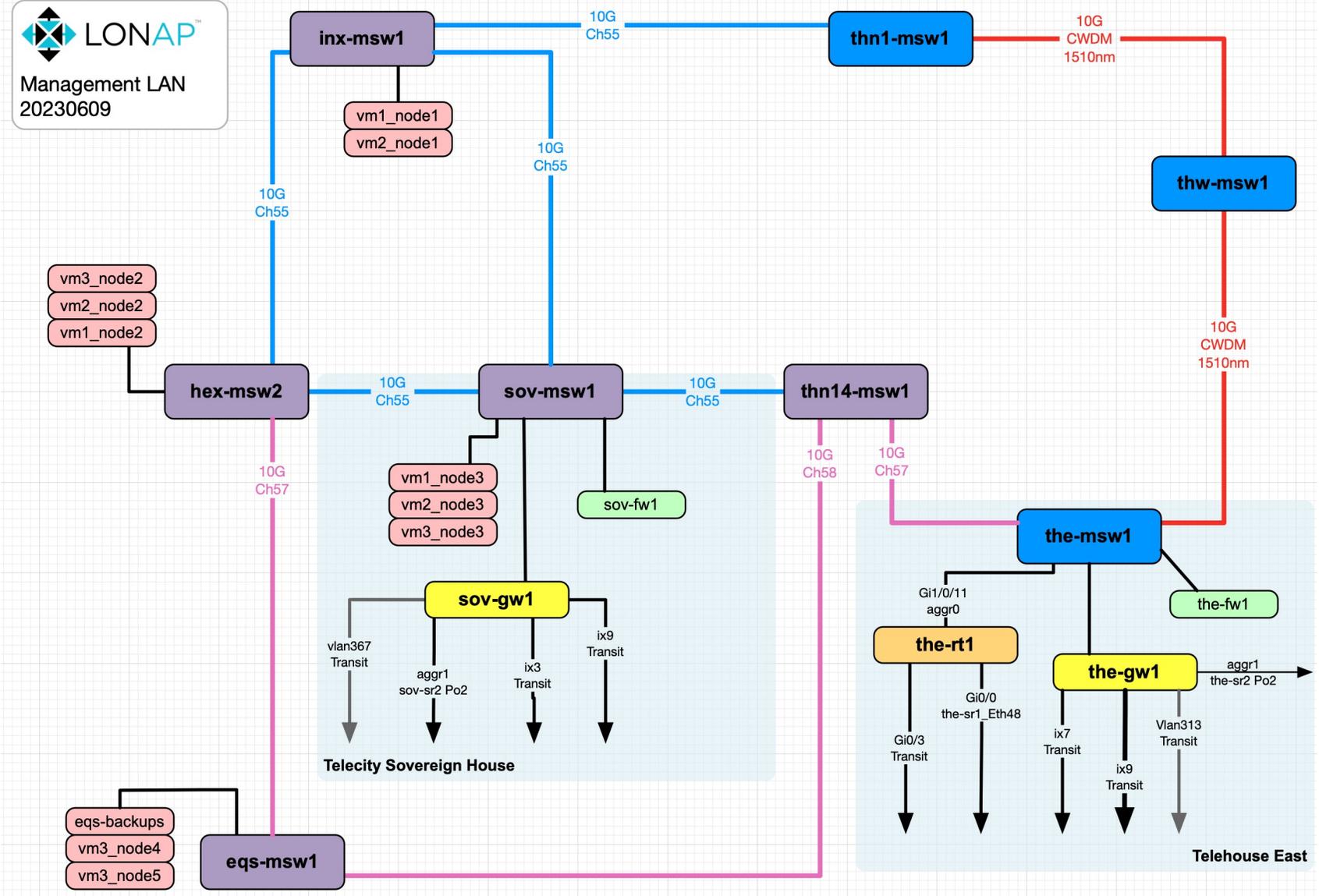
Points of Presence





IXP Network
20230609 WH



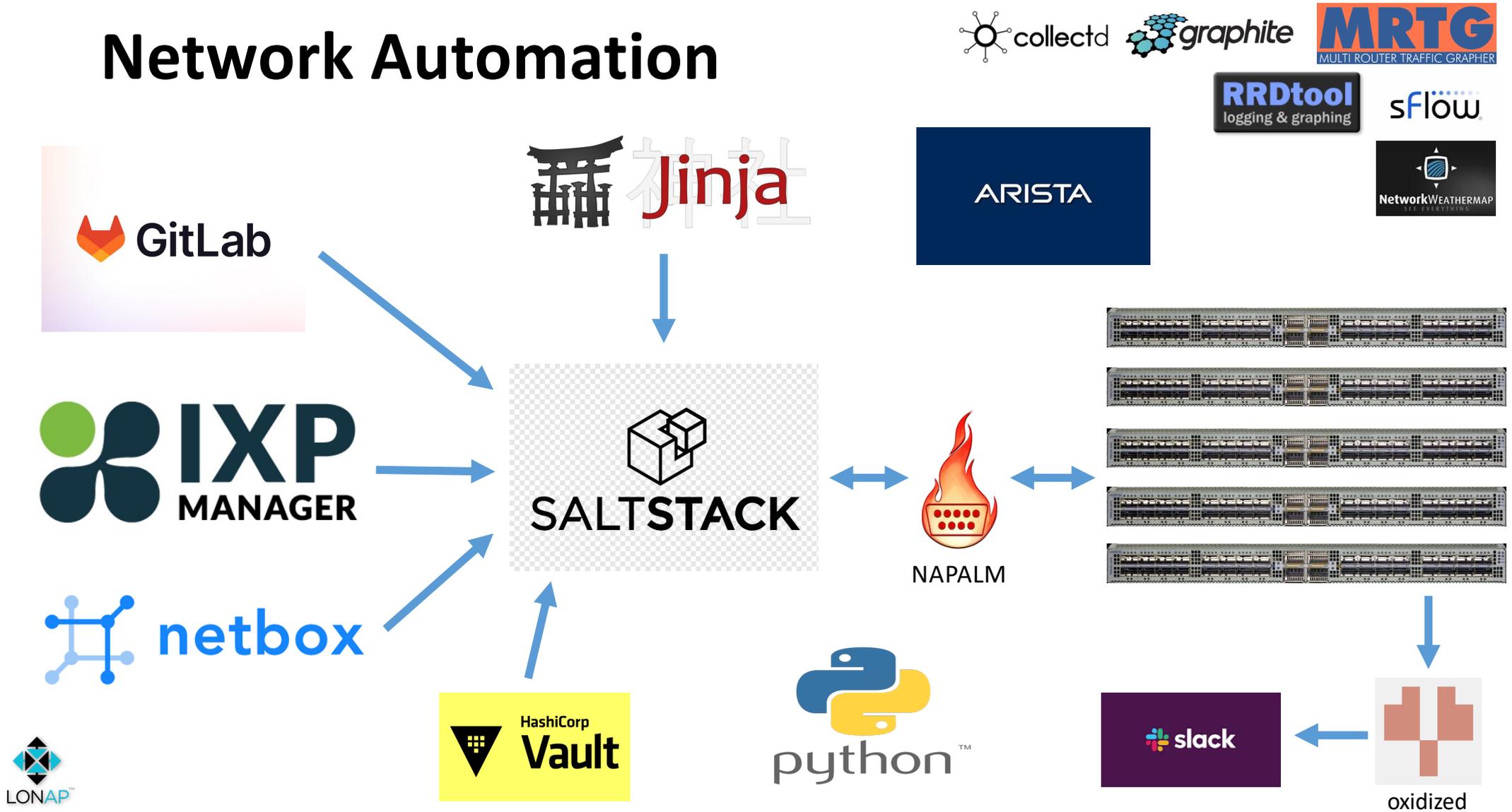


“DevOps” Engineer

- Operations.
- Software development.
- Network Engineering.
- System administration (10x servers, >100 VMs).
- Management of many internal and member facing systems.
- Maintenance - physical infrastructure changes, software upgrades, configuration rollout.
- Deployment.
- Configuration management.
- Automation.
- Monitoring.
- Data centre engineering.
- Handling alerts – 24/7/365.
- Member support (where needed).



Network Automation



Existing Network or New Deployment..?

Which is best?

Existing:

- Lot of work to (hopefully) generate the same configuration that's already in place.
- Good time to review configuration.
- Potential inconsistencies from years of manual configuration.
- Scary deployment – can't break network!

New network ("green field"):

- Can deploy without worrying about breaking anything.
- Testing/debugging/fixing configuration at the same time as working on automation.



SaltStack

```
ixp-switch:  
  netconfig.managed:  
    - template_name: salt://{{ slspath }}/templates/ixp-switch.jinja
```

All logic built in to the templates.

This became beneficial later on!



SaltStack: Grains

“facts”

```
thw-cr1:
-----
asn:
    65061
device_num:
    61
environment:
    production
id:
    thw-cr1
loopback_ip:
    10.0.0.61
management_ip:
    192.168.83.61
model:
    DCS-7280CR3-32P4-F
os:
    eos
serial:
    JPE194[REDACTED]
vendor:
    Arista
```

```
thn14-spine1:
-----
asn:
    65007
device_num:
    7
environment:
    production
id:
    thn14-spine1
loopback_ip:
    10.0.0.7
management_ip:
    192.168.83.7
model:
    DCS-7050PX4-32S-F
os:
    eos
role:
    spine
serial:
    JPE221[REDACTED]
vendor:
    Arista
```

```
hex-qr1:
-----
asn:
    65036
device_num:
    36
environment:
    production
id:
    hex-qr1
loopback_ip:
    10.0.0.36
management_ip:
    192.168.83.36
model:
    DCS-7280QR-C36-F
os:
    eos
role:
    spine
serial:
    JPE170[REDACTED]
vendor:
    Arista
```

SaltStack: Pillar

“configuration”

```
ntp:
-----
servers:
  - 192.168.82.32
  - 192.168.82.33
  - 192.168.82.34
  - 192.168.82.35
```

```
users:
  - ichilton
  - robl
  - will
```

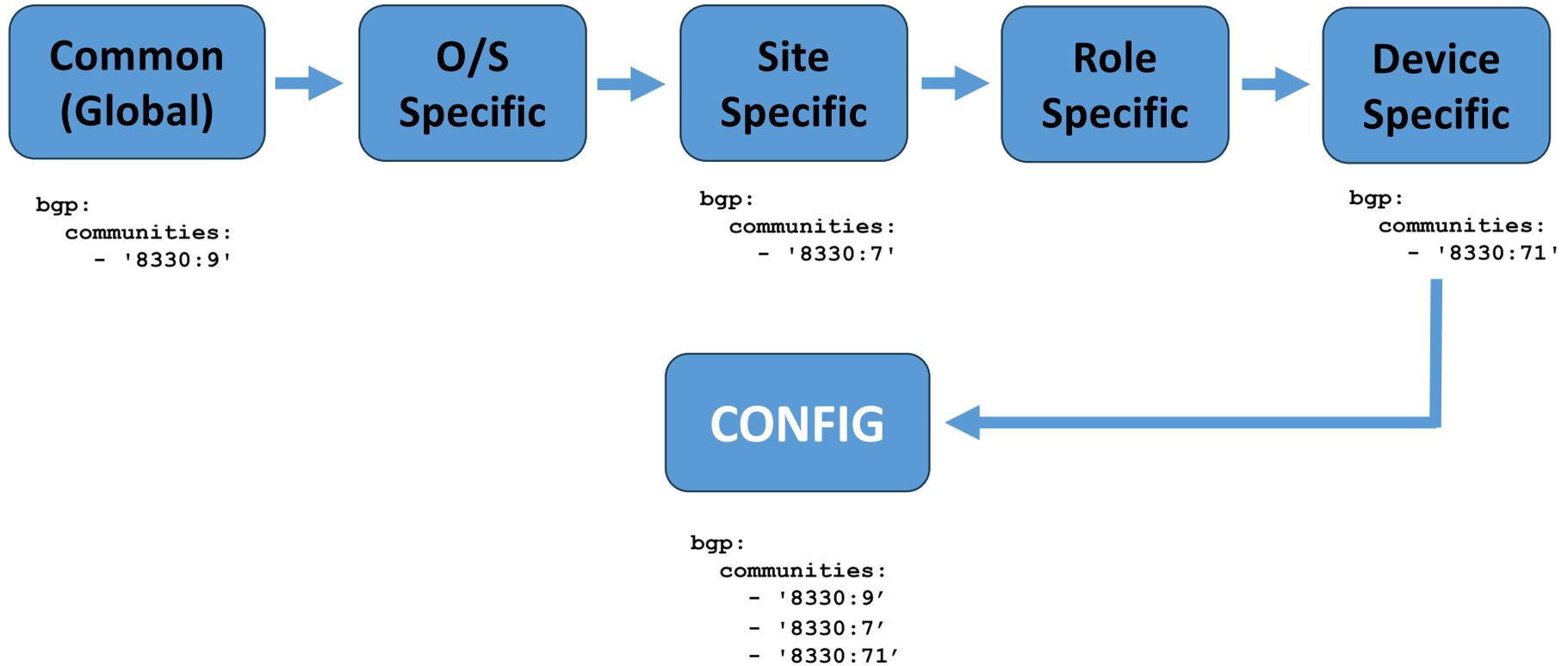
```
sflow:
-----
destination:
  192.168.82.38
interface:
  Management1
sample:
  16384
```

```
dns:
-----
domain:
  internal.lonap.net
interface:
  Management1
servers:
  - 192.168.82.30
  - 192.168.82.31
```

```
snmp:
-----
interface:
  Management1
```

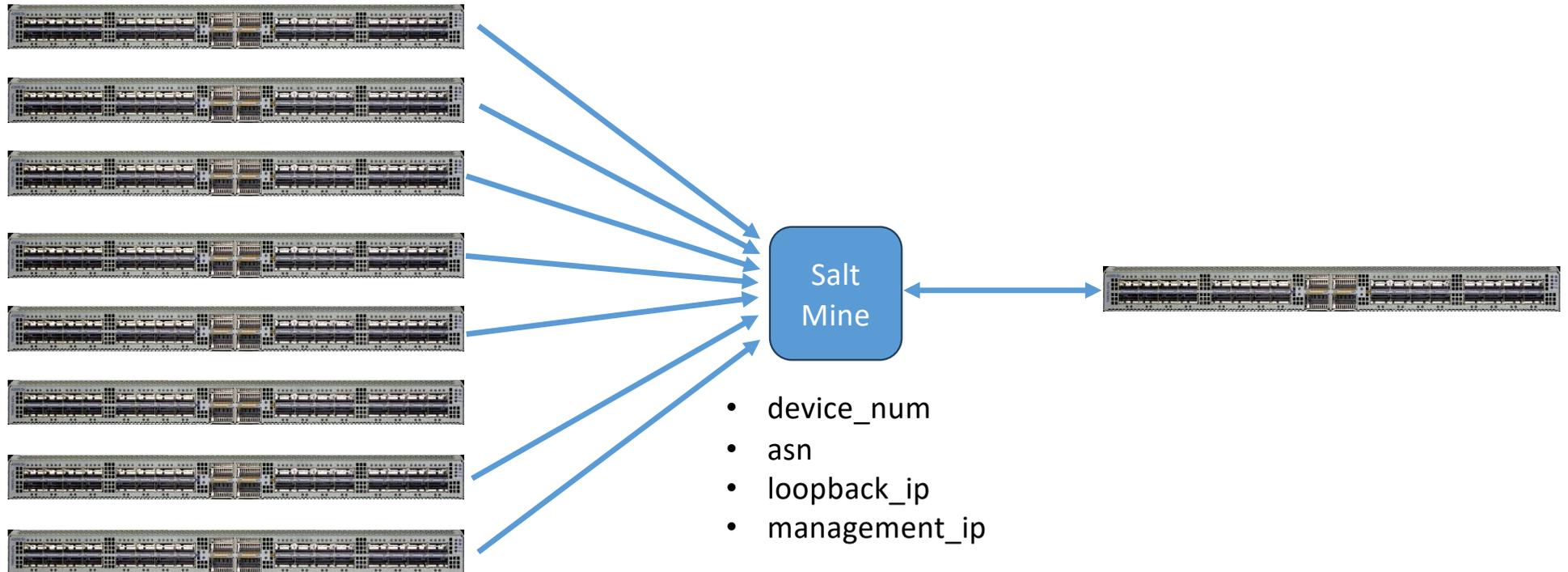
SaltStack: Pillar

This is merged...



SaltStack: Salt Mine

Dynamic information about other devices.



SaltStack: Jinja2 Templates

```
dns domain {{ salt['pillar.get']('dns:domain') }}

ip domain lookup source-interface {{ salt['pillar.get']('dns:interface') }}

no ip name-server

{% for host in salt['pillar.get']('dns:servers', []) %}
ip name-server vrf default {{ host }}
{% endfor %}
```

```
{% if grains.get('role') != 'spine' %}
sflow sample {{ salt['pillar.get']('sflow:sample') }}
sflow destination {{ salt['pillar.get']('sflow:destination') }}
sflow source-interface {{ salt['pillar.get']('sflow:interface') }}
sflow run
{% endif %}
```

```
{% for host in salt['pillar.get']('logging:hosts', []) %}
logging host {{ host }} 514
{% endfor %}
```

```
logging source-interface Management1
```

```
no snmp-server
snmp-server local-interface {{ salt['pillar.get']('snmp:interface') }}
snmp-server community {{ salt['vault'].read_secret('network/global/snmp').community }} ro
```

Merging (vs Replace)

```
no ntp
```

```
{% for host in salt['pillar.get']('ntp:servers', []) %}  
ntp server {{ host }} iburst  
{% endfor %}
```

```
default interface {{ isl_iface }}  
  
interface {{ isl_iface }}  
  description ISL{{ port_id }}: {{ neighbor }} {{ neighbor_port.replace('e', 'Et') }}  
  load-interval 6  
  mtu 9214  
  no switchport  
  ip address {{ my_ip }}/24  
  {%- if role != 'spine' %}  
  no sflow enable  
  {%- endif %}
```



Configuration Deployment

```
spare-7280sr#
spare-7280sr#configure session test-1
spare-7280sr(config-s-test-1)#no logging host 192.168.82.68
spare-7280sr(config-s-test-1)#exit
! Exiting configuration session without committing changes. To get back to the session, type 'configure session test-1'.
spare-7280sr#
spare-7280sr#show configuration sessions
Maximum number of completed sessions: 1
Maximum number of pending sessions: 5
Merge on commit is disabled

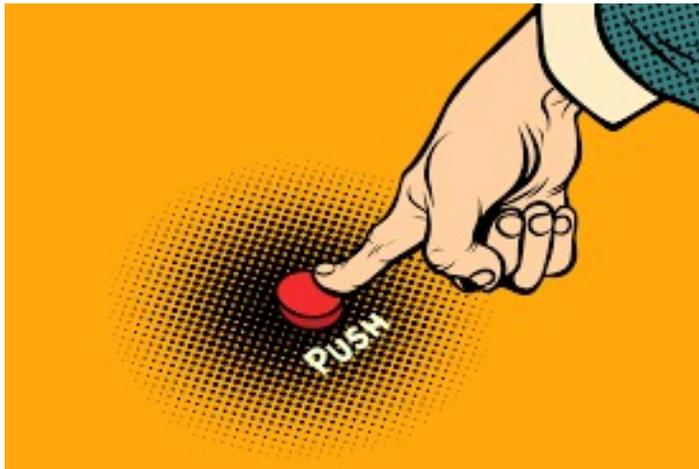
Name      State      User      Terminal
-----
test-1    pending

spare-7280sr#
spare-7280sr#configure session test-1
spare-7280sr(config-s-test-1)#sh session-config diffs
--- system:/running-config
+++ session:/test-1-session-config
-logging host 192.168.82.68
spare-7280sr(config-s-test-1)#
spare-7280sr(config-s-test-1)#commit
spare-7280sr#
spare-7280sr#
```



'run-salt'

Humans vs cron...



```
ichilton@network-master:~$ run-salt spare-7280sr
Updating IXP Manager VLAN data..

Executing: sudo salt spare-7280sr --force-color state.highstate test=true
[sudo] password for ichilton:
spare-7280sr:
-----
          ID: ixp-switch
Function: netconfig.managed
      Result: None
      Comment: Configuration discarded.

          Configuration diff:

          +logging host 192.168.82.68
Started: 11:05:58.383067
Duration: 10925.603 ms
Changes:

Summary for spare-7280sr
-----
Succeeded: 1 (unchanged=1)
Failed:    0
-----
Total states run:    1
Total run time: 10.926 s

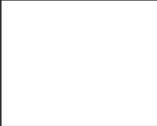
Commit changes? [y/N] y

Executing: sudo salt spare-7280sr --force-color state.highstate test=false
spare-7280sr:
-----
```

Changes you forgot to apply!

Outstanding Network Changes



From @lonap.net

To @lonap.net

Date Today 08:01

 [Summary](#)  [Headers](#)

hex-spine1:

```
router bgp 65003
```

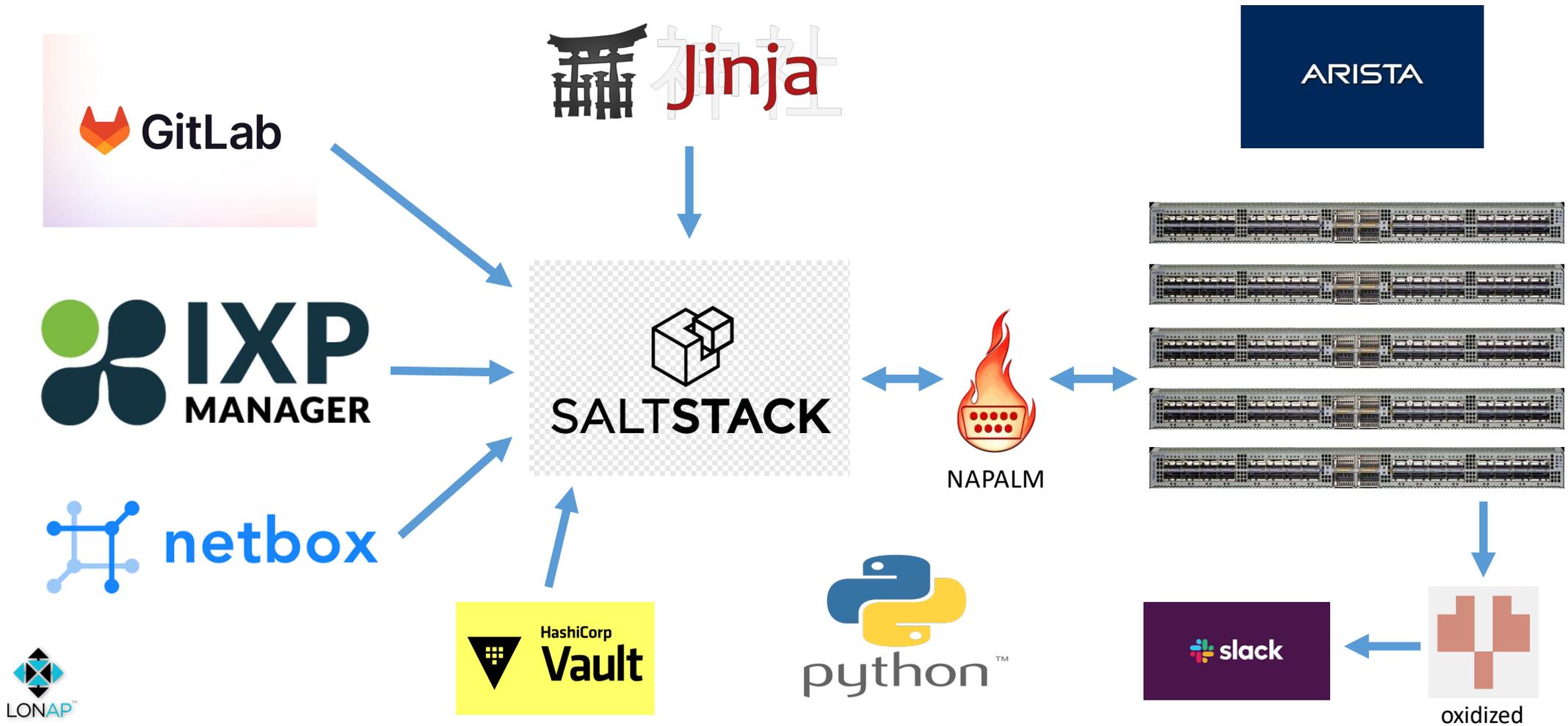
```
- neighbor 10.13.80.94 route-map PREPEND_MANY in  
- neighbor 10.13.80.94 route-map PREPEND_MANY out
```



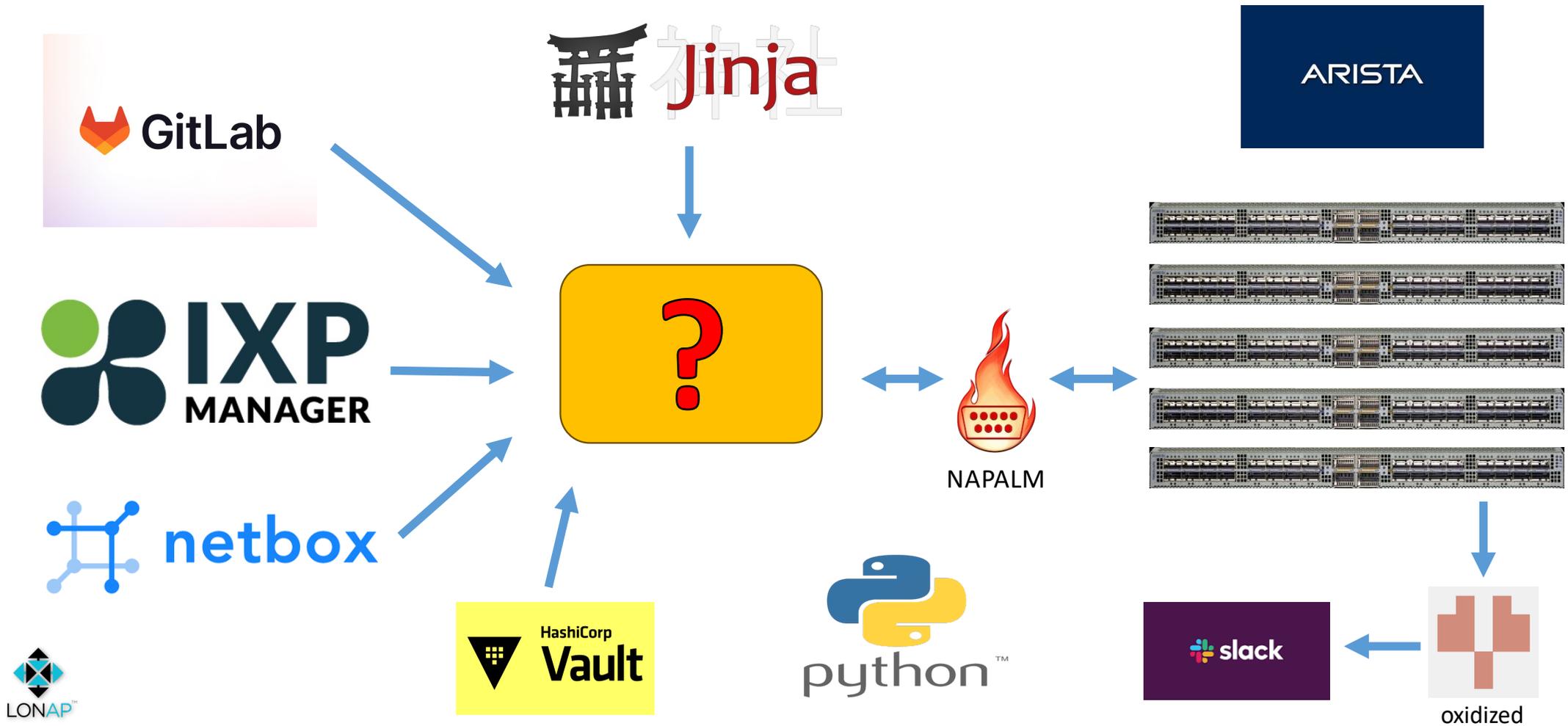
LONAP™

The End ??????

Let's revisit this...



Hmm...do we actually need SaltStack? 🤔



SaltStack

- SaltStack has worked great, but it's a big codebase maintained by others.
 - Breakages are a real problem in network operations.
 - Awaiting packages.
- Only using a small part of it.
- Managing a minion proxy process per-device.
- Template / data errors can be difficult to debug.



Custom Tooling

- Own code – all within our control.
- Can run from anywhere.
 - Minimal dependencies.
 - Though does require all of the data sources to be in place.
- Faster.
- More flexible.
- Can design interface how we want it to work.
- Can easily expand scope of tooling.



Starting afresh... ish.



lonap-network

Project ID: 39

671 Commits 1 Branch 0 Tags 696 KB Project Storage



lonops

Project ID: 53

118 Commits 2 Branches 0 Tags 133 KB Project Storage



lonap-network-templates

Project ID: 55

37 Commits 1 Branch 0 Tags 72 KB Project Storage



lonap-network-config

Project ID: 56

30 Commits 1 Branch 0 Tags 41 KB Project Storage



Initial Commit.

Ian Chilton authored 1 month ago



Import old templates from lonap-network repo (SaltStack setup).

Ian Chilton authored 2 weeks ago



Import pillar files from old lonap-network repo (SaltStack setup).

Ian Chilton authored 2 weeks ago



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Safety Concerns..

- The tooling breaking could be a nightmare during maintenance or DC work.
- However.... primary concern is to generate the correct configuration. We must not break the network.
- Better to fail than to generate the wrong configuration, because some data is not available.
- Reduce dependencies – we don't want the tool we need to fix the network to be broken with the network.
- Think about race conditions when committing configuration (see change -> data changes -> commit change). Ideally we want to be sure we are committing the changes we've seen/approved.
- Cache external data. Instead of calling a HTTP API directly, write it to a file.
- Keep good logs / history – useful for operational reasons (history), essential for debugging.
- Beware of vendor bugs.



'LONOPS'

```
$ lonops -h  
usage: lonops [-h] [-e EXCLUDE] [--config-file CONFIG_FILE] [--no-commit] [--only-edge] [--no-threading] [--debug] targets action [param]
```

\$ lonops <targets> <action> [param]



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Targets (1)

Single device:

```
$ lonops thn14-cr1 targets  
* thn14-cr1
```

Multiple devices:

```
$ lonops thn14-cr1,hex-qr1 targets  
* thn14-cr1  
* hex-qr1
```

Wildcard:

```
$ lonops thn14-cr1,'hex-*' targets  
* thn14-cr1  
* hex-cr1  
* hex-qr1  
* hex-sr1  
* hex-spine1
```



Targets (2)

Only edge boxes (no spines):

```
$ lonops thn14-cr1,'hex-*' targets --only-edge
* thn14-cr1
* hex-qr1
* hex-cr1
* hex-sr1
```

Exclude some matches:

```
$ lonops 'thn14-*','hex-*' -e hex-sr1 --only-edge targets
* thn14-sr1
* hex-qr1
* thn14-cr1
* thn14-qr1
* hex-cr1
```

Exclude with wildcard:

```
$ lonops 'thn14-*','hex-*' -e '.*-sr1' --only-edge targets
* hex-cr1
* hex-qr1
* thn14-cr1
* thn14-qr1
```

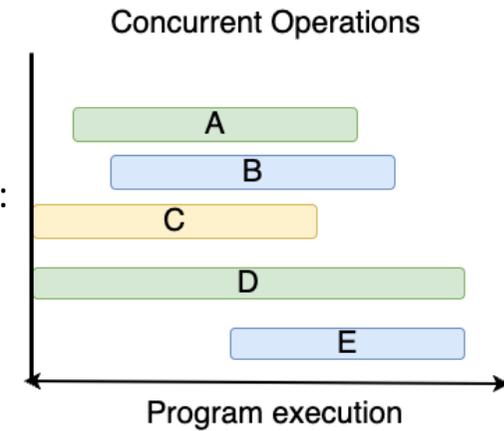


Targets (3)

Just do everything:

```
$ lonops '*' targets
* thn14-cr1
* thn14-qr1
* thn14-sr1
* thn1-qr1
* thn1-sr1
* thw-cr1
[..etc..]
```

..but all at the same time:
(using threads)



Coming soon:

- By environment.
- By role.

Action: facts

```
ichilton@network-admin:~$ lonops thw-\* fact os_version_short
--| thw-spine1 |-----
4.29.3M

--| thw-cr1 |-----
4.29.3M

--| thw-sr1 |-----
4.29.3M
```

```
ichilton@network-admin:~$ lonops thw-\* fact model_short
--| thw-cr1 |-----
7280CR3

--| thw-sr1 |-----
7280SR

--| thw-spine1 |-----
7050PX4
```

```
$ lonops thw-\* fact os_version
--| thw-spine1 |-----
4.29.3M-31391479.4293M

--| thw-cr1 |-----
4.29.3M-31391479.4293M

--| thw-sr1 |-----
4.29.3M-31391479.4293M
```

Action: set_config

```
ichilton@network-admin:~$ lonops spare-7280sr,hex-cx1,thw-spine1,spare-7280qr set_config 'logging host 192.168.82.68'
--| spare-7280sr |-----
+logging host 192.168.82.68

--| spare-7280qr |-----
ERROR: ConnectionException: Socket error during eAPI connection: [Errno 113] No route to host

--| summary |-----
Targets with changes:
* spare-7280sr

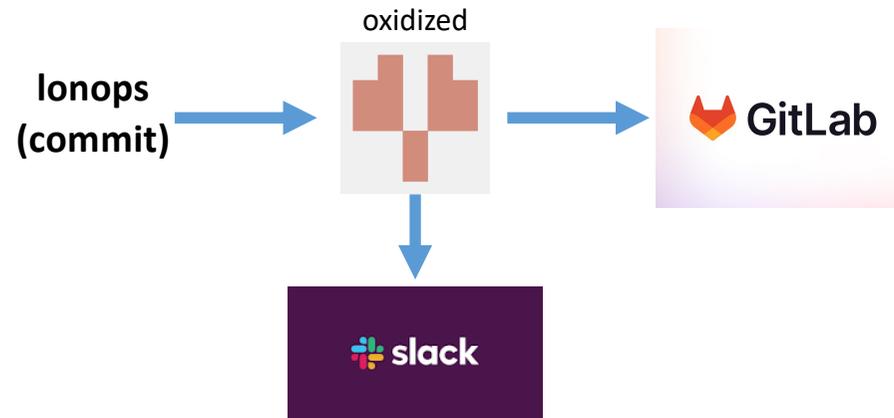
Targets with no changes:
* hex-cx1
* thw-spine1

Targets with errors:
* spare-7280qr

Commit changes? [type: YES] > YES

--| spare-7280sr | napalm_775776 |-----
+logging host 192.168.82.68
```

Instant backups/notification with Oxidized



```
oxidized APP 11:36
spare-7280sr.internal.lonap.net eos
1 @@ -144,6 +144,7 @@ monitor layer1
2 logging transceiver
3 !
4 logging host 192.168.82.67
5 +logging host 192.168.82.68
6 logging source-interface Management1
7 !
8 hostname spare-7280sr
```

Action: print, load, replace

```
! SFLOW:
```

```
{% if HOST['purpose'] != 'spine' %}  
sflow sample {{ CONFIG['sflow'].get('sample') }}  
sflow destination {{ CONFIG['sflow'].get('destination') }}  
sflow source-interface {{ CONFIG['sflow'].get('interface') }}  
sflow run  
{% endif %}
```

```
ichilton@network-admin:~$ lonops thn14-qr1 print --template ixp-switch/sflow.j2  
--| thn14-qr1 |-----  
  
! Target: thn14-qr1  
! Generated: 2023-06-28 12:12:47  
  
! SFLOW:  
  
sflow sample 16384  
sflow destination 192.168.82.38  
sflow source-interface Management1  
sflow run  
  
! END !
```



Action: print, load, replace

```
{% include 'common/system.j2' %}  
{% include 'common/auth.j2' %}  
{% include 'common/logging.j2' %}  
{% include 'common/dns.j2' %}  
{% include 'common/ntp.j2' %}  
{% include 'common/snmp.j2' %}  
{% include 'common/management.j2' %}
```

common.j2

```
{% include 'common.j2' %}  
  
{% include 'ixp-switch/hardware.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/sflow.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/bgp.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/filters.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/qos.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/interfaces/common.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/interfaces/vlan82.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/interfaces/vlans.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/interfaces/isl.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/interfaces/member.j2' %}  
{% include 'ixp-switch/interfaces/reseller.j2' %}
```

ixp-switch.j2



Action: maintenance (member affecting)

```
{% for interface in MEMBER_INTERFACES -%}
  {%- if interface.get('status') == 'connected' and (interface.get('lagmaster') or not interface.get('lagindex')) and interface['name'] not in
    CONFIG.get('ignore_interfaces', []) -%}
  ! {{ interface['description'] }}:
  interface {{ interface['name'] }}
    {% if ARGS.param == 'remove' %}no {% endif -%}ip access-group acl-ipv4-permit-all-except-bgp in
    {% if ARGS.param == 'remove' %}no {% endif -%}ipv6 access-group acl-ipv6-permit-all-except-bgp in
    {% if ARGS.param == 'shutdown' %}shutdown{%- endif %}
    {% endif -%}
{% endfor -%}
```

BCP 214
RFC 8327

Mitigating the Negative Impact of Maintenance
through BGP Session Culling.

<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/bcp214>



LONAP™

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
Request for Comments: 8327
BCP: 214
Category: Best Current Practice
ISSN: 2070-1721

W. Hargrave
LONAP
M. Griswold
20C
J. Snijders
NTT
N. Hilliard
INEX
March 2018

Mitigating the Negative Impact of Maintenance through
BGP Session Culling

Abstract

This document outlines an approach to mitigate the negative impact on networks resulting from maintenance activities. It includes guidance for both IP networks and Internet Exchange Points (IXPs). The approach is to ensure BGP-4 sessions that will be affected by maintenance are forcefully torn down before the actual maintenance activities commence.

Action: maintenance

```
$ lonops thn14-sr1 print actions/member_maintenance.j2
--| thn14-sr1 |-----

! Target: thn14-sr1
! Generated: 2023-06-12 09:34:42

! Voipfone:
interface Ethernet3
  ip access-group acl-ipv4-permit-all-except-bgp in
  ipv6 access-group acl-ipv6-permit-all-except-bgp in

! Voiceflex:
interface Ethernet4
  ip access-group acl-ipv4-permit-all-except-bgp in
  ipv6 access-group acl-ipv6-permit-all-except-bgp in

..etc..
```

```
$ lonops thn14-sr1 maintenance
--| thn14-sr1 |-----

@@ -170,6 +174,8 @@
  flowcontrol receive off
  switchport access vlan 4
  switchport
+ ip access-group acl-ipv4-permit-all-except-bgp in
+ ipv6 access-group acl-ipv6-permit-all-except-bgp in
  mac access-group MAC-ACL-Ethernet4 in
  no lldp transmit
  sflow enable
@@ -183,6 +189,8 @@
  flowcontrol receive off
  switchport access vlan 4
  switchport
+ ip access-group acl-ipv4-permit-all-except-bgp in
+ ipv6 access-group acl-ipv6-permit-all-except-bgp in
  mac access-group MAC-ACL-Ethernet5 in
  no lldp transmit
  sflow enable

..etc..
```



Development / Troubleshooting

```
ichilton@network-admin:~$ lonops spare-7280sr running_config
--| spare-7280sr |-----
! Command: show running-config
! device: spare-7280sr (DCS-7280SR-48C6, EOS-4.29.3M)
!
! boot system flash:/EOS-4.29.3M.swi
!
```

```
ichilton@network-admin:~$ lonops spare-7280sr startup_config
--| spare-7280sr |-----
! Command: show startup-config
! Startup-config last modified at Wed Jun 28 10:36:44 2023 by api-lonops
! device: spare-7280sr (DCS-7280SR-48C6, EOS-4.29.3M)
!
! boot system flash:/EOS-4.29.3M.swi
!
```

```
ichilton@network-admin:~$ lonops spare-7280sr data HOST
--| spare-7280sr |-----
{'asn': 65202,
 'device_num': 202,
 'environment': 'spare',
 'id': 'spare-7280sr',
 'location': 'THW',
 'loopback_ip': '10.0.0.202',
 'management_ip': '192.168.83.202',
 'manufacturer': 'Arista',
 'model': '7280SR',
 'platform': 'arista-eos',
 'purpose': 'edge',
 'role': 'ixp-switch',
 'status': 'active',
 'target': 'spare-7280sr'}
```

Coming soon..

One tool for all day to day activities...

- ISLs – depref, repref.
- Look up member ports, by name, ASN etc:
 - Status.
 - Traffic.
 - Check light levels.
- Optic inventory - where are the spares?

Interface	Description	in bps	out bps	in pps	out pps
Et8/1	BRSK	763.5 MB	9.2 GB	265.2K	861.8K
Et20/1	Daisy Corporate	1.2 GB	10.1 GB	316.7K	1.1M
Et1/1	Gigaclear	4.5 GB	13.7 GB	932.8K	1.3M
Po103	Google	44.6 GB	15.9 GB	5.2M	3.3M
Et5/1	Google -> Po103	44.6 GB	15.9 GB	5.2M	3.3M
Et3/1	Grain Communications	369.3 MB	6.5 GB	189.0K	609.1K
Po101	Hurricane Electric	11.5 GB	29.9 GB	2.0M	4.0M
Et19/1	Hurricane Electric -> Po101	11.5 GB	29.9 GB	2.0M	4.0M
Po104	Hyperoptic	1.4 GB	5.0 GB	335.9K	564.1K
Et7/1	Hyperoptic -> Po104	1.4 GB	5.0 GB	335.9K	564.1K
Po107	Kcom Group	911.3 MB	12.3 GB	452.7K	1.2M
Et25/1	Kcom Group -> Po107	911.3 MB	12.3 GB	452.7K	1.2M
Po108	Linode	3.2 GB	2.0 GB	755.5K	271.5K
Et24/1	Linode -> Po108	3.2 GB	2.0 GB	755.5K	271.5K
Et4/1	M247	3.8 GB	9.9 GB	750.2K	1.1M
Po105	Microsoft	30.5 GB	13.7 GB	5.3M	2.1M
Et21/1	Microsoft -> Po105	30.5 GB	13.7 GB	5.3M	2.1M
Et17/1	OrbitalNet	930.8 MB	2.2 GB	199.0K	240.3K
Po102	StackPath (Highwinds)	9.1 GB	181.4 MB	819.8K	64.2K
Et2/1	StackPath (Highwinds) -> Po102	9.1 GB	181.4 MB	819.8K	64.2K
Po106	Trooli	81.1 MB	3.3 GB	81.9K	301.0K
Et23/1	Trooli -> Po106	81.1 MB	3.3 GB	81.9K	301.0K
Et26/1	Voneus	17.7 MB	151.1 MB	8.7K	14.9K

Comments? Questions?