



“Cirrus eases the burden on our network engineers. We’ve been studied by industry analysts and they are amazed at how much we accomplish with such a small staff. We can attribute a significant part of that to SolarWinds products such as Cirrus. These products automate routine tasks, saving us time and increasing our productivity.”

Senior Communications Engineer
UniGroup, Inc.

UniGroup Manages Cisco Network Devices with Cirrus Configuration Manager, Saving Time and Increasing Productivity

BUSINESS PROBLEM

Founded in 1987, UniGroup is the parent company of United Van Lines, Mayflower Transit and other subsidiaries that support the worldwide operations of three leading transportation companies. These companies include Vanliner Group, Inc. (providing specialized insurance coverage for movers), Total Transportation Services, Inc. (which sells and leases vehicles and sells movers’ supplies) and UniGroup Worldwide UTS (a global mobility management company).

With world headquarters in Fenton, Missouri, UniGroup provides centralized support functions for all of the operating companies. Consolidated revenue for UniGroup and its operating companies has reached more than \$2 billion. UniGroup was ranked by Forbes as the 157th largest privately-owned firm in 2006.

NETWORK ENGINEERS RELY ON CIRRUS TO:

- Make network configuration changes 10 to 50 times faster
- Control & manage device configurations from a central console
- Support multi-vendor, heterogeneous networks
- Detect unauthorized or unknown configuration changes to network devices through real-time notification
- Schedule device configuration backups
- Track device inventory for auditing and compliance
- Immediately “roll back” to a previous device configuration
- Implement configuration changes in bulk (IOS and firmware updates)
- Identify configuration violations through out-of-the-box policy management reporting
- View detailed change history and side-by-side comparison of configurations

NETWORK MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Although UniGroup boasts more than a thousand employees worldwide, its network management team is relatively small. As such, the company was looking for a product that would enable its network engineers to dramatically reduce time spent managing Cisco network devices and automate tasks such as configuration collection and documentation, IOS upgrades, device inventory and provide the ability to rapidly create comprehensive change management reports that can be shared with the management team.

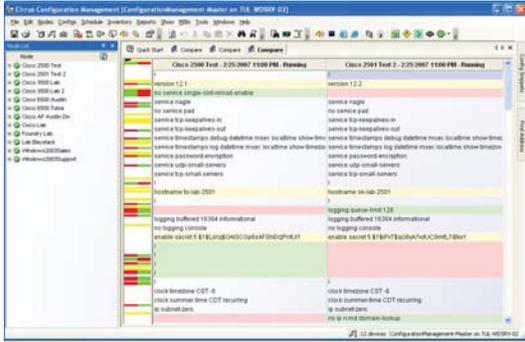
In addition, UniGroup needed a solution that would be easy-to-use and require minimal training.

The requirements for a network management system to support a company like UniGroup were staggering. Not only would the system have to scale to manage a large and aggressively dynamic network, but the system would also have to provide for:

- Affordable implementation and operational costs
- Management-level reporting
- Support of Cisco network devices
- Automatic restoration of network configurations
- Centralized management of network devices

SOLUTION

In evaluating network management solutions, UniGroup, knew right away what they did not want. Previously, the team had used Java-based solutions such as CiscoWorks that they found awkward and difficult to use. They needed something reliable and easy to use.



As existing SolarWinds Toolset and Orion Network Performance Monitor users, the team decided to try Cirrus Configuration Manager.

Cirrus is affordable, easy-to-use and automates device configuration management across UniGroup’s Cisco-based network. Its unique combination of scalability and robust functionality, along with its affordable price tag, made Cirrus the perfect answer to UniGroup’s network management woes.

Cirrus enables UniGroup’s network management team to automate routine and error-prone network configuration tasks including configuration collection and documentation, configuration backups, real-time change management, device inventory management and comprehensive reporting of various network devices. UniGroup is especially pleased with the automation, reporting and historical features of Cirrus.

“With Cirrus, we are able to quickly define and implement scripts to automatically push out IOS upgrades, verify and, if necessary, standardize configurations across the country with minimal effort. Our management team also likes the frequency with which we are able to provide comprehensive reports highlighting what changes have occurred across the network.

Additionally, the fact that Cirrus provides a tremendous amount of functionality at an extremely reasonable price point, has been well-received internally.”

Senior Communications Engineer
UniGroup

BUSINESS RESULTS

Since implementing Cirrus, UniGroup’s network management team has seen huge time savings resulting in a dramatic productivity increase. This allows the relatively small team to easily handle the responsibilities that go along with managing a large, ever-changing network environment.

The UniGroup team can now:

- Make bulk network configuration changes from a centralized location
- Provide detailed inventory lists of every managed network device
- Automate daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly management reports
- Store configuration backups in a central database for archival history, giving them peace of mind in the event of a disaster
- Focus on mission-critical network issues and let Cirrus take care of routine, repetitive tasks

UniGroup is so pleased with SolarWinds Toolset, Orion Network Performance Monitor and Cirrus Configuration Manager that the company is also considering Orion NetFlow Traffic Analyzer and Orion Wireless Network Monitor.

CONTACT US

For additional information, please contact SolarWinds at 866.530.8100 or e-mail sales@solarwinds.com. To locate an International reseller near you, visit <http://www.solarwinds.com/partners>.