

Case Study – University of Montana

“Out of all the products we tested, we feel confident we have made the right choice with Easy-IP. It is a very stable application. We’ve never had any major support issues with it.”

Michael Bloom, Network Manager

Background

The University of Montana is a multi-campus university with one main campus, three affiliated campuses, and nearly a dozen subsidiary locations throughout Western Montana. It is an energetic and dynamic university committed to leading the way in higher education and research.

The Network

The centralized network support team looks after the connectivity needs of over 17,500 student, faculty, and administration clients. They are currently using Easy-IP to proactively manage their IP address space for over 14,000 devices, across all campuses and remote research facilities.

Easy-IP, which was implemented by the Network Services group at the University of Montana, monitors 3 ATM switches, 250 Cisco Managed Switches, 40 Cisco routers, 20 servers and 200 hubs. The total number of possible IP addresses within their network that Easy-IP manages exceeds 16 million.

The Past

Prior to investing in Easy-IP, The University of Montana was using an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of their IP addressing scheme. Easy-IP was chosen because it was easy to use and exceptionally quick to roll out.

In just a few days, they were able to use Easy-IP to help plan out their conversion from Public to Private IP addressing involving all of the RFC 1918 private address space plus 1 full class B network, 1/2 Class B network and multiple Class C networks.

The Present

The University of Montana has been a Easy-IP user for over 3 years and they use the product for 3 core purposes.

Firstly, the application is used for overall IP Address planning. Secondly, the application is used to keep track of adds/moves and changes for the entire IP address network space. Thirdly, Easy-IP is used as a proactive troubleshooting tool, especially to verify DNS hostnames to IP addresses.

The Future

In future, the network team at The University of Montana aim to use Easy-IP's SNMP auto-discovery to keep track of all installed network equipment and to help streamline their migration to IPv6.

The Benefits of Easy-IP

The integrated SQL database within Easy-IP is a self-tuning, and requires no assistance from a dedicated database administrator.

Easy-IP uses a multi-threaded network discovery process to find live hosts and automatically populates the database. All IP addresses within each subnet in the central database are easily viewed in the management window. Information can then be viewed and sorted by hostname, brand of NIC card, MAC address, etc.