



# 2025 Network Challenges & Trends Report



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents key findings from a survey of senior network leaders across Europe, based on responses from participants at Cisco Live EMEA in February 2025. The survey explores the most pressing challenges organizations face in managing network performance, the capabilities they prioritize, and their satisfaction with current network management solutions.

The findings reveal that IT teams are struggling with increasing operational complexity, persistent performance issues, and inefficiencies in troubleshooting. A significant number of organizations lack the visibility and automation required to effectively manage modern networks, leading to increased IT workload and network disruptions. The demand for AI-driven automation, proactive monitoring, and centralized management is stronger than ever, highlighting the need for next-generation solutions to keep up with evolving enterprise networking demands.



# KEY FINDINGS

## Top Network Challenges:

- **70% of respondents struggle with detecting and identifying issues automatically and quickly**, underscoring the critical need for proactive network monitoring and AI-driven troubleshooting.
- **50% highlight operational complexity as a major challenge**, including managing multi-vendor environments, network scalability, and troubleshooting inefficiencies.
- **40% report ongoing issues with LAN wireless and switches**, pointing to persistent infrastructure inconsistencies affecting performance.

## Frequency of Network Performance Issues:

- **38% of respondents** experience **network performance degradation** at least monthly.
- **A significant portion report frequent network disruptions**, impacting business continuity and operational efficiency.

## Most Desired Network Management Capabilities:

- **50% of respondents seek automated root cause insights** and recommendations, demonstrating a strong demand for AI-driven troubleshooting that reduces manual intervention.
- **42% require automated detection of impactful problems**, signaling a need for more intelligent alert prioritization and noise reduction.
- **38%** emphasize the need for **better network visibility** and centralized management.

## IT Time Spent on Troubleshooting:

- **44% of IT teams dedicate 10-30% of their time** to resolving network issues.
- **35% report spending 30-50% of their time troubleshooting**, illustrating inefficiencies in current network operations that could be alleviated with automation.

## Satisfaction with Current Network Management Tools:

- **37% rely solely on vendor dashboards**, revealing a gap in cross-platform visibility and automation.
- **37% use third-party tools** but still find limitations in automation and intelligence.
- **Only 26% report satisfaction with their existing third-party tools**, indicating a significant opportunity for improved solutions.

# RECCOMENDATIONS

## 1 Implement AI-Powered Network Monitoring

Given the widespread challenge of issue detection, organizations should adopt AI-driven monitoring solutions that proactively identify and address problems before they escalate.

## 2 Enhance Multi-Vendor Network Operations with AI

IT teams need AI-powered network operations solutions that streamline troubleshooting, automate root cause analysis, and provide deep visibility across multi-vendor environments. AI-driven insights help reduce complexity and improve operational efficiency

## 3 Reduce Alert Fatigue and Enhance Root Cause Analysis

Smarter alert management and automated diagnostics can help IT teams focus on the most critical issues, improving response times and minimizing disruptions.

## 4 Minimize IT Time Spent on Troubleshooting

By leveraging automation and AI-driven insights, organizations can reduce the operational burden on IT staff and reallocate resources to more strategic initiatives.

## 5 Enhance Network Performance Visibility

Investing in advanced analytics and predictive insights can help businesses proactively prevent network issues before they impact users

# CONCLUSION

**The survey findings highlight a pressing need for automated, AI-driven network management solutions that enhance visibility, streamline troubleshooting, and optimize IT resources.**

**By adopting intelligent monitoring and network operations tools, organizations can improve operational efficiency, reduce downtime, and build a more resilient network infrastructure.**