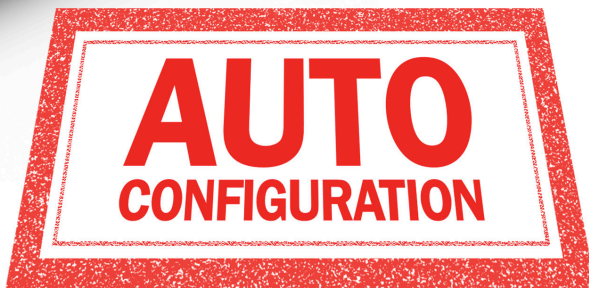


Extreme Networks Auto Configuration



The Situation

As new businesses expand and organizations continue to evolve, there is an imminent need to provide network connectivity to the most basic and critical business applications within short lead times. Network administrators are challenged by business goals to provide connectivity to enterprise applications (or services) like email, collaboration tools, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Customer Relationship Management (CRM), sales applications and more, to users and groups (remote or local) as quickly as possible.

The Challenges

Enterprise organizations require real-time results when it comes to building their networks. Business doesn't stop because the IT department is waiting for the network to be ready. Organizations today demand seamless and secure business continuity. As businesses evolve, so must the network. Budget plays an issue too, as IT managers operate on continually dwindling resources and increasingly demanding expectations.

Challenges leading to limited resources and growing demands among IT organizations:

- New businesses are created to address continually changing consumer trends and business-to-business requirements. There is the expectation that both service providers and the businesses involved should be able to quickly create and deploy networks.
- Organizations are expanding in terms of both personnel and geography, giving rise to the need for new network segments to be up and running with short lead times.
- Business continuity requirements mandate that network administrators be prepared for situations where faulty switches and routers occur in the network and provision and replace them as quickly as possible.
- Shrinking IT budgets mean that CIOs and network administrators have to cut both capital and operational expenditures. Time and costs involved in staging, deployment, and configuration of network equipment are often seen as overhead costs.

The Solution

Extreme Networks® addresses these challenges by providing a very flexible and simple switch provisioning solution, which allows organizations to quickly build networks or replace faulty switches for business continuity. Extreme Networks Auto Configuration feature minimizes manual configuration of switches and enables security and compliance, as well as “green” power savings. Extreme Networks Auto Configuration is focused on achieving plug-and-play deployment and is supported on all ExtremeXOS®- based hardware platforms (version 12.5 minimum).



The Benefits

The ability to drop-ship ExtremeXOS-based switches into customer premises	Helps eliminate operating expenditures (OPEX) and costs involved in staging and any initial commissioning or provisioning.
Customers can choose to enable auto-provisioning in central equipment handling locations before switches are shipped to the appropriate branches for deployment	Allows for minimal or no IT/network personnel in branch locations to deploy the switches.
Standards-based classification using Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) helps administrators craft flexible and easy-to-manage configurations	Reduces costs incurred for customization of configuration, with the ability to classify switches according to function, hardware type, or location.

The Technology

Regardless of the procurement and deployment procedure adopted by customers, Extreme Networks Auto Configuration may help customers reduce, and in many cases, eliminate both direct and indirect costs which are normally incurred during the initial staging and commissioning process.

Extreme Networks Auto Configuration feature provides a simple method to enable or disable the automatic configuration of ExtremeXOS-based switches, as well as the ability to drop-ship Extreme Networks switches into customer premises with the feature enabled in advance either by channel partners, System Integrators (SIs), or Value-Added Resellers (VARs). Standards-based solutions make the most effective use of protocols such as DHCP, and Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP). DHCP is used for dynamic configuration of network parameters, and TFTP is used for the configuration download.

The Extreme Networks Auto Configuration feature also enables configuration file downloads in the standard ExtremeXOS configuration format (.cfg), as well as script files (.xsf). Extreme Networks Auto Configuration works with existing DHCP and TFTP infrastructure in the network, with minimal customization, and has the ability to create the classification of switches based on hardware/platform type. This classification is done outside of the ExtremeXOS realm, giving customers greater deployment flexibility.

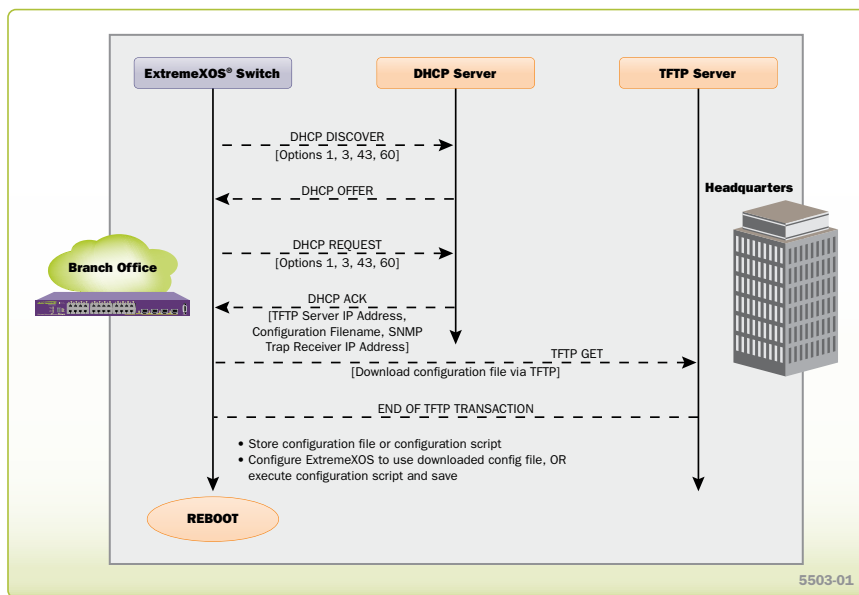


Figure 1: Example of Deployment Automation Using DHCP



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