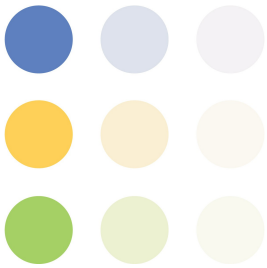
Why Slipper?

Slipper – Intelligent Control for your network.



Cisco's IOS is an industry standard for network equipment, with a huge range of features in a single device. Many organisations choose IOS over other industry offerings for that unified experience in the network equipment space.

Iagu had a number of software products handling such tasks as Network Management, VoIP, RADIUS, NetFlow, ISP support, and workflow tracking. As part of a product review we saw the synergies in an IOS-inspired merger of all these functions into a single product platform for an all-in-one experience. In a single product, it includes merged forms of all our previous major product lines, running on an integrated object-oriented, schema-free clustered database. Although originally intended for the SMB space, its unique mix of features and ability to scale has seen it installed in telcos, universities, and government education departments. It'll grow with your network.

Network Management

Devices can be passively or actively managed. Passive management includes connectivity testing, performance graphing, and storing timestamped configurations of devices, so should you ever need to know "when did this change?" you can go back and find out. If a device breaks, you can be sure the last known good configuration is stored ready for drop-ship replacement. Network elements are grouped by Site, and Sites can be grouped by Regions. Your users may have access to the entire network, or only to the sites and regions relevant to them. This is frequently used by larger organisations to allow Microsoft-certified local site IT contacts to make day-to-day network changes without needing to involve the network team, freeing them up to concentrate on strategic issues.

Active management includes all of that, but also Slipper now generates the configuration of your network elements from a combination of templates and database information, such as policies defined network wide. Do you want to change an access control list to allow or block a new service? Change the ACL template in one place, and Slipper will customise the ACL to reflect each site's IP addresses and push it out to all parts of your network. Want to turn on a new feature? Modify the appropriate template, and all devices in your network will be updated in a consistent manner, providing certainty while minimising time taken.

All changes are recorded in a log, so it's easy to go back and see when a change was made, and why it was done. However, this doesn't need to slow down your Cisco certified staff. When they log into a router, Slipper handles the RADIUS request and allows or disallows them with the appropriate privilege levels based on their Rights in Slipper and their access to the region or site the device belongs to. When they make changes, the router or switch notifies Slipper through Syslog, and Slipper will demand-pull the changes (using SSH if available), incorporating them into its database.

Clustering

Slipper is licensed per-organisation, per-country, there is no additional fee for additional copies within those restrictions. Slipper is designed to run as a virtual image under the likes of VMware or Hyper-V, so it's easy to have multiple copies running for redundancy. The databases replicate in real-time between cluster members, and it's not a publisher/subscriber model – if the link between cluster members goes down, changes can be made locally on both members by local staff, and when the link is re-established, they replay the changes to each other to recover a consistent state.

Why Slipper?

Voice over IP

Slipper was originally a SIP-based VoIP product, but as it developed it became clear that for many customers, their extended network hadn't been mission-critical until VoIP. Iagu saw that merging our VoIP and network management products would bring value to our customers.

The VoIP core is still there, and although it can provide a rich VoIP experience with call control, voicemail, IVR's, call queuing, and call recording systems, it is also designed to provide bridging services to Cisco's other unified communications products. Do you have Call Manager, but don't use Exchange and want unified messaging? Slipper will provide unified messaging using either an internal voicemail store or using standard SMTP/POP/IMAP protocols to any standards-based mail server. Would you like a mix of Cisco phones at central site, and use Cisco's Linksys range of PSTN devices at remote sites, or for faxing? Do you have a few Call Manager Express installations and having issues scaling up the interconnects? What about an internet-facing gateway back into your Cisco environment for smartphones using SIP over 3G data, such as Nokia E and N series phones? Any of these can be easily addressed with a SIP trunk and a little configuration of Slipper, to better leverage your Cisco investment.

Pricing

Slipper is licensed per-organisation, per-country, with an RRP of AU$2200 for the first year and AU$1650 for subsequent year renewals. This both licenses your organisation to use the software, and includes all software upgrades.

Trial licences are available for 30 days from your reseller.

There are no per-user fees for staff of your organisation, but if providing carrier services to those outside your organisation, the licensing starts from 50c per active user per month.

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