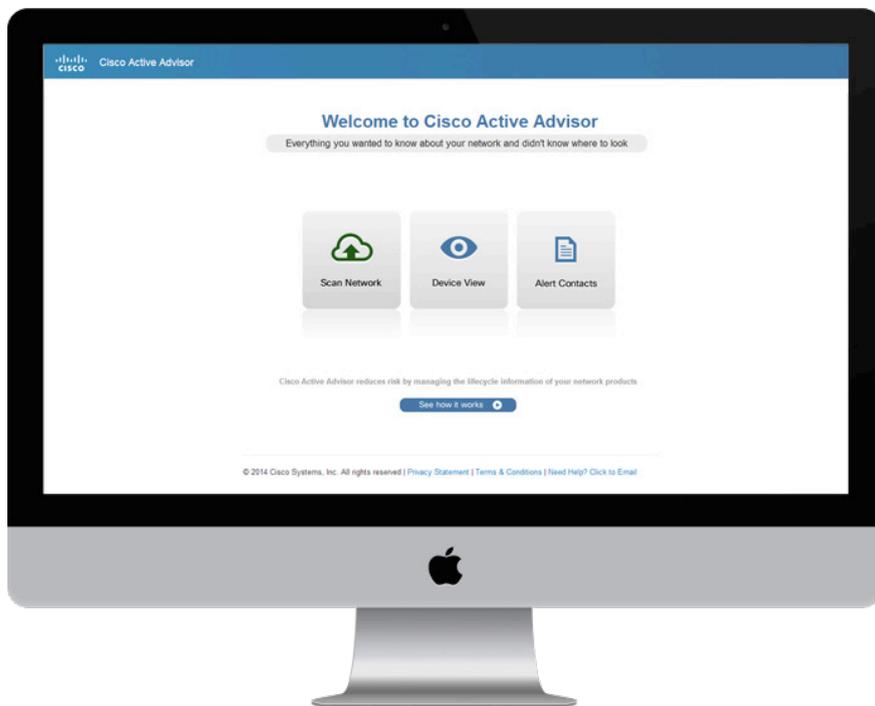


## Case Study

eggPlant Performance and Cisco Active Advisor: A load testing success story



Inventory monitoring service with 12,000 subscribers has zero reports of poor application performance since June 2013 launch

### Profile

Cisco is the worldwide leader in networking that transforms how people connect, communicate and collaborate. Founded in 1984, Cisco pioneered the development of Internet Protocol (IP)-based networking technologies. This tradition continues with the development of routing, switching, and other technologies such as application networking services, home networking, security, storage area networking, TelePresence systems, unified communications, video systems, and wireless.



The screenshot displays the Cisco Active Advisor interface. At the top, there are five summary cards: 9 Devices, 31 Advisories, 0 Contract Issues, 0 Warranty Issues, and 1 End of Life Warnings. Below these is a 'Last Collection: 05/23/2013' and a 'Scan My Network' button. An 'Export' button is located in the top right corner of the table area. The main table lists various network devices with columns for Device Name, Type, IP Address, Serial Number, and Warnings. The 'Warnings' column provides a breakdown of advisories, contracts, warranties, and end-of-life status for each device.

Device Name	Type	IP Address	Serial Number	Warnings
rz-3850	WS-C3850-24P	172.19.8.157	FOC1715V0AQ	0 Advisories, 0 Contracts, 0 Warranties, 0 End of Life,
ac-3850	WS-C3850-24P	172.19.8.152	FOC1715V0DK	0 Advisories, 0 Contracts, 0 Warranties, 0 End of Life,
switch2	WS-C3524-PWR-XL	10.10.10.20	FAA0541D0CF	2 Advisories, 0 Contracts, 0 Warranties, 0 End of Life,
switch1	WS-C2950-12	10.10.10.30	FOC1051U0M2	5 Advisories, 0 Contracts, 0 Warranties, 1 End of Life,
sa-2960c	WS-C2960C-8PC-L	172.19.8.150	FOC1716Y31K	0 Advisories, 0 Contracts, 0 Warranties, 0 End of Life,
sa-3560c	WS-C3560C-8PC-S	172.19.8.151	FOC1652Y2M4	12 Advisories, 0 Contracts, 0 Warranties, 0 End of Life,
ac-3560c	WS-C3560C-8PC-S	172.19.8.153	FOC1652Y2HW	12 Advisories, 0 Contracts, 0 Warranties, 0 End of Life,
ac-2960c	WS-C2960C-8PC-L	172.19.8.154	FOC1716Y33B	0 Advisories, 0 Contracts, 0 Warranties, 0 End of Life,
2611XM	CISCO2611XM	10.10.10.1	JAD07110AGX	0 Advisories, 0 Contracts, 0 Warranties, 0 End of Life,

## Cisco Active Advisor

Technology giant, Cisco, is a worldwide leader in networking and shapes the Internet with its technology. In 2013, the company developed a cloud-based service that provides essential lifecycle information about an organization's network inventory.

Available 24 hours a day, Cisco Active Advisor allows companies to quickly and efficiently gain visibility into the status of their products, reducing overall network risk and keeping them up-to-date with essential product information that may compromise the security or integrity of their network.

As with all cloud-based applications, effective load and stress testing was a key requirement for Cisco Active Advisor, which had some unique elements that made testing a challenging proposition. As a new product, the Cisco Active Advisor development team did not have an existing performance testing tool and searched for a solution that would suit the application's specific requirements.

“We needed a tool that was capable of testing at lower levels than the web,” said **Michael Whitley, Senior Engineering Manager, Cisco Active Advisor**. “Load testing for Cisco Active Advisor had to cover much more than users, as the primary loads placed on the application came from the reports coming back to the system from automated systems providing network audits.”

Cisco Active Advisor

< Scan Settings

Cancel Scan Please do not close this browser window the Cisco Active Advisor Browser-Based Scanner is running

Started 5/23/2013 17:04:54 Attempted 4 of 5  80%

Success	Authentication Failed	Unreachable
2	1	0

Please click Don't Block in the Java Security Warning.

Device IP	Device Name	Discovery Status	Configuration
10.77.214.13		Authentication Failed	
10.77.214.15	ME380X_10.77.214.15	Success	<a href="#">view</a>
10.77.214.16	ME380X_10.77.214.16	Success	<a href="#">view</a>

View 100 Results Per Page First Previous 1 Next Last

### Cisco Scanner

eggPlant Performance is capable of performance testing at every level from the network up to web level, and its open architecture and support for modern scripting languages meant it was capable of handling Cisco's requirements with ease.

TestPlant provided direct support to the Cisco Active Advisor development team, initially helping them to load test the application and then working to train the test team on how to go forward using the software. During the initial testing phase, the Cisco team worked closely with the TestPlant implementation team, to deliver a system in a matter of days, which was then handed over to the Cisco Active Advisor team for ongoing use.

"We looked at other tools but were drawn to both the capabilities of eggPlant Performance to meet the unique testing requirements of Cisco Active Advisor as well as the services offered by TestPlant to help get our test organization up to speed," said Whitley. "We were in a crunch to launch the product and urgently needed to know how it would perform at scale in a very short time."

"We were very impressed with the professionalism of the TestPlant team and their commitment to delivering accurate and meaningful data," said Whitley. "We were also very impressed with the initial report delivered by the team, which provided us with all the information needed to take things on ourselves."

In June 2013, Cisco Active Advisor launched and currently has over 12,000 users. To date, Cisco has had zero reports of poor application performance, a testament to an effective performance testing regime.

“TestPlant delivered the quality software and services that helped us hit our launch on time and we have been extremely pleased with our engagement,” said Whitley. “The software continues to impress us and gives us a clear view of how the performance of Cisco Active Advisor improves with each release, both in terms of increased ability to handle concurrent audits and faster response times.”

“We release our service in an iterative fashion and perform load testing every other release,” explained Whitley. “eggPlant Performance is easy to use and lets us get a detailed view on how key flows will perform under load.”

“Cisco works in an agile manner to deliver frequent updates to its Cisco Active Advisor customers with new functionality and updates,” said **Antony Edwards, TestPlant CTO**. “Every release is performance tested using eggPlant Performance, which is how they retain their excellent zero-defect status throughout their continuous delivery environment. What’s more, all this is handled by the team at Cisco because eggPlant Performance is simple to use and scripts are quick to maintain.”

The screenshot shows the Cisco Active Advisor interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Introduction, Scan Network, All Devices, and Alert Contacts. Below this is a dashboard with four main statistics: Device Overview (10), Advisories (1), End of Life Warnings (1), and Enabled Features (81). Below the dashboard, there is a table of advisories. The table has columns for Published Date, Severity, Description, Type, and URL. The table shows several advisories with high severity, including vulnerabilities in Cisco IOS Software Multicast Source Discovery Protocol, Cisco IOS Software Command Authorization, and Cisco IOS Software Network Address Translation.

Published Date	Severity	Description	Type	URL
2010-07-24	high	Cisco IOS Software Multicast Source Discovery Protocol Vulnerability	PSIRT	
2010-07-07	high	Hard-Coded SNMP Community Names in Cisco Industrial Ethernet 3000 Series Switches Vulnerability	PSIRT	
2011-05-28	high	Cisco IOS Software Smart Install Remote Code Execution Vulnerability	PSIRT	
2012-03-28	high	Cisco IOS Software Multicast Source Discovery Protocol Vulnerability	PSIRT	
2012-03-28	high	Cisco IOS Software Command Authorization Bypass	PSIRT	
2012-03-28	high	Cisco IOS Software Smart Install Denial of Service Vulnerability	PSIRT	
2013-03-27	high	Cisco IOS Software Network Address Translation Vulnerability	PSIRT	
2012-05-26	high	Cisco IOS Software DHCP Version 6 Server Denial of Service Vulnerability	PSIRT	
2011-05-28	Low	Cisco IOS Software Network Address Translation Vulnerabilities	PSIRT	

#### About TestPlant

TestPlant is an international software business based in London. It has development centers in the USA and the UK with sales and support centers in the USA, the UK and Asia as well as an extensive network of business partners. The company was founded in 2008 by George Mackintosh and Jon Richards with venture capital backing and it has shown rapid revenue growth organically and through the acquisitions of Redstone Software and Facilita. TestPlant’s products are used in over 30 countries by well over 300 enterprise customers in sectors which include Financial Services, Automotive, Healthcare and Life Sciences, Media and Entertainment, Retail and Defense and Aerospace. The eggPlant range is a set of software quality tools which supports the design, development, test and management of software applications for mainframe, desktop and mobile use in any technology platform environment. The tools are relevant in agile, mobile, web and DevOps deployments. eggPlant use improves and reports on the quality and responsiveness of software systems, reduces time to market and lowers costs by introducing process automation. eggPlant tools have been granted patents with several applications pending. The company’s achievements have been recognised within the software industry and by the venture capital community. TestPlant is also a Red Herring Global Top 100 company and was awarded a Queen’s Award for Enterprise in 2013.

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