

The J Brand Monthly Technology Update

Are Your Records Up to Date? Thought Not!

How often have you been asked “Where does this fibre go?” only to shuffle your feet and return a blank look? This is fine when the network is up and running, but when problems arise unnecessary, downtime is the inevitable result. It is so easy to get into this situation due to the organic growth of LAN’s with additional cabling and equipment added in phases, often without a strategic plan or coherent, up to date documentation.

The result is, at best, a working LAN that is hard to troubleshoot with many undetected problems. At worst the only person who understands the network moves on with the new incumbent desperately trying to make sense of a network that has neither documentation or network monitoring tools. His ability therefore to troubleshoot problems and plan for expansion is seriously hampered.

J Brand however offers a full site audit service that covers all aspects of the installed network infrastructure, ultimately providing the customer with a document that will accurately detail the current network. All passive components are checked to ensure that copper cabling is accurately labeled and able to support the latest network protocols. Backbone fibre is examined to determine it’s type and ability to deal with emerging technologies such as 10 Gigabit Ethernet. While often power is overlooked during an audit, J Brand’s qualified Electrical Test & Inspection Engineers can determine if power and earthing to cabinets complies with the latest building standards and provide advice in respect of compliance of the 17th edition of the IEE wiring regulations.

Importantly active equipment is interrogated to ascertain network configurations and functionality, and sense made of the network statistics that they contain.

All findings are brought together in a document that will act as a single point of reference. This documentation will include network diagrams, details of any problems found, and recommendations for remedial work and migration plans if required.

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“Poorly documented networks cost money, both in terms of lost business while the network is down, and paying additional fees to service companies as they spend time making sense of the network rather than getting on with solving the problem .“

**Tim Oldershaw - J Brand
Technical Director**

Newsletter Spotlight

Over 80% of downtime is caused through a problem at the physical layer. Yet while the network hardware is usually SNMP managed and covered by a maintenance contract, many end users do not even keep up to date network schematics. When there is a problem, this lack of planning causes huge issues.

Special Offer on a Network Audit!



As a special “Spring Incentive”, we are offering the chance to get a one day audit at half the normal price until the end of May.

While this offer lasts, you can book a visit from one of J Brand’s “Network Detectives” for only £350.00 (plus VAT). This will get you a one day site visit and production of the resulting documentation.

To book your visit simply click on the following link:

[Contact me about booking a network audit](#)