# Network Automation

A manager's view

Automation

- What does automation mean to me..

  - NOT :- Complex off the shelf package
  - NOT :- SDN
  - NOT :- NFV

  - IS :- Open
  - IS :- Ability to reduce direct configuration interaction
  - IS :- Framework enabling repeatable, consistent results

The Legacy Model

- Enterprises typically purchased Cisco because…
  - Single vendor offering a 'whole suite'
  - Interoperability
  - Safe bet
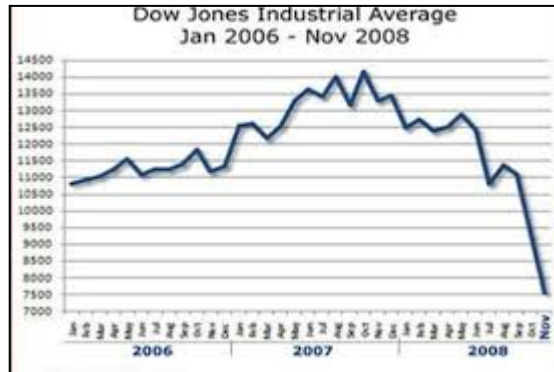
- 2008 forced a rethink of value verses cost

The New Model

SDN – The Love Is Gone

- Anatoly Gavrilov on Linkedin :-
  - "SDN hype is over, a lot of vendors pulled out from the SDN controllers market. SDN is not a blue pill for all network solutions"
- SDN became a much used, much abused marketing term
- Many of the ideas & features from SDN will live on – once the market has matured

https://www.linkedin.com/in/anatolygavrilov/

Why Automate

- Speed
  - Touch multiple devices quickly
  - Repetitive tasks scripted once
- Consistency
  - Same result – no deviation – whoever presses enter
  - Known result
- Reduces Risk
  - Blast radius predictability
  - No cowboy config

What Is Cowboy Coding?
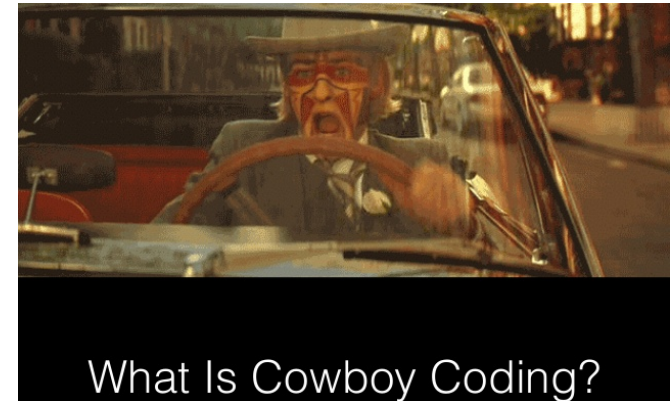
Maximising The Network

- Bespoke solutions to meet customer requirements are a necessary fact of life

- Network engineers suck at documentation

- Troubleshooting undocumented network solutions at 03:00 sucks more

- Automation is self documenting (ish)

- Complex solutions can be repeated for customers
  - Saves time
  - Reduces risk
  - Maximises the network
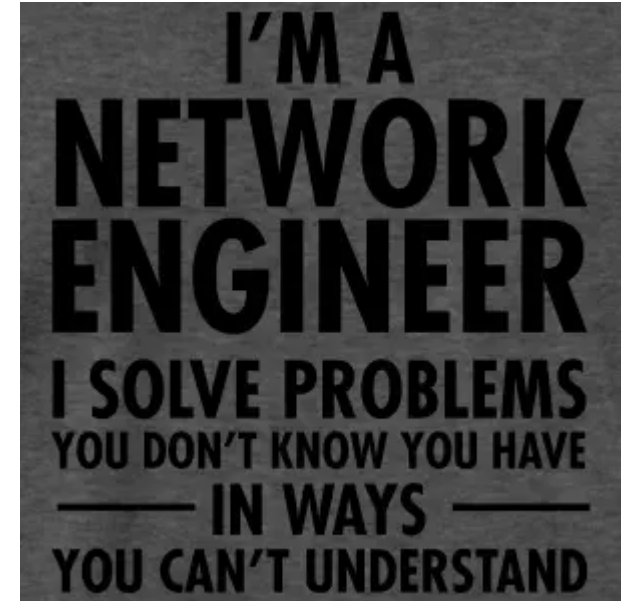
What does this mean for Engineers?

- Network engineers will be replaced by programmers...

...nope

- Networks have evolved – engineers need to follow