

3.4.3 Manageable Network Plan Facts

The *Manageable Network Plan* is a process created by the National Security Agency (NSA) to assist in making a network manageable, defensible, and secure. The process identifies a series of milestones for creating a manageable network plan, offers suggestions, gives crucial security tips, and provides references.

The milestones to develop a manageable network plan are:

No.	Milestone	Description
1	Prepare to Document	<p>Prepare to Document means establishing the process you will use to document your network. A useful document will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be easy to use Include enough detail Document the important things Use timestamps Be protected with restricted access and possibly encryption Have a printed hard copy kept in a secure location
2	Map Your Network	<p>Map Your Network ensures that you are aware of all the components of the network and that you know where the physical devices are. Steps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a map of the network topology. Create a list of all devices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't forget to include wireless devices. Use a network scanner and then confirm manually with a room-by-room walkthrough. Identify who is responsible for each device and detail other information, such as IP address, service tag, and physical location. Consider using a database file to store the information. Create a list of all protocols being used on the network by using a network analyzer. Consider removing unauthorized devices and protocols from your network.
3	Protect Your Network (Network Architecture)	<p>Protect Your Network (Network Architecture) identifies the following steps to protect your network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and document each user on the network and the information the user has access to Identify the high-value network assets Document the trust boundaries Identify the choke points on the network Segregate and isolate networks Isolate server functions Physically secure high-value systems
4	Reach Your Network (Device Accessibility)	<p>Reach Your Network (Device Accessibility) helps to ensure that all of the devices on your network can be easily accessed while still maintaining the device's security. Accessibility includes physical access as well as remote access. Important considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use insecure protocols Use Windows Group Policies to administer Windows systems Make sure that remote access connections are secure Automate administration as much as possible
5	Control Your Network (User Access)	<p>Control Your Network (User Access) ensures network security, but restricts user access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit a user to the least privilege required for the user's job Limit local admins to an absolute minimum Use regular user accounts for day-to-day work Use role-based access controls Don't let users install software Set account expiration dates Disable or remove accounts when a user leaves the organization
6	Manage Your Network Part I (Patch Management)	<p>Manage Your Network Part I (Patch Management) establishes an update management process for all software on your network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patch all systems on a regular schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply critical patches whenever they are released Include mobile devices that connect to the network infrequently

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automate the patching process ▪ Consider using Windows Server Update Services (WSUS)
7	Manage Your Network Part II (Baseline Management)	<p>Manage Your Network Part II (Baseline Management) provides rules for establishing a baseline for all systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create an approved application list for each class of device on the network ▪ Establish the criteria and process for getting an application on the approved list ▪ Verify apps before adding them to the allowed list ▪ Create device baselines ▪ Secure Web browsers ▪ Check baselines for security misconfigurations (consider using the Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer [MBSA])
8	Document Your Network	<p>Document Your Network is the step in which you create the documentation for your network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Processes ▪ Procedures

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