Cisco | Networking Academy®
Mind Wide Open™

Lab 3.5.3 Creating a Scope Statement

Objective

- Identify and record the scope of a new network design project.

Expected Results and Success Criteria

Before starting this lab, read through the tasks that you are expected to perform. What do you expect the result of performing these tasks will be?

_____

_____

_____

How is an understanding of a project scope statement useful in network administration?

_____

_____

_____

Background / Preparation

FilmCompany is an expanding small advertising company moving into interactive advertising media, including video presentations. This company has just been awarded a large video support contract by the StadiumCompany. With this new contract, FilmCompany expects to see their business grow approximately 70 percent.

To facilitate this growth, the FilmCompany has decided to significantly upgrade its data network. You have the role of network designer. Your job is to develop network design and project documents for FilmCompany that will meet the requirements of this upgrade.

As part of the new network design requirements, and based on the Project Goal statement, an overall Project Scope statement has to be developed.

This section of the network design document outlines the physical areas, applications, and user groups affected by the network upgrade. It can also list components of the network that are beyond the scope of the network upgrade, such as server or application updates.

Step 1: Consider how meeting the project goals will impact the existing network

a. As the network designer, look at the existing network topology and the services that it provides. Consider how much of the network is affected or changed as a result of the project.

b. Record what areas of the existing network will have to change or will in some way be affected by meeting the project goals.

Draft informal descriptive notes of these possible changes. Organize these notes under headings such as:

- Access Layer
- Distribution Layer
- Core Layer

- Data Center
- Network Services
- WAN Access

c. Use word processing software to create a Project Scope document based on these notes.

Step 2: Refine and record the proposed changes to the existing network

a. Distinguish between possible upgrades to existing network resources, such as additional servers or VLANs, and completely new additional resources, such as QoS and WAN links.

b. Record which areas and users will be affected by these changes.

c. Include these network changes in your Project Scope document.

Step 3: Define the areas of the existing network not covered by the project

It is important to note the parts of the existing network that are not within the areas covered by the project. These out-of-scope areas are defined so that there is no misunderstanding between the NetworkingCompany and FilmCompany management.

In this case study, for example, providing IP telephony services may be a future consideration, but it is not within the scope of this project.

Clearly state these out-of-scope areas in your Project Scope document.

Step 4: Compile and present the project scope document

FilmCompany has to agree with your assessment of the Project Scope before you proceed further with the design. An agreement ensures that there is a common understanding about what is included in the network upgrade project and what is not included.

a. Discuss your Project Scope with another student to ensure that the issues you present are clear.

b. Save your Project Scope document and retain it for the next stages of this network design case study.

Step 5: Reflection

It is important that a project have clearly defined boundaries so that all parties know what is included and what is not.

Consider the issues of ensuring that customer business and network needs are satisfied before the scope is broadened beyond what is feasible and required.

What strategies could be used to ensure that a project scope is developed that is clear and appropriate?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____