

NETWORK

>> IP addresses in order with Proteus



TEST

Administration

Administration
Please select one of the following administrative actions.

Settings	User Management	Data Management	Network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settings Manage global settings Configurations View and add configurations System Information View system information Version Management Update or re-image system Adonis Patches Manage Adonis patch files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users and Groups Manage users and groups Access Right Settings Manage access right settings Authenticators Manage user access authenticators User Sessions View user sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Checker Manage the data checker service Database Maintenance Maintain the database Object Types View object types and manage user-defined fields Migration Migrate data into Proteus DHCP Server Settings Manage DHCP vendor profiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHCP Alert Settings Manage DHCP Alert settings Monitoring Service Management Manage Proteus and Adonis monitoring services



The web interface is simple but functional, with tabs at the top where you select what to administer. We selected the default settings that are clearly divided into categories.

BlueCat Proteus provides god

IP address management can be very simple - or very complex. TechWorld test Proteus which claims to be able to deal with the challenges in even the largest networks.

When IPv6 is introduced it must usually be run in parallel with IPv4 which increases the IP administration. Many organizations then exceed the critical limit where the IP structure becomes so extensive that better support than just documentation is required. There are many tools for IP Address Management (IPAM) to choose from. You can find the entire spectrum from free software with varying degrees of ambition, up to commercial

Text:
Per Rindar

systems with redundant servers and advanced integration with the other infrastructure. Proteus from the Canadian BlueCat Networks belongs to the latter category.

TechWorld borrowed a Proteus 2150, which can handle 20 dhcp/dns servers, while its big brother Proteus 5000 has no such restrictions. Proteus is also available as a virtual server (VMware or MS Hyper-V) and as a cloud services, so there are no complaints about freedom of choice. The

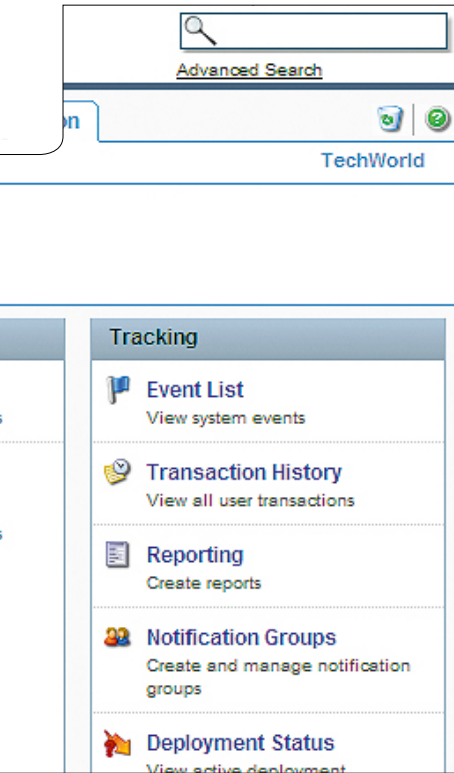
supported dhcp/dns servers are Microsoft and Blue Cat Adonis. The latter can also be run virtually or on its own hardware in different sizes.

Huge possibilities

After the installation, all management takes place in a pared down Web interface. Proteus can import information from routers (Cisco) and different servers. It is easy enough to get started, but the many choices often forces beginners to read further documentation. The extensive documentation is generally good.

You need to manage at least a few thousand IP addresses for Proteus to be relevant. The exceptions could be if you have a structure that poses par-

NETWORK



Change Request Details

Summary

Workflow ID: 8
 Action: Add IPv4 Network
 State: Waiting For Approval
 Creator: beda
 Create Time: 2011-apr-17 19:40:17
 Modifier:
 Modify Time:
 Comment:
 Status:

A user with limited rights has proposed a new network. Here the main administrator can approve or reject the request - if it is approved, the network is created.



There are support functions here and there that simplify and speed up the work. Here we can choose between finding the first available network or the first available address in the current IP block.

Facts

- Product:** Proteus 2150
- Supplier:** BlueCat
- Number of dhcp/dns servers:** Max. 20
- Hardware redundancy:** Dual power supplies and mirrored disks
- Replacement of redundant units during operation:** Yes
- Server/database redundancy possible:** Yes, but manual switching is required
- Rack space:** 1U
- Energy consumption:** 160 W, 1402 kWh/year
- Approximate price:** 135 000 SEK

- +** Complete IP management. Supports dnssec and ipv6.
- Steep learning curve. Not that suitable for small organizations.

Rating



90 of 100 **EXCELLENT!**

Proteus



Proteus was a sea god in Greek mythology. He lived on the island of Pharos where he guarded Poseidon's herds of seals. Proteus had the ability to change shape and could also see into the future. **Source:** Wikipedia.org

like management

ticular challenges, such as a municipality, which has many decentralized operations and needs the ability to have an overview, while the rights of local administrators can be restricted to their own networks.

“Although we have been searching thoroughly, we have not discovered anything missing”.

TechWorld's conclusion

Proteus was the name of a sea god in Greek mythology, and even though 2150 might not have such a lofty status, it does offer tremendous opportunities. Due to the limited time we had for a small test it was not pos-

sible to get the full overview of all the functionality required to use Proteus effectively. Although we have been searching thoroughly, we have not discovered anything missing and the system is impressively well implemented. But that should be a given, considering the costs and the intended target audience.

The support for IPv6 is especially interesting and relevant, something still lacking in many of the open source alternatives.

Per Rindar is a networking and security consultant. You can contact him at per.rindar@techworld.se