



NET-OPTIX

SDN for OT Networks



## Serious technology presented in a casual way

I've been doing this for a long time. I can talk all the tech that technical folks love. However, in this session I'm going to try to reach that happy medium between being overly technical and not being technical enough.

## Having said that...

I am available to do a deeper technical dive or a more 30,000 foot view of the technology that I, and increasingly others, believe will disrupt and change OT networking in the near future.

# What is a Software Defined Network (SDN) ?

-DEEP BREATH-

A network which decouples network control and packet forwarding functions, enabling the network control to become directly programmable and abstracted from applications and network services.

-WHEEZE-

## What does that mean to normal people?

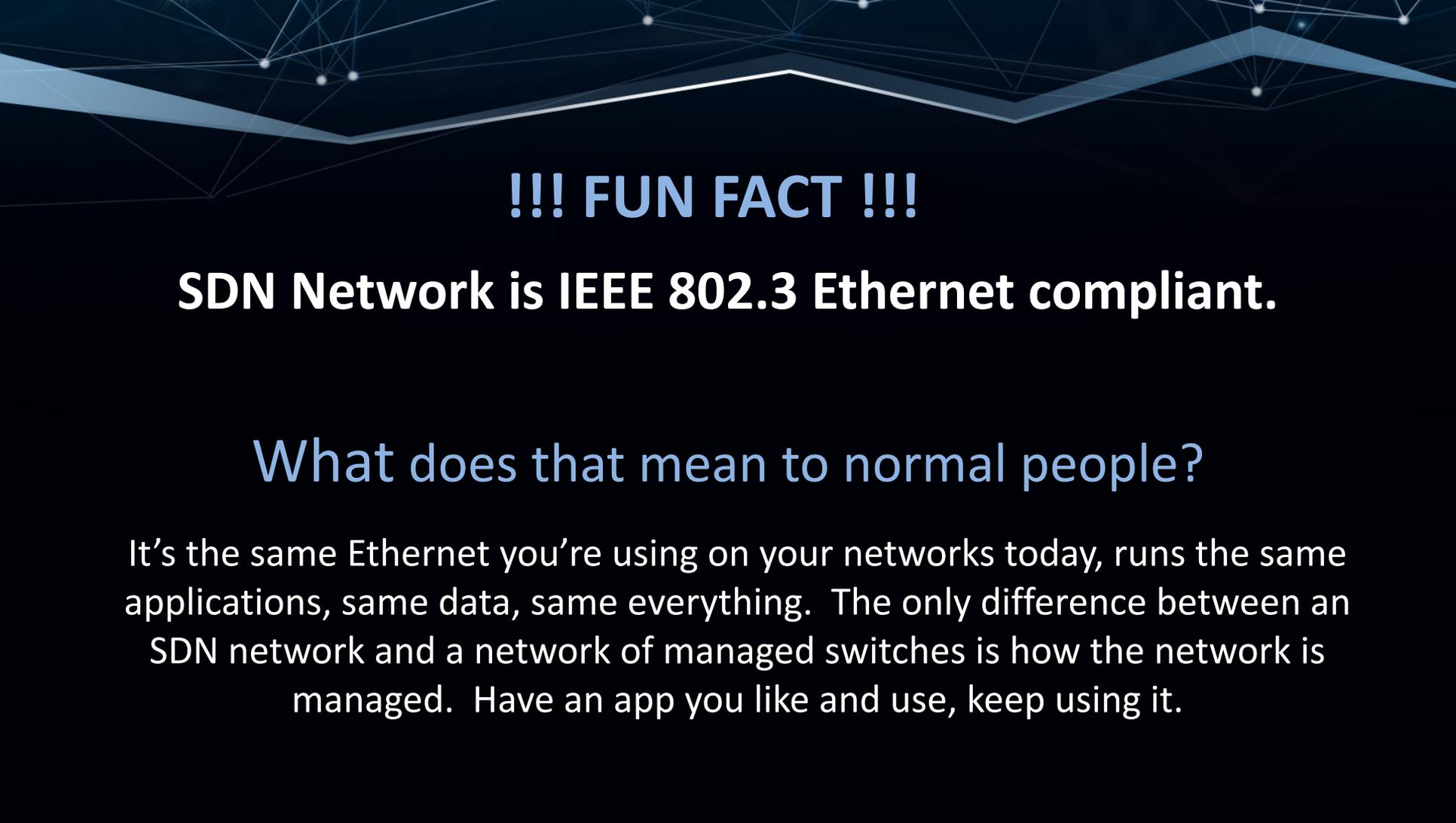
It means a centrally managed, flexible, programmable, open standards based and vendor neutral network for the OT space. It means OT or IT staff can easily manage the network, make changes as needed, and remain secure, all without having a degree in “network”

# What common OT network problems are solved?

- OEM engineers waiting for customer OT or IT to configure switches and then charging for time lost due to no connectivity
- No or out-of-date switch backups for any switches in the network
- Cables plugged into the wrong ethernet ports on the switch
- Firmware issues or mismatches between f/w on switches
- Loops created in the network by poor choices in cabling
- Not having visibility into what devices are on the network and what and where they are connected
- No visibility regarding protocols are in use on the network

# What common OT network problems are solved?

- No visibility into events on the network in close to real-time
- Inability to prevent unwanted device communications
- Inability to prevent unwanted protocols on the network
- Poorly updated or lost network topology drawings
- No redundancy or reliability without adding a lot of complexity
- Painful learning curve for non-network savvy OT folks
- Painful replacement of switches or edge devices (such as PLCs)
- The spread/introduction of malware or ransomware

The background features a dark blue gradient with a network diagram of white nodes and lines. A prominent white line with a blue shadow runs across the top, resembling a stylized mountain range or a signal path.

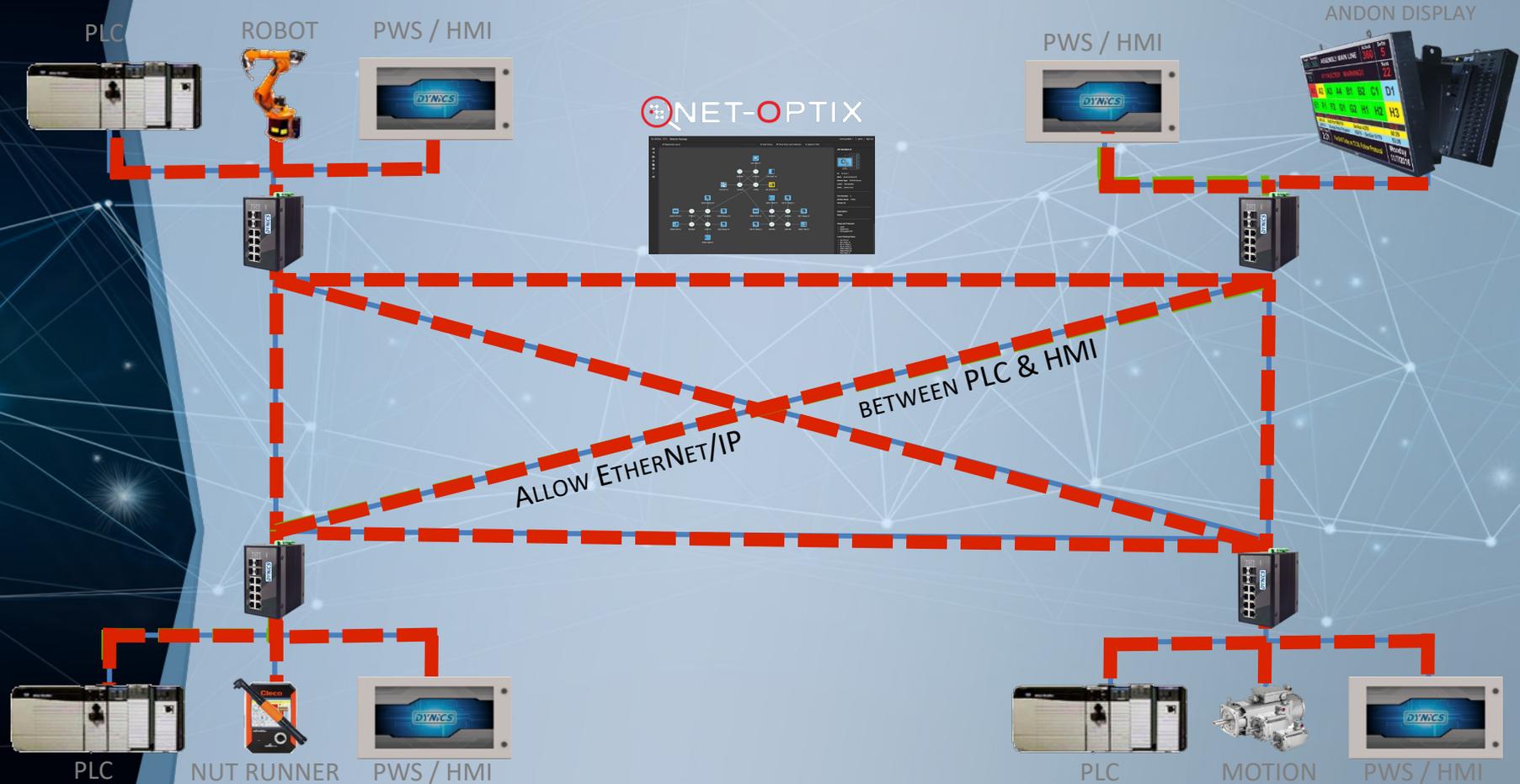
**!!! FUN FACT !!!**

**SDN Network is IEEE 802.3 Ethernet compliant.**

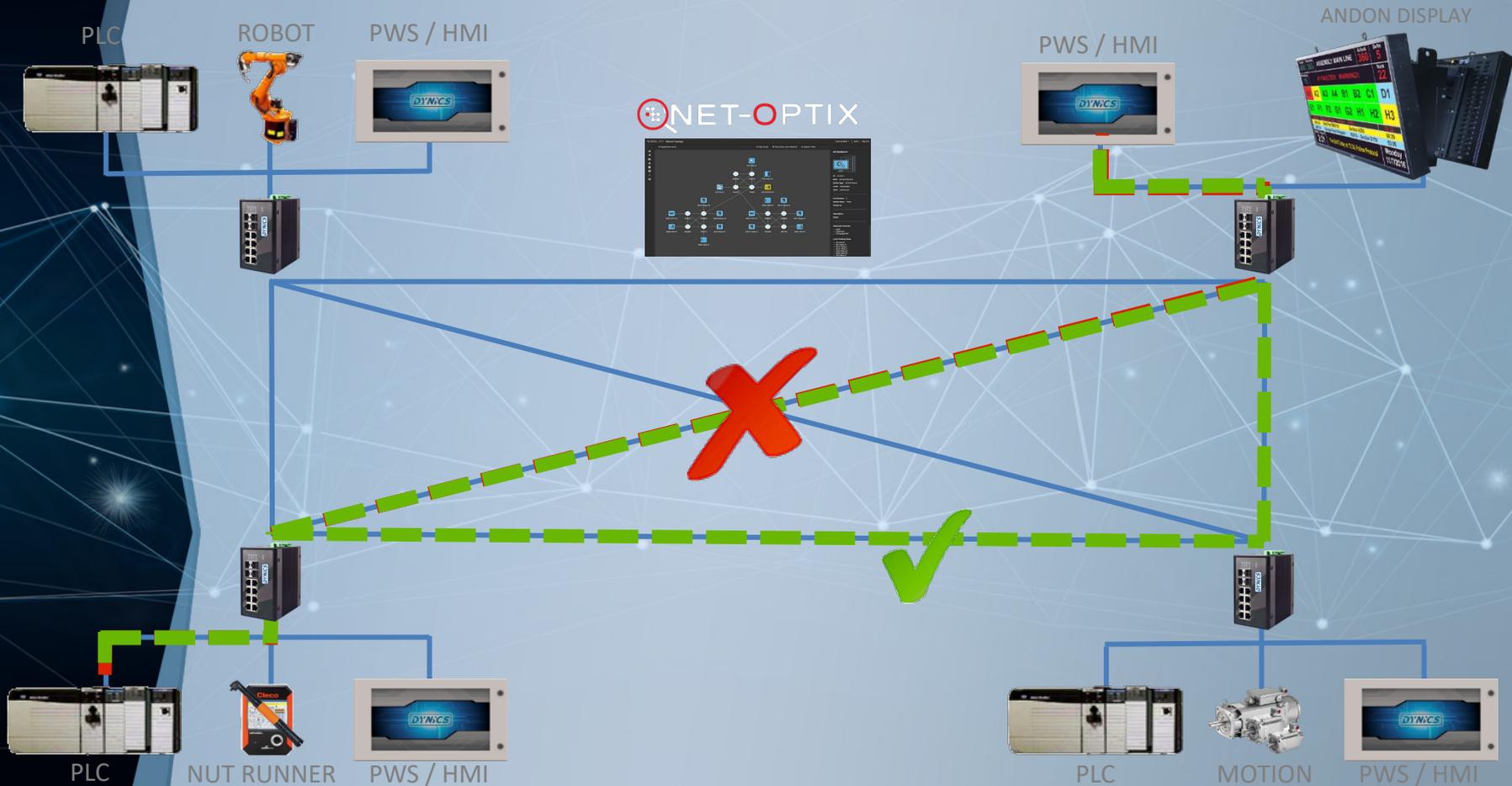
What does that mean to normal people?

It's the same Ethernet you're using on your networks today, runs the same applications, same data, same everything. The only difference between an SDN network and a network of managed switches is how the network is managed. Have an app you like and use, keep using it.

# Go with the Flow...



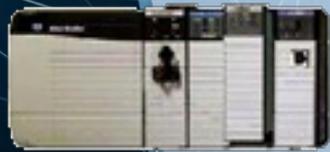
# May the **Flow** be with you...



# ALLOWED TRAFFIC

Known

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PLC

1

EtherNet/IP



3

EtherNet/IP



NUT RUNNER

2

EtherNet/IP is an allowed flow between the PLC and the Nut Runner

**Known traffic is handled between the switches.  
No need to ask the SDN Controller how to handle the traffic.**

# ALLOWED TRAFFIC

## Unknown or New

NET-OPTIX



What do I do with Modbus TCP from the PLC to the Nut Runner?

Write an allow flow and pass it. The switches will remember next time.



1

Modbus TCP



2



3

4

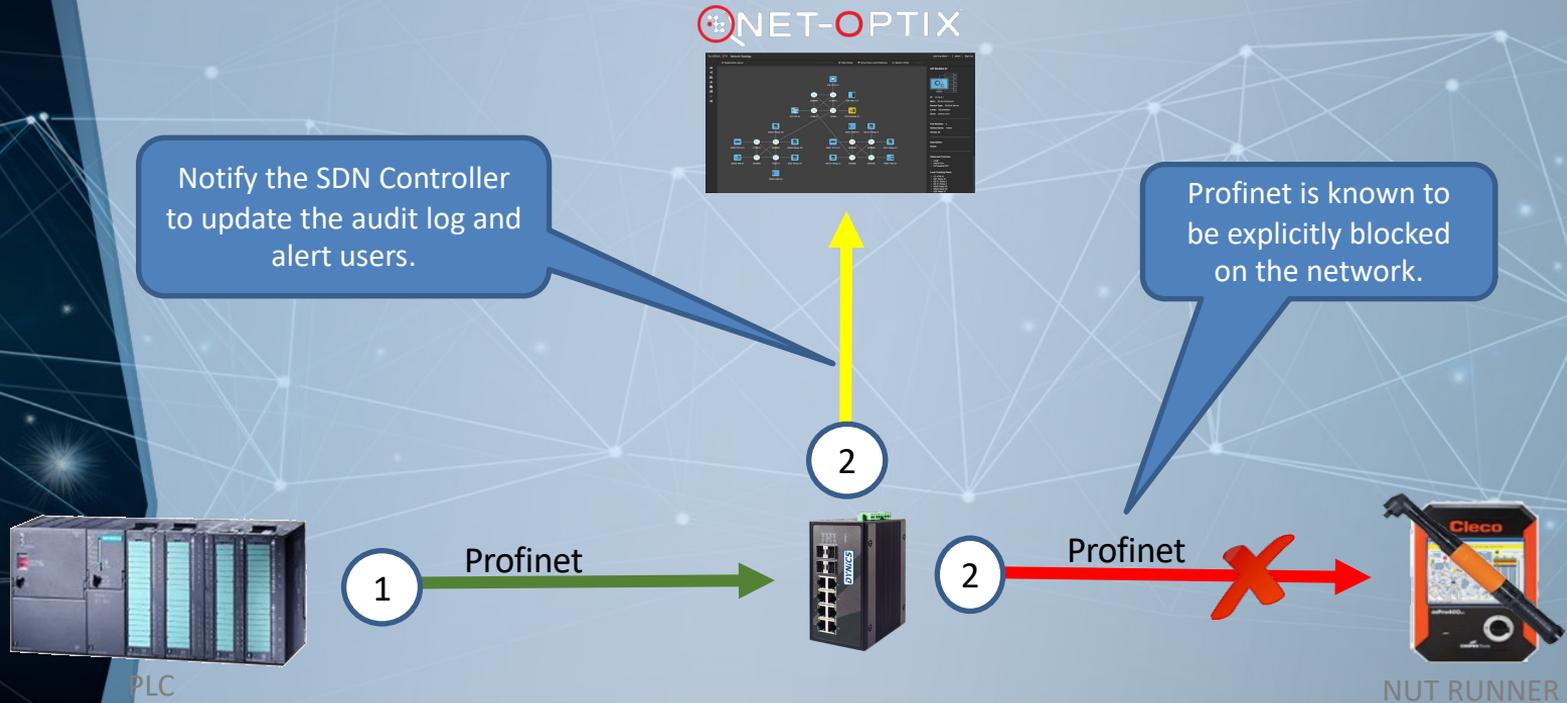
Modbus TCP



NUT RUNNER

# EXPLICITLY DISALLOWED TRAFFIC

Explicitly Denied



## !!! FUN FACT !!!

**VLANS, RSTP, LOOPS, Complexity are a thing of the past...**

### What does that mean to normal people?

There is no need to create multiple VLANs to segment the network for security. SDN micro-segments the network with point to point (device to device) flows which are exponentially more granular and secure than VLANs. You can't create a loop in an SDN network, and there is no need for topology protocols such as RSTP, PVST, Ring protocols. Cable the network however makes sense for the application/system.

## !!! FUN FACT !!!

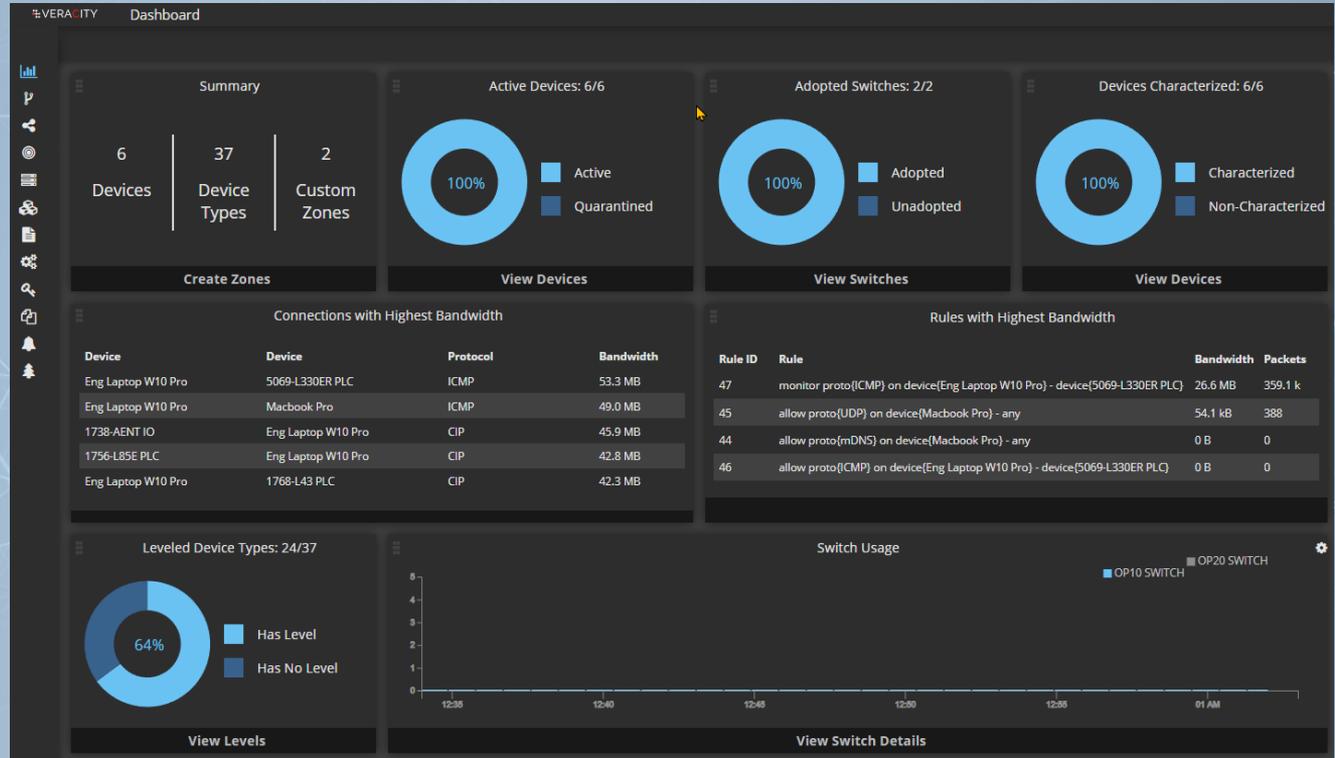
**Net-Optix allows you to connect your spanky new SDN network to your existing older technology (legacy) networks.**

### What does that mean to normal people?

If there is a need to connect an existing network that uses RSTP and has configured VLANs, Net-Optix will automatically detect that at the point of connection to the legacy network and talk the talk, IE – understand the vlans and the spanning tree protocol. Net-Optix knows the lingo the traditional network is talking.

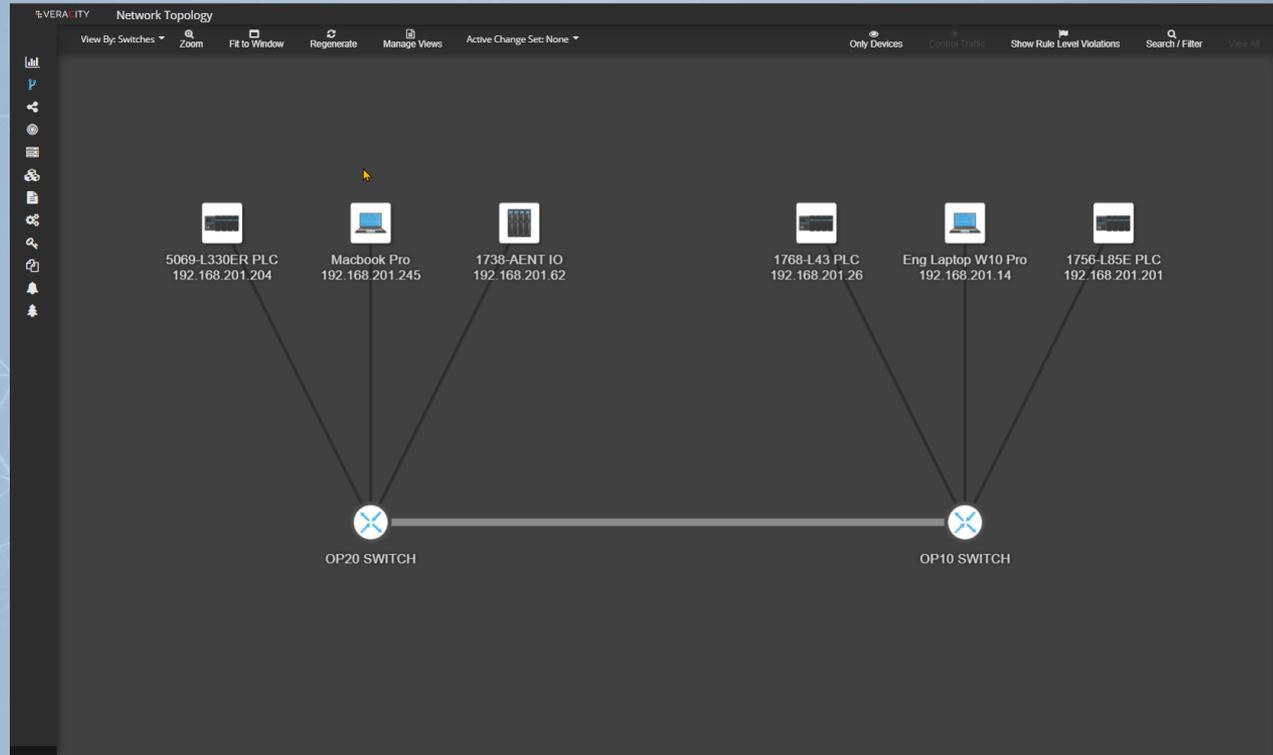
# NET-OPTIX DASHBOARD

## A quick look at network statistics



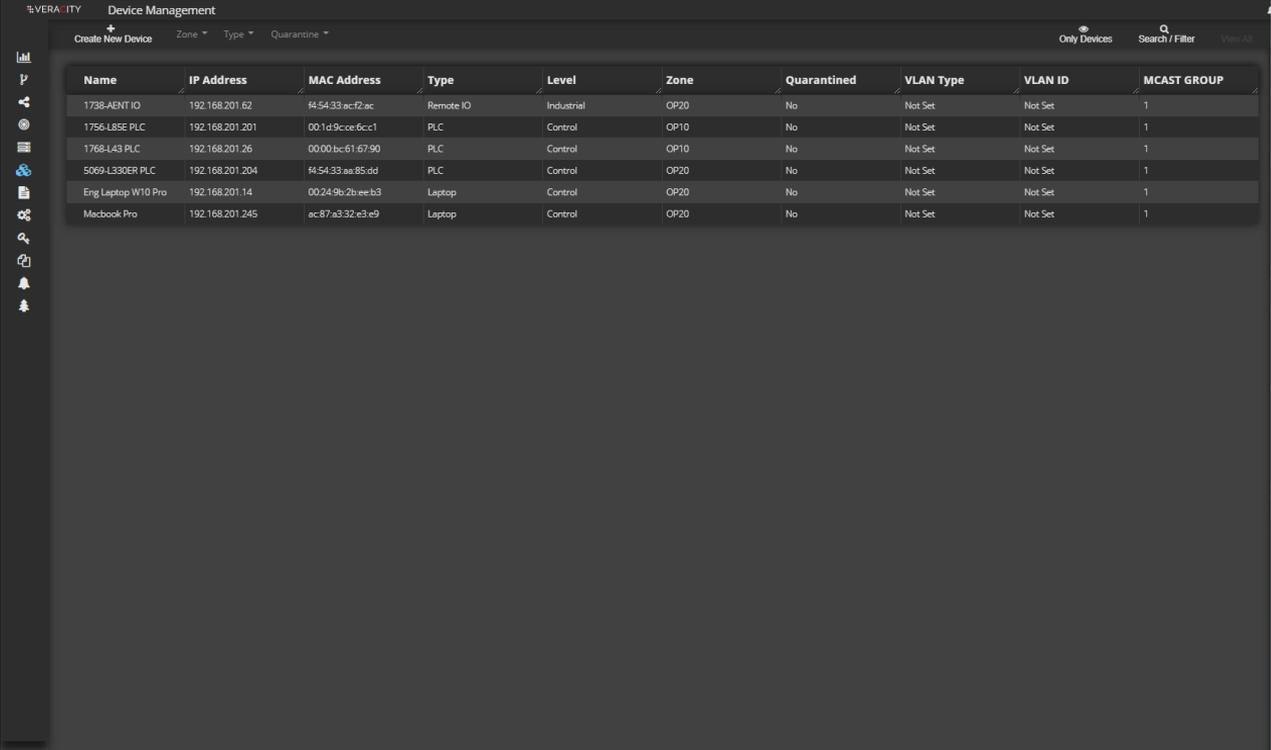
# NET-OPTIX NETWORK TOPOLOGY

A view of the network connections



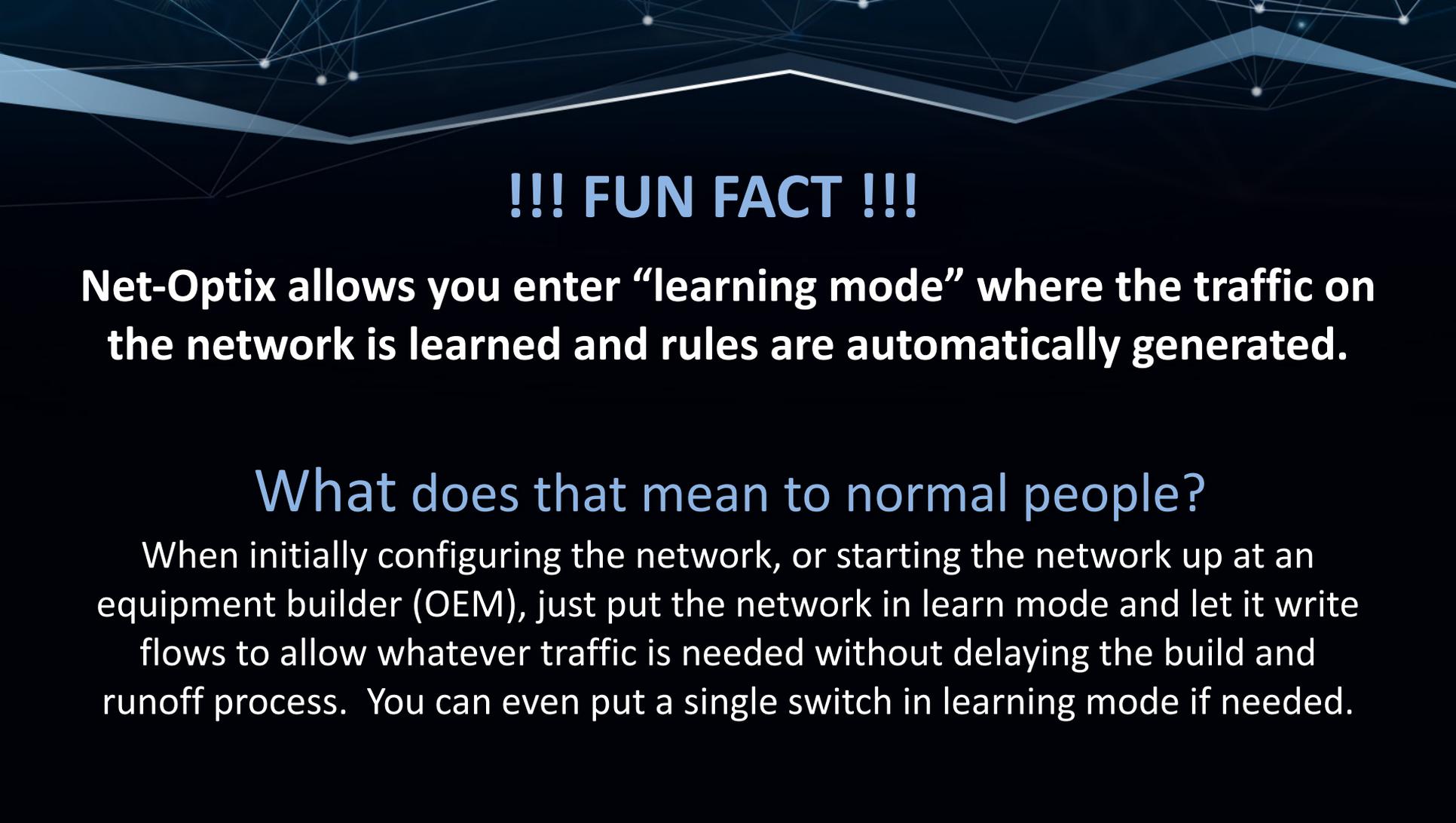
# NET-OPTIX DEVICE MANAGEMENT (ASSETS)

A view of the devices (assets) on the network



The screenshot displays the 'Device Management' interface in a dark theme. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'VERA-ITY' on the left, 'Device Management' in the center, and 'Only Devices' and 'Search / Filter' on the right. Below the navigation bar, there are several icons on the left side representing different views or actions. The main area contains a table with the following columns: Name, IP Address, MAC Address, Type, Level, Zone, Quarantined, VLAN Type, VLAN ID, and MCAST GROUP. The table lists six devices with their respective details.

Name	IP Address	MAC Address	Type	Level	Zone	Quarantined	VLAN Type	VLAN ID	MCAST GROUP
1738-AENT IO	192.168.201.62	f4:54:33:ac:f2:ac	Remote IO	Industrial	OP20	No	Not Set	Not Set	1
1756-LBSE PLC	192.168.201.201	00:1d:9c:ce:6c:c1	PLC	Control	OP10	No	Not Set	Not Set	1
1768-L43 PLC	192.168.201.26	00:00:bc:61:67:90	PLC	Control	OP10	No	Not Set	Not Set	1
5069-L30ER PLC	192.168.201.204	f4:54:33:aa:85:dd	PLC	Control	OP20	No	Not Set	Not Set	1
Eng Laptop W10 Pro	192.168.201.14	00:24:9b:2b:ee:b3	Laptop	Control	OP20	No	Not Set	Not Set	1
Macbook Pro	192.168.201.245	ec:87:a3:32:e3:e9	Laptop	Control	OP20	No	Not Set	Not Set	1

The background features a dark blue network diagram with white nodes and connecting lines, overlaid on a light blue wavy line that spans the width of the slide.

## !!! FUN FACT !!!

**Net-Optix allows you enter “learning mode” where the traffic on the network is learned and rules are automatically generated.**

### What does that mean to normal people?

When initially configuring the network, or starting the network up at an equipment builder (OEM), just put the network in learn mode and let it write flows to allow whatever traffic is needed without delaying the build and runoff process. You can even put a single switch in learning mode if needed.

# NET-OPTIX LEVEL CONFIGURATION

Organize the network using a level approach (pun intended)  
Optionally utilize a network structure that matches or is similar to the Purdue Model

The screenshot displays the 'Appliance Configuration' interface for 'NEVERITY'. The interface is organized into five levels, each with a set of appliances and communication capabilities. The levels are:

- Level 5 - Business Admin:** Contains Printer, Workstation, and Audit Appliance. Can communicate with levels 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- Level 4 - DMZ:** Contains Historian, Firewall, VPN, Concentrator, IPS, and Domain Controller. Can communicate with levels 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- Level 3 - Visualization:** Contains Engineering Workstation, SCADA Server, SCADA Client, and HMI. Can communicate with levels 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- Level 2 - Control:** Contains PLC, Robot, and Laptop. Can communicate with levels 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- Level 1 - Industrial:** Contains IOT Device, Motor Starter, Torque Tool, VFD, Power Monitor, RTU, Relay, and Remote IO. Can communicate with levels 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Each level is represented by a horizontal bar with a title, a 'Can communicate with:' section containing checkboxes for levels 1-5, and a row of appliance icons with dropdown menus. The interface also includes a sidebar with navigation icons and a top navigation bar with 'Settings', 'Users', 'Level Setup', and 'Protocols' tabs.

# NET-OPTIX LOGGING & ALERTS

View changes to the network, by category, and time

VERACITY Logging and Alerts

Download Delete All Search / Filter View All

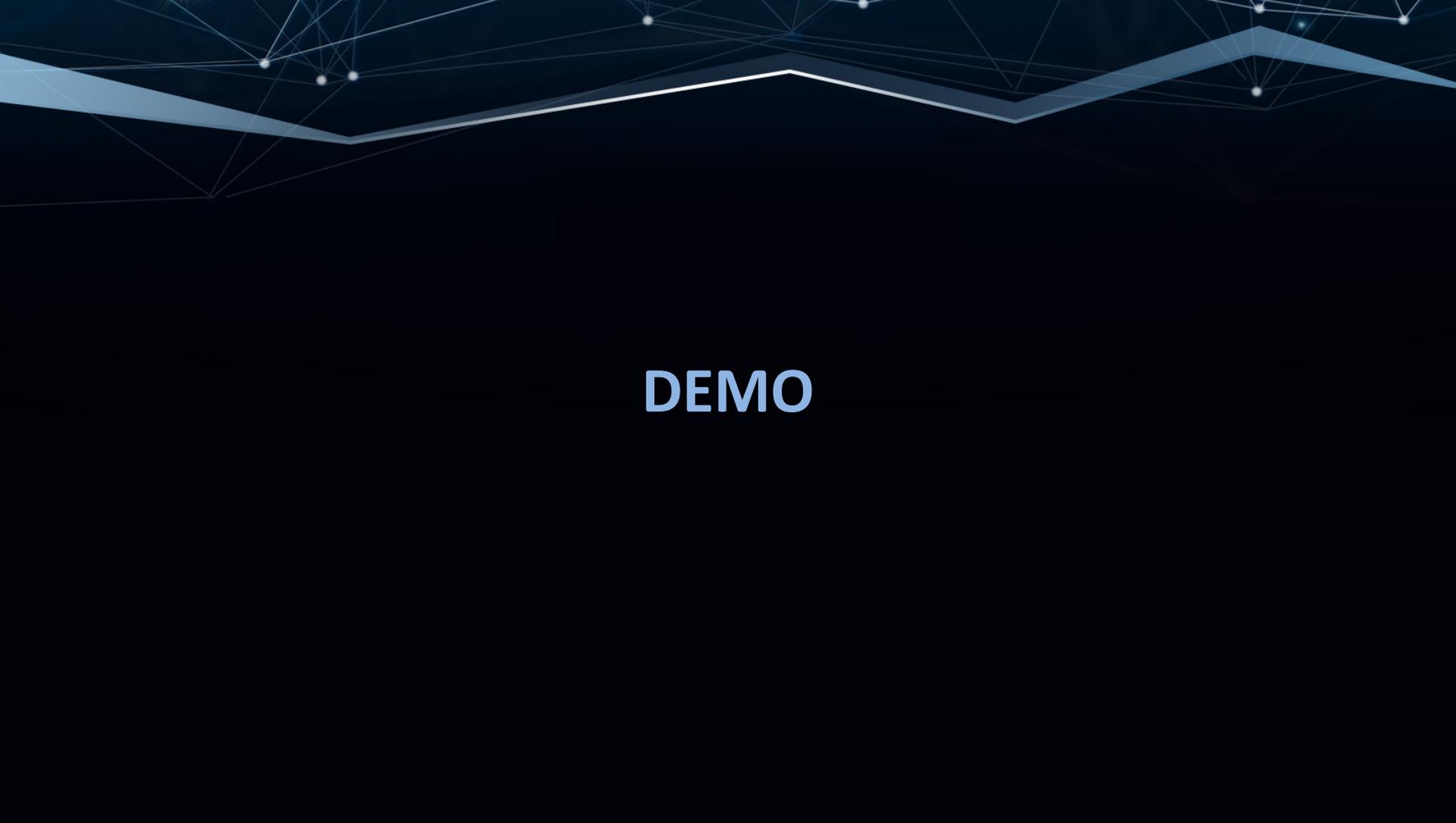
ID	Category	Event Type	Description	Timestamp
127	Network	New Peer	Device Eng Laptop W10 Pro is now communicating with Device 1738-AENT IO over Protocol CIP	2021-12-10T17:01:56.987Z
4	Network	New Device	Device f4:54:33:aa:85:dd has been discovered on port 5 on switch 192.168.203.11 (d861814584)	2021-11-16T16:47:07.000Z
79	Application	Device Update	Device f4:54:33:aa:85:dd has been renamed to Atlas Copco Torque Tool	2021-12-01T12:37:36.000Z
13	Network	Port Change	Device f4:54:33:aa:85:dd has moved to a new port 5 on switch 192.168.203.11 (d861814584)	2021-11-16T17:03:10.000Z
25	Network	Port Change	Device f4:54:33:aa:85:dd has moved to a new port 5 on switch 192.168.203.11 (d861814584)	2021-11-16T17:08:27.000Z
27	Network	Port Change	Device f4:54:33:aa:85:dd has moved to a new port 5 on switch 192.168.203.11 (d861814584)	2021-11-17T05:13:38.000Z
50	Network	New Peer	Device f4:54:33:aa:85:dd is now communicating with Device Laptop over Protocol CIP	2021-11-18T19:58:13.616Z
78	Application	Device Update	Device f4:54:33:aa:85:dd's device type is now Torque Tool	2021-12-01T12:37:36.000Z
7	Network	New Device	Device f4:54:33:ac:f2:ac has been discovered on port 4 on switch 192.168.203.11 (d861814584)	2021-11-16T16:47:27.000Z
77	Application	Device Update	Device f4:54:33:ac:f2:ac has been renamed to 1734-AENT IO	2021-12-01T12:37:07.000Z
15	Network	Port Change	Device f4:54:33:ac:f2:ac has moved to a new port 4 on switch 192.168.203.11 (d861814584)	2021-11-16T17:04:01.000Z
31	Network	Port Change	Device f4:54:33:ac:f2:ac has moved to a new port 4 on switch 192.168.203.11 (d861814584)	2021-11-17T05:14:45.000Z
21	Network	Port Change	Device f4:54:33:ac:f2:ac has moved to a new port 4 on switch 192.168.203.11 (d861814584)	2021-11-16T17:07:02.000Z
48	Network	New Peer	Device f4:54:33:ac:f2:ac is now communicating with Device Laptop over Protocol CIP	2021-11-18T19:58:12.066Z
76	Application	Device Update	Device f4:54:33:ac:f2:ac's device type is now Remote IO	2021-12-01T12:37:07.000Z
96	Application	Device Update	Device Laptop has been renamed to Windows 10 Pro	2021-12-02T19:07:22.000Z
52	Network	New Peer	Device Laptop is now communicating with Device 00:1d:9c:ce:6c:c1 over Protocol ICMP	2021-11-18T19:58:17.101Z
42	Network	New Peer	Device Laptop is now communicating with Device Compactlogix L43 over Protocol CIP	2021-11-18T19:55:01.055Z
40	Network	New Peer	Device Laptop is now communicating with Device Compactlogix L43 over Protocol ICMP	2021-11-18T19:54:58.022Z
51	Network	New Peer	Device Laptop is now communicating with Device f4:54:33:aa:85:dd over Protocol ICMP	2021-11-18T19:58:16.949Z
41	Network	New Protocol	Protocol CIP has been detected for the first time	2021-11-18T19:55:01.053Z
39	Network	New Protocol	Protocol ICMP has been detected for the first time	2021-11-18T19:54:58.014Z
63	Network	New Protocol	Protocol SMB has been detected for the first time	2021-11-18T20:06:54.671Z
154	Network	New Protocol	Protocol TCP has been detected for the first time	2021-12-13T22:26:45.561Z
121	Network	New Protocol	Protocol UDP has been detected for the first time	2021-12-10T16:28:58.870Z

## !!! FUN FACT !!!

**Net-Optix provides a power-up recovery mode to make sure the controller and the network operations are sync'd.**

### What does that mean to normal people?

If you lose your controller configuration, for any reason such as a fork truck slams into the controller enclosure, a virtual machine corrupts, etc. Net-Optix allows you to enter “recovery mode” and it will synchronize your controller to your running production network.

The background features a dark blue gradient with a network of thin white lines and dots at the top, suggesting a digital or data theme. A prominent, thick, light blue zigzag line runs horizontally across the upper portion of the image.

**DEMO**

VERACITY Network Topology

View By: Switches Zoom Fit to Window Regenerate Manage Views Active Change Set: None

Only Devices Control Traffic Show Rule Level Violations Search / Filter View All



5069-L330ER PLC  
192.168.201.204

Macbook Pro  
192.168.201.245

1738-AENT IO  
192.168.201.62

1768-L43 PLC  
192.168.201.26

Eng Laptop W10 Pro  
192.168.201.14

1756-L85E PLC  
192.168.201.201

OP20 SWITCH

OP10 SWITCH

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QUESTIONS?

