# 10 Steps

## to Better Application and Network Performance

As a Network Operations professional, you know how hard it is to ensure optimal network performance when you're unsure of how end-user devices, application code, and infrastructure affect performance. Identifying your important applications and prioritizing their performance is more difficult than ever, especially when much of an organization's web-based traffic appears the same to the network. You need insight to maximize performance — not inefficient troubleshooting, longer time to resolution, and an overall lack of application intelligence.

**But you *can* stay ahead.**
Follow these 10 steps to maximize the performance of your applications and underlying network infrastructure.

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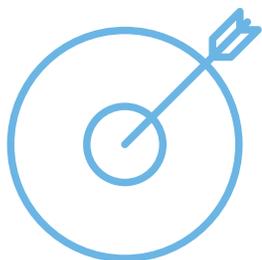
### 01 : Pinpoint the problem

Voice, video, and social media traffic can drag your network down. To identify your worst offenders, use a diagnostic tool that tracks performance by application, location, and user. Then, you can simply and accurately identify the source of any problem and drill down from Layer 7 application information to low-level addresses and ports.

### 02 : Fix issues *before* they become problems

No one likes finding out about performance problems from end users. Head off potential trouble by actively monitoring and setting alerts for meaningful changes in performance. If you fix an issue before anyone notices and calls the help desk, was it ever really a problem?

### 03 : Integrate and automate infrastructure management

Move beyond identifying performance problems and managing disruption incidents to fully integrating and automating critical infrastructure management functions, like configuration and change management, network audits, or inventory management.

### 04 : Get proactive about security

Proactive, real-time security analytics are key for detecting disruptions due to DDoS attacks, zero-day threats, or other unauthorized network intrusions.

## 05 : Protect user experience

The primary reason to manage network performance is to ensure users can access their applications in a timely manner. When you protect user experience, you maximize business productivity.

## 06 : Consolidate your tools

Less is more. A good performance management solution can reduce the number of tools you use to monitor and troubleshoot your network, applications, infrastructure, and end-user environments, and provide a single, integrated view across domains.
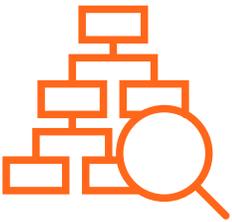
## 07 : Understand the dynamic context of each business service

Dig deep into the details. Modeling a business service and mapping the components used to deliver it to end users prompts accurate analysis of performance issues and is useful in planning digital transformation initiatives like cloud, virtualization, and migrations.
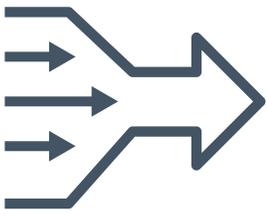
## 08 : Simplify management

Remember to keep it simple. Use a diagnostic toolset with broad domain monitoring capabilities that can focus on services such as a CRM application. This allows you to model business services' dependencies on the underlying infrastructure used to deliver each application. You'll get improved resource prioritization and streamlined troubleshooting.

## 09 : Help application and development teams collaborate

Align your teams to drive coordinated action. Employ comprehensive service dashboards with role-based access for a common, integrated view of all component data. With access to the same single view of data, everyone can respond quickly and strategically based on a unified understanding of network and application performance.
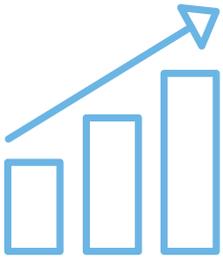
### 10 : Plan for the future

**Look ahead:** Will there be new services rolling out? Will you be using more cloud services and mobile apps? What's your rate of adding new end users? By asking such questions in advance, you'll be able to better align your network and IT resources with your business' evolving priorities. Establish a clear picture of what's currently happening on your network today so you can better plan for tomorrow.

With end-to-end visibility and actionable insights, **SteelCentral Network Performance Management** makes it easy to monitor, troubleshoot, and analyze what's happening across your enterprise network environment. Learn more about SteelCentral Network Performance Management today.

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