

Lifespan of Network Security Equipment



Overview

Network equipment such as routers, switches, firewalls, and wireless access points typically have a lifespan of 3 to 5 years. While some components may last longer with proper maintenance, technology is advancing at a rapid pace, and your equipment may quickly become obsolete. Updated for 2026 with current OEM lifecycle data and AI infrastructure refresh trends. TL;DR Enterprise networking equipment lasts longer than most refresh cycles assume, but shorter than the OEM marketing claims. How long do network switches last?

The network switch lifespan varies. Cisco's End of Life Policy ("Policy") applies to all Cisco hardware, software, cloud services and service offers (collectively "Products") that have their own unique product part number or product identifier ("PID"). * Versions or releases of a Product that do not have a unique PID are not subject. At DES Technologies, we help businesses maximize the lifespan of their IT assets while also knowing when it's time to upgrade. If networking gear is pushed past its useful life, your organization can face several issues: Performance Bottlenecks: Outdated gear may not keep up with bandwidth demands. This readout is based on a Tutorial led by Ron Davis, Uptime's Vice President, Digital Infrastructure Operations, and 20 members of the Uptime Network on January 15, 2025.

Article Content

Replacing Networking Gear | How Often to Upgrade for Efficiency

Knowing when to replace networking gear is critical for avoiding downtime, ensuring security, and maintaining

Network Equipment Lifecycle: When to Upgrade Your Infrastructure

Network equipment such as routers, switches, firewalls, and wireless access points typically have a lifespan of 3 to 5 years. While

When Is the Right Time to Upgrade Your Network Equipment?

Aging network equipment opens your business to a myriad of vulnerabilities. Our expert shares advice for managing it

What is the Useful Life of Network Equipment?

The useful life of network equipment typically ranges from 5 to 10 years, though historically, robust designs aimed for

InterNACHI's Standard Estimated Life Expectancy Chart for Homes

Surface preparation and paint quality are the most important determinants of a paint's life expectancy. Ultraviolet (UV) rays via

Know When It's Time to Replace Enterprise Network Equipment

Network managers must find a balance between maximizing installed equipment lifetime and jeopardizing network availability. To

Network Hardware Lifecycle: When to... | Cloudswitched

Running network equipment that no longer receives security patches leaves your entire network vulnerable. Every

Best Practices for Physical Security Device Life Cycle Management

Without a proactive life cycle management strategy, you risk security vulnerabilities, operational inefficiencies, and

When Is the Right Time to Upgrade Your Network Equipment?

Your network equipment forms the backbone of your IT environment. Your switches, firewalls, and routers ensure

Products

Even so, Cisco also recognizes that end-of-life (EOL) milestones often prompt companies to review the impact to the Cisco products,

How long does a network switch last? Evernex explains

However, businesses often replace their network equipment less as a result of hardware failure and more due to

Replacing Networking Gear | How Often to Upgrade for Efficiency

Learn how often businesses should consider replacing networking gear to maintain efficiency, security, and reliability.

Understanding the Lifespan of Firewall Hardware and OS

Firewall Lifecycle Management Lifespan of the Firewall Hardware and OS Now, here's the thing with firewalls — a lot of people treat

Lifecycle of network gear (routers/switches/AP's) : r/networking

My boss is requesting a list of our equipment, and the expected lifecycle/replacement recommendations. I wanted to get some

Firewall lifespan and the risk of security vulnerabilities

FS BLOG Firewall lifespan and the risk of security vulnerabilities after end-of-life Firewalls

Network Advisory: Equipment Lifecycle Management

Allocates budget for upgrades, replacements, and maintenance based on TCO calculations and a life-cycle expectations for when

What is the lifespan of core routers? : r/networking

So a lot of companies can keep using the gear until that final date, making the total lifespan of the equipment 9-10 years. If you have

How Long Does Networking Equipment Last? 2026 Lifespan Guide

The right replacement timing depends on three factors: (1) where the equipment sits in the OEM lifecycle, (2) whether

| Brightline Technologies

Network hardware has a lifecycle. Understanding this is essential for businesses to

Useful Life of IT Network Equipment: Assets & Perspective

The age of your IT network components greatly impacts system reliability, security, and budget planning. But with so

Understanding the Lifespan of Telecoms Equipment and When to

Deciding when to replace your telecoms equipment isn't always easy, it's about balancing performance, cost, and your future needs.

Useful Life of Network Equipment – Know When it's Time ...

Blog Useful Life of Network Equipment – Know When it's Time to Replace At Curvature, we focus on giving companies more control

Network Gear End of Life

Network gear support lifecycles depends entirely on the vendor and product. Cisco enterprise gear has a very long

Why End-of-Life Networking Equipment Puts Your Business at Risk

After that time the product is considered end-of-life because the manufacturer no longer provides support, security updates or bug

A Guide to Physical Security Lifecycle Planning

In addition, aged equipment can create IT network vulnerabilities. Replacement Process If you've decided it is time to

How long does a network switch last? Evernex explains

Find out how long a network switch should last, factors that shorten its longevity, and how to maximize your enterprise

Products

All products reach the end of their life cycle for several reasons, including market demands, technology innovation and development

How Often Should I Replace my Networking Devices

A business which doesn't keep its security systems up-to-date is putting itself at extreme risk, and -currently- there is

EOL Timeframes for Business IT Hardware

Explore the typical lifespan and end-of-life (EOL) timelines for key business IT hardware, including computers, servers, and

How Long Security Cameras Last: A Complete Guide

Learn how long wired security cameras last & what factors affect their durability. Uncover

Network Advisory: Equipment Lifecycle Management

Network members and Uptime repeatedly observed organizational alignment on IT and Business Strategy is critical to make

Understanding the Lifecycle of Security System Equipment

In this post, we'll guide you through the lifecycle of different security system equipment, helping you make informed

NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

Servicing and Updating Network Infrastructure Equipment Keeping cables, access points, routers, switches, patch panels, and

Data snapshot: The Lifespan of Computers and Other Tech in the ...

So what's the typical lifespan of hardware in the workplace? We wondered how long organizations use the most

How Long Do Servers Last? Best Practices to Extend It

The firm next door bought consumer-grade equipment and replaced it twice.
Workload

Understanding the Lifespan of Telecoms Equipment and When to

Providing network support and services Home // News & Blog // Understanding the Lifespan of Telecoms Equipment and When to

What is the average life of Cisco switches and routers?

Forever could actually mean forever through, my home network is running on a pair of 3Com SuperStack II units, and

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