



Application Brief

Nortel Networks

Network Configuration Manager

Management solutions:

Business Communications Manager

Features and benefits

- Delivers a client/server solution that enables system administrators to manage multiple Business Communications Manager devices from a central database
- Facilitates the replication of configuration settings, allowing new systems to be brought online in a fraction of the time formerly required
- Provides a powerful system-restore capability, simplifying the process of restoring configuration settings to parameters specified in an archived device image
- Automates the backup process, ensuring current configuration records for every device on the network, plus telephony and data backups
- Compares data and IP telephony settings between two Business Communications Manager devices, simplifying troubleshooting by pinpointing where potential problems can occur
- Offers a cost-effective, scalable solution capable of supporting networks of up to 250 devices, up to 2000 devices, or over 2000 devices

The convergence of voice, video, and data services in enterprise networks with multiple Business Communications Manager units can deliver powerful benefits to your business. However, along with these considerable benefits come very real challenges in network management. To meet these challenges, Nortel Networks has developed a new, global approach to managing large converged Business Communications Manager environments: Network Configuration Manager.

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One view, one database, one solution

- Client/server application
- Administration/security—audit log
- Database management—sorting/searching
- Configuration file management/archiving
- Configuration compare
- Scheduling
- E-mail notification
- Multi-user environment
- Win NT, Win 2000 platform

Until now, the administration of Business Communications Manager devices has been on an individual basis. While this approach offers an accurate, comprehensive method for configuring and managing a single device, making system-wide changes across enterprise environments is time-consuming and potential errors are much harder to isolate and correct. Due to the wide acceptance of the Business Communications Manager platform, Nortel Networks has addressed the need for a global management solution.

Designed to provide a system-wide perspective on large converged networks, Network Configuration Manager provides system administrators with a complete, searchable, centralized database for every Business Communications Manager device on the network (see Figure 1). This database delivers a powerful tool for system administrators, enabling them to:

1. Quickly replicate and edit configuration settings to bring new devices online
2. Easily restore settings to a malfunctioning unit using archived data

3. Use global inventories to simplify system upgrades and network accounting.

This global perspective sets the stage for the continuing development of new system-level network management tools for the Business Communications Manager platform.

Standardized configuration and installation

Network Configuration Manager enables system administrators to archive multiple configuration templates, dramatically reducing the time and effort required to bring a new Business Communications Manager unit onto the network. Configurations for an existing device can be downloaded to the Network Configuration Manager Server, edited and resaved, and then downloaded onto a new device. This approach eliminates the need for senior management personnel to go on site during an installation, maximizing the efficiency of your system administrators. The template-based approach ensures that device configuration across the network is tightly controlled, simplifying maintenance tasks and reducing overall management expenditures.

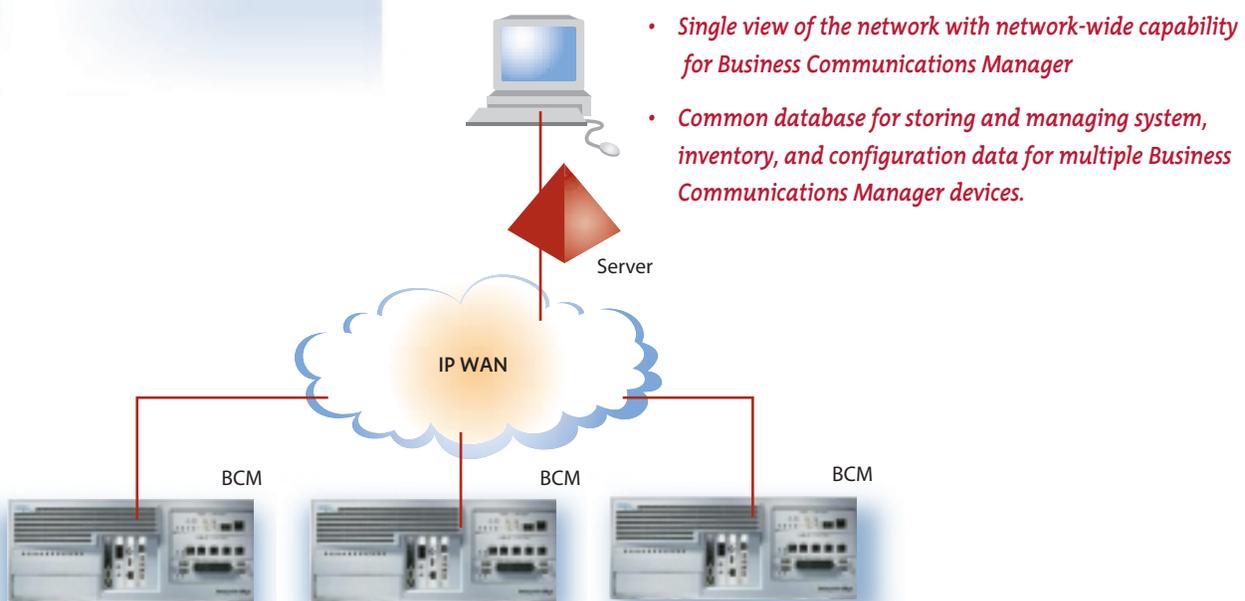


Figure 1. Multi-site management Network Configuration Manager for BCM.

System restoration

Even in the most carefully controlled environments, problems can occur. Isolating even a minor error in configuration parameters can be difficult, time-consuming, and expensive. Network Configuration Manager empowers administrators at the central site to quickly restore configuration settings to parameters specified by an archived device image, saving hours of troubleshooting and reducing costly downtime. System restores can be handled on either a complete or partial basis, delivering the option of selectively restoring individual elements of the device configuration.

Creation of new device images can be scheduled by the network administrator to take place at specified intervals, ensuring that current images are available when needed. This approach frees employees at remote sites from the responsibility of performing system backups, and keeps critical management tasks in the hands of the system administrator.

Network-wide system inventories

In the past, carrying out a system-wide network inventory was a costly process requiring personnel to go on site and physically inspect the network. Network Configuration Manager eliminates these expenses by generating concise reports from any management workstation on the network. These reports can include the number of Business Communications Manager devices present on the network, the type of media bay modules that are installed, the type and number of telephones that are connected, and more. This advanced capability simplifies network upgrades by providing exact information on existing equipment and reduces expenses by using highly skilled management personnel more efficiently.

System requirements

Network Configuration Manager 1.0 is designed for Business Communications Manager 2.5 FP1 or later

Server platform:	450 MHz Intel Pentium II or faster with 512 MB RAM, 4 GB free hard disk space, and Windows 2000 Professional Service Pack 1 or Windows NT 4.0 (Server or Workstation) and Service Pack 6a or greater
Client workstation:	Windows 95, 98, 2000, or XP
Protocol support:	SNMP, FTP, Telnet, LDAP
Database support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Cloudscape embedded database (included), supports up to 2000 devices– Oracle 8.1.7 (customer supplied)

Exact inventories are a key consideration in environments administered by a service provider because their clients are frequently billed on the number of phones present on the network. By providing an accurate printout of the type and number of phones that are in use—including both digital handsets and IP phones—Network Configuration Manager simplifies network accounting and eliminates contention between service providers and their subscribers.

Global answers to management challenges

By delivering a system-level view of the enterprise, Network Configuration Manager provides an essential tool for creating a more resilient, mission-critical environment. Network expansions are faster to deploy, and the network as a whole is easier to maintain, maximizing the effectiveness of key network management personnel.

Three versions of Network Configuration Manager are currently available:

- **Business Communications Manager Network Configuration Manager (250 systems)**— Client/server software and documentation to support centralized configuration of up to 250 systems
- **Business Communications Manager Network Configuration Manager (2000 systems)**— Client/server software and documentation to support centralized configuration of up to 2000 systems
- **Business Communications Manager Network Configuration Manager (more than 2000 systems)**— Upon request, a special version of client/server software and documentation will be supplied that supports centralized configuration of more than 2000 systems



In the United States:

Nortel Networks
35 Davis Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
USA

In Canada:

Nortel Networks
8200 Dixie Road,
Suite 100
Brampton, Ontario L6T 5P6
Canada

In Caribbean and Latin America

Nortel Networks
1500 Concorde Terrace
Sunrise, FL 33323
USA

In Europe:

Nortel Networks
Maidenhead Office Park
Westacott Way
Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 3QH
UK

In Asia:

Nortel Networks
6/F Cityplaza 4,
Taikooshing,
12 Taikoo Wan Road,
Hong Kong
Tel:(852)21002888

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www.nortelnetworks.com

For more information, contact your Nortel Networks representative, or call 1-800-4 NORTEL or 1-800-466-7835 from anywhere in North America.

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