Enigma NMS - Reconciliation of Vendor Maintenance Contracts

In Enigma NMS Version 90.0.0, we have developed a very powerful new feature: Reconciliation of Vendor Maintenance Contracts.

Currently it is enabled only for Maintenance Contacts provided by Cisco Systems.

Network Managers quite often have a challenge to track the Vendor Maintenance Contracts for their Live Production Equipment.

Generally the Enterprise Networking Infrastructure consists of assets of different criticality, ranging from Core Switches, Routers, Firewalls located in Data Centres which may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, to the low cost switches and routers etc.

The high cost networking assets should be covered by the relevant vendor Maintenance Contacts, in Cisco Systems terms, SmartNet Contracts, which are necessary but quite expensive.

On the other hand the Access Switches or Routers and other equipment of low cost assets can be covered by the "Internal Spares" contract, which enables cost effective hardware replacement model.

In theory all Network Production Assets should be covered by either "Internal Spares" or the relevant vendor Maintenance Contract to ensure the timely replacement of faulty hardware components.

Enigma NMS has built-in Spares Manager, which allows you to record all your Internal Spares, Sign them In or Off, Alert and Report on low stock items etc.

The "Modules Report" helps you to make intelligent estimation of the required stock items for the "Internal Spares" Maintenance Contract.

Following are the steps required to enable reconciliation of your Live Production Equipment with Maintenance Contacts provided by the relevant vendor:

1. Download the Hardware Maintenance Contract "CSV" file from the Cisco Web Site.

You should have a valid login into the Cisco Systems Web Site, which will let you to locate the Maintenance Contract "CSV" file, relevant for your organization. Please download it and save it onto your PC.

Please note that this "CSV" file has special format which consists of exactly 26 columns. It lists the Serial Number of the covered equipment, model number, along with End of Life and other Model related fields, Contract Number, Name and Expiry Date, Warranty Type and Expiry date. Also Cisco Systems Maintenance Contracts can be linked to the individual Modules, which make up the Hardware Composition of the relevant hardware node.

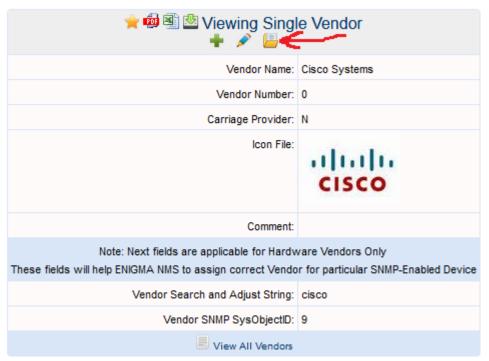
Enigma NMS has the full inventory of all Hardware Assets including the detailed information about the individual modules, e.g. Switching or Routing Engine blade, Power Supply, Fan Module, SFP etc.

Enigma uses this information to link the Serial Number (Key) listed in the "CSV" file with particular Hardware Assets.

2. Go to:

Main Menu → "FOR MANAGERS" → Vendors

Locate the Cisco Systems Vendor and click on its name, You will see the web page similar to the following:



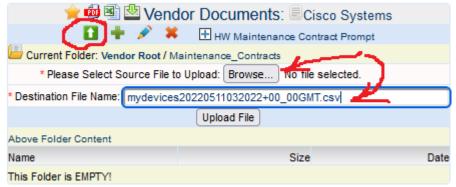
Click on the "Folders" icon.

3. You will see the Documents Repository for Cisco Systems as below:



Click on the folder "Maintenance_Contracts", this folder has a special meaning.

This is where you will need to upload the "CSV" filed saved from the Cisco Systems Web Site.



Click on the Upload button, click on Browse button, find your "CSV" file and paste its name into the "Destination File Name" field and click "Upload File" button.

4. Click on the "HW Maintenance Prompt" link.



Please check (Recommended) if you would like to Update the Node Serial Number from the Vendor Source File

✓ Please check (Recommended) if you would like to Update the Node HW Maintenance Contract Details from the Vendor Source File

Select the Vendor Source File and Click on this Button to Update HW Maitenance Contract Details

Size

49.7 KB

Date

25/07/2022 11:15:09

Click on the "HW Maintenance Contract Update Action".

Above Folder Content

Name

When page reloads, tick both checkboxes and tick the radio button, near the file name. Click on the button to update the HW Maintenance Contracts Details.

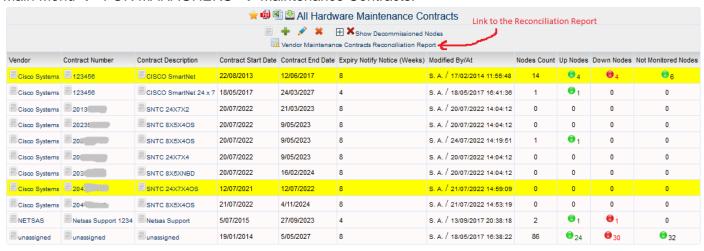


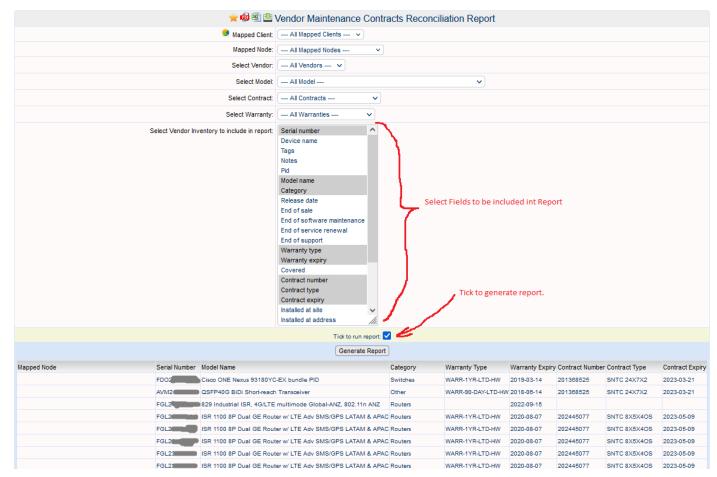
When you have clicked the button to update vendor HW Maintenance Contracts, following things have happened:

- 1. The content of this file has been uploaded into Enigma Database.
- 2. Relevant Model, Warranty and Contract records have been created.
- 3. All Date/Time records were normalized, i.e. converted into the "Epoch" format.
- 4. The Serial Number from this "CSV" file were mapped to the Live Production Data and hardware composition records for all relevant nodes were updated with references to the models, warranties and contracts.
- 5. Models "End of Life", "End of Support" and other relevant fields were updated.
- 6. Node Serial Numbers including the one which is modified manually were updated.
- 7. Node Warranty Details including the Expiry Date were updated.
- 8. Node Maintenance Contracts details were updated.

After the above actions, you can now review all Cisco Maintenance Contracts Details, via:

Main Menu → "FOR MANAGHERS" → Maintenance Contracts:

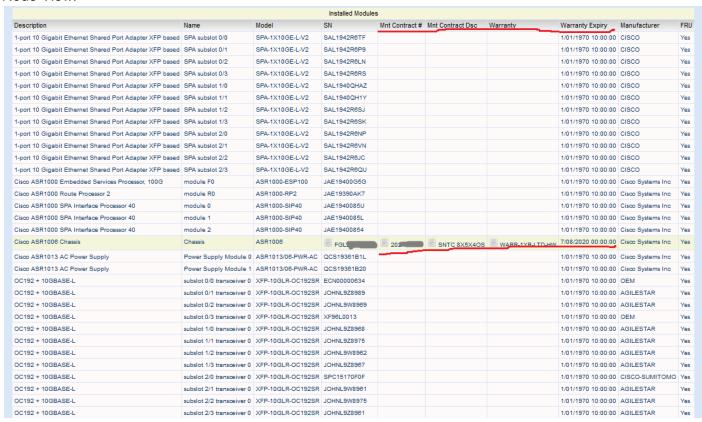




These vendor maintenance contracts have been cross referenced with the hardware composition modules, which in turn have been updated where it was required.

This data also is visible in the Node View and also included now into the Network Inventory Report, where you can have all you Live Production Data reported and cross references with Vendor Maintenance Contracts and Warranty Data. Please see below example:

Node View:



Network Inventory Report snippet:



Conclusion:

The developed functionality allows our clients instant access to the Vendor Maintenance Contracts data as well as run the Reconciliation Report with the Live Production Hardware.

You should be able to easily verify that all your Live Production Equipment is covered either by the relevant Vendor Maintenance Contract or "Internal Spares".

Ensure that Maintenance Contracts records in your Enigma NMS are up to date and are linked with the relevant assets.

When there are less with 8 weeks left until the Maintenance Contact Expiry Date, Enigma will send you the notification email so you can review your Maintenance Contracts and renew if required.

The Warranty details are also up to date and correct.

Following are the recommended reconciliation criteria:

- 1. All your Core critical production equipment is covered by the relevant Maintenance Contract.
- 2. The current Vendor Maintenance Contracts do not contain the equipment which was decommissioned, i.e. you are not wasting your money.
- Validate if you are able to save some budget by moving certain low cost equipment from being covered by the Vendor, which could be quite costly, to be covered by the "Internal Spares" maintenance contract.
- 4. Being able to quickly update Vendor Maintenance Contracts from the Vendor Web Site.

Further Enigma development plans include enabling similar functionality to other hardware vendors on as needed basis.