

internet2.edu



NTAC Network Automation Special Interests Group

@ Internet2

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What is NTAC?

- **Network Technical Advisory Committee**
- Established in 2006 with the third generation of the Internet2 network
- Made up of the R&E community
- Meetings, WGs, and Zooms, oh my!

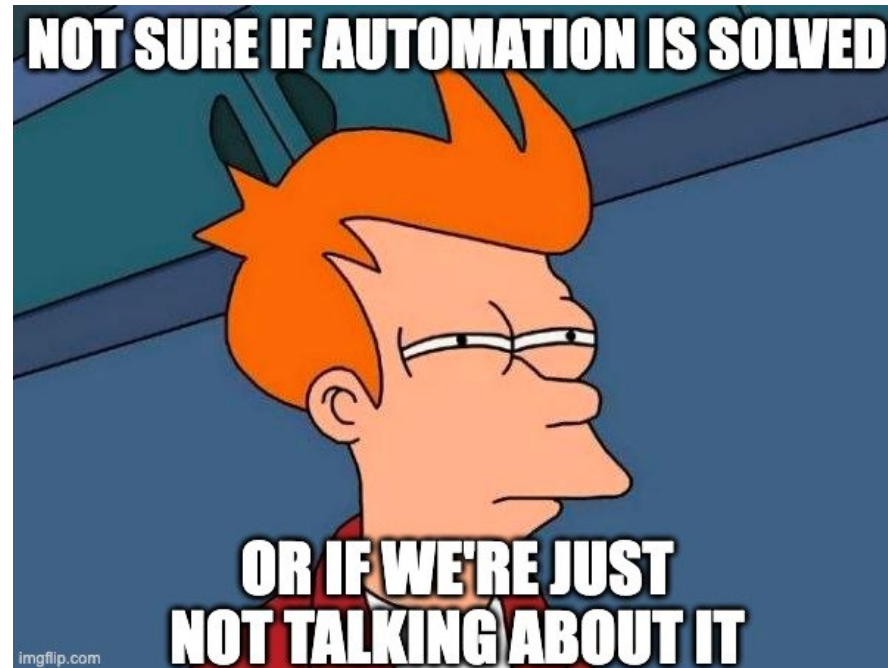
The primary goals of NTAC are to provide the best technical advice to Internet2 by bringing as much expertise from the community as possible, to maximize the opportunity for community participation, and to provide the greatest possible transparency into its processes and decisions.

What about the other five words?

- Created as an informal network automation special interests group for all Internet2 community members.
- Not a working group (implied deliverables).
- Focus on experience and knowledge sharing.
 - Slack channel
 - Two monthly Zoom calls
 - Bi-annual in-person meetups at Internet2 conferences

How did it come about?

- First **Internet2 Technology Exchange** conference since COVID in December, 2022 (and mine since joining)
- “Network Automation: Are We There Yet?” Talk results in a shout-out to a pre-existing, ghost-town Slack channel



When Hallway Conversations Lead to Something Greater

- Over 180 members
- Over the last year since inception...
 - 18 “monthly” Zooms
 - Full rooms at both in-person meetups
 - Three community show-and-tells
 - DNAC and zero-touch provisioning
 - NetBox at a campus
 - Nautobot and Python unit-testing



When Hallway Conversations Lead to Something Greater

- Shannon demos... a webpage?

Personal Thoughts on Success So Far

- What Worked ✓
 - Standing on the shoulders of giants: Reusing existing communication channels and reviving them.
 - Finding the passionate members who just need a nudge.
 - Enabling the passionate members who don't.
 - Low barrier to entry to various communication channels with a Google Form.
 - Polling the community for what they would like to see.
- Challenges 🎯
 - Shyness
 - Hard to know who your “automation peers” are.
 - Overcoming barriers in discussions due to dissimilar technologies, topology, and staff allocation. Not everything is relevant to everyone.

Looking to the Future: Goals

- Training-related cost-saving opportunities for our members.
- Encourage more community show-and-tells and provide more of our (Internet2) own.
- Continue building on existing Confluence space.
- Find more ways to bring value to our community!

Join us!

- #ntac-networkautomation channel at the Internet2 Slack Workspace
- Two Zoom monthlies
 - First Thursdays, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC
 - Third Tuesdays, 16:00 - 17:00 UTC

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i2-ntac-networkautomation ▾

* I don't have a graphic, here's a boring screenshot of a channel title



Thank you!