

The Modern DDI Buyer's Checklist

25 questions to ask before choosing your next
DNS, DHCP and IPAM platform





Choosing a DNS, DHCP, and IPAM (DDI) platform is a critical infrastructure decision that will shape network resilience, security, and operational efficiency for years.

The platform will support critical network services, integrate with cloud, security, and other systems, and become a trusted source of operational data. A weak evaluation process can leave the organization with hidden costs, limited automation, poor scalability, service disruptions, or another technology silo.

EMA evaluated DDI solutions using criteria that included deployment and administration, cost, architecture and integration, functionality, and vendor strength. The following checklist translates those categories into practical questions for enterprise buyers.

Score each question:

- 2** Fully supported and demonstrated
- 1** Partially supported or dependent on customization
- 0** Not supported or not demonstrated

Maximum score: 50



Category 1: Visibility and source of truth

1. Can the platform provide a unified view of IP addresses, DNS and DHCP?

Look for one consistent data model rather than separate consoles and databases.

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☒ 2

2. Can it discover network resources automatically?

The platform should identify address space, subnets, VLANs, DNS and DHCP services and connected resources.

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☒ 2

3. Can it discover and reconcile resources across AWS, Azure and Google Cloud?

Ask the vendor to demonstrate discovery across the cloud platforms you currently use.

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☒ 2

4. Can it manage or provide visibility into third-party DNS and DHCP services?

This is essential when Microsoft, cloud-native or other vendor services will remain in place.

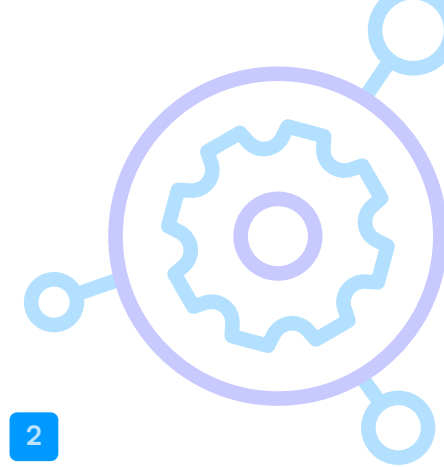
☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☒ 2

5. Can it serve as a broader network source of truth?

Assess whether it can model and inventory devices, applications, network objects and dependencies in addition to traditional DDI records.

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☒ 2

Category score: / 10



Category 2: Automation and integration

6. Can routine DNS, DHCP and IPAM workflows be automated?

Test address allocation, DNS record management, subnet creation and IP reclamation.

0 1 2

7. Does the platform support policy-driven approvals and delegation?

Automation should include governance, access control and auditability.

0 1 2

8. Are the APIs comprehensive and well documented?

Ask what percentage of platform functionality is exposed through APIs.

0 1 2

9. Does the platform integrate with your existing IT ecosystem?

Evaluate support for ITSM, orchestration, cloud, SIEM, SOAR, observability and configuration-management platforms.

0 1 2

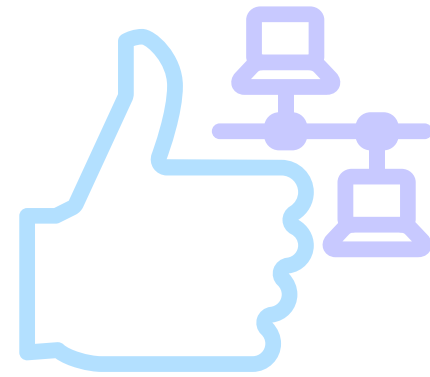
10. Can users access approved services through self-service workflows?

Determine whether application, cloud and DevOps teams can perform approved tasks without direct administrator intervention.

0 1 2

EMA found that automation and orchestration and security and compliance enforcement are the leading use cases for DDI APIs.

Category score: / 10



Category 3: Architecture, scalability and resilience

11. Can the architecture scale without a disruptive redesign?

Ask the vendor to demonstrate how the platform expands as the number of addresses, devices, sites and queries increases.

0 1 2

12. Can DNS, DHCP and IPAM scale independently?

Different services may have different capacity and geographic requirements.

0 1 2

13. What high-availability and disaster-recovery options are available?

Test failover behavior rather than relying only on architectural diagrams.

0 1 2

14. Can the platform support distributed, hybrid and multi-cloud environments?

Confirm that management and policy remain consistent across environments.

0 1 2

15. How are upgrades, patches and rollbacks handled?

Determine whether upgrades require outages, manual intervention or significant professional services.

0 1 2

EMA rates scalability, performance and resiliency among the most important requirements for DDI platforms.

Category score: / 10



Category 4: Security and governance

16. Does the platform provide granular role-based access control?

Assess separation of duties across administrators, cloud teams, application teams and regional operators.

0 1 2

17. Does it provide complete audit trails?

Changes should be attributable to a user, workflow or system.

0 1 2

18. Does it support secure DNS protocols and controls?

Evaluate DNSSEC, encrypted communications and protection of administrative data.

0 1 2

19. Can it detect or block malicious DNS activity?

Assess threat intelligence, DNS firewalling, tunneling detection, DGA detection and suspicious-domain analysis.

0 1 2

20. Can DNS data be integrated with security operations?

Confirm support for SIEM, SOAR, incident-response and threat-hunting workflows.

0 1 2

Security was the highest-ranked general DDI platform requirement in EMA's research.

Category score: / 10



Category 5: Cost, deployment and vendor fit

21. Is the total cost of ownership transparent and predictable?

Evaluate licensing, implementation, support, upgrades, training, and expansion costs.

0 1 2

22. How quickly can the platform be deployed?

Ask for typical deployment timelines and customer evidence from environments similar to yours.

0 1 2

23. How much professional services support is required?

Separate mandatory implementation services from optional optimization assistance.

0 1 2

24. Does the vendor have a credible roadmap and investment strategy?

Evaluate planned capabilities in automation, cloud, source of truth, AI and security.

0 1 2

25. Can the vendor provide relevant customer references?

Speak with organizations of similar size, complexity, industry and migration profile.

0 1 2

EMA's evaluation framework explicitly considers deployment, administration, cost efficiency and vendor strength alongside product functionality.

Category score: / 10

Final score: / 50



Interpreting your score

50
-
41

Strong strategic fit

The platform appears capable of supporting modern enterprise requirements. Validate all high-priority workflows through a proof of concept and complete reference checks.

40
-
31

Potential fit with material gaps

The platform may meet core requirements, but partial capabilities or customization dependencies could increase cost and risk. Document each gap and obtain contractual commitments where appropriate..

30
-
21

Significant compromise

The solution may address an immediate requirement but could create future operational limitations. Reconsider whether short-term benefits justify the long-term tradeoffs.

20
-
0

Poor fit

The platform is unlikely to support the required operating model without significant manual processes, customization or additional tools.

Five proof-of-concept tests every buyer should require

1. Import and reconcile real data

Provide a representative sample of IP address, DNS, DHCP and cloud data. Evaluate data quality, reconciliation, and usability.

2. Automate an end-to-end DDI workflow

Test a real request from initiation through approval, provisioning, validation, and audit.

3. Simulate a service failure

Demonstrate failover, recovery procedures, and service monitoring for DNS and DHCP services.

4. Execute an integrated workflow through APIs

Confirm that APIs can automate operational tasks with external systems and are not limited to basic queries.

5. Demonstrate multi-environment visibility

Ask the vendor to show one view spanning on-premises, cloud, and third-party services.

Warning signs during evaluation

Be cautious when:

- The vendor cannot demonstrate a claimed capability.
- Essential workflows require custom scripting.
- Pricing becomes unclear as the environment grows.
- Cloud support is limited to discovery without meaningful governance.
- APIs expose only a fraction of product functionality.
- Upgrades require significant disruption.
- Customer references are not comparable to your environment.
- The vendor avoids discussing migration paths or rollback options.
- Product documentation is incomplete.
- Security functionality is positioned as a separate afterthought.

How EfficientIP was evaluated by EMA

EMA named EfficientIP a **2025 Value Leader**.

Its evaluation rated deployment time, maintenance and support costs, scale-out architecture, IPAM scalability, DNS scalability, APIs and IP address management functionality as outstanding. EMA also identified EfficientIP's source-of-truth capabilities, reporting and scalable architecture as key strengths.

Use third-party research as one source of evidence, then verify fit through your own requirements, testing and customer references.



Final decision worksheet

Our three most important business outcomes are:

Our three nonnegotiable technical requirements are:

The greatest migration risk is:

The workflow we must prove before purchase is:

Our total score: / 50

Recommendation:

- ☐ Proceed to proof of concept
- ☐ Proceed with conditions
- ☐ Evaluate additional vendors
- ☐ Do not proceed

Put Your DDI Strategy to the Test

Evaluate your current environment against modern requirements for visibility, automation, scalability, resilience and security.

[Request a DDI Modernization Assessment](#)

Want the independent research behind this guide?

[Download the 2025 EMA Radar for DDI](#)



EfficientIP is a global leader in network automation and security, specializing in DNS, DHCP, and IP Address Management (DDI), with over 20 years of expertise. Its 360° DNS Security serves as a first line of defense, enabling teams to protect, detect, and respond to threats. Powered by advanced and AI-patented technologies, its DNS Threat Intelligence platform transforms billions of DNS queries into actionable insights, helping teams detect threats earlier and respond faster.

Copyright © 2026 EfficientIP, SAS. All rights reserved. EfficientIP and SOLIDserver logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of EfficientIP SAS. All registered trademarks are property of their respective owners. EfficientIP assumes no responsibility for any inaccuracies in this document or for any obligation to update information in this document.

Americas
EfficientIP Inc.
1 South Church Street
West Chester, PA 19382-USA
+1 888-228-4655

Europe
EfficientIP SAS
90 Boulevard National
92250 La Garenne Colombes-FRANCE
+33 1 75 84 88 98

Asia
EfficientIP PTE Ltd
60 Paya Lebar Road #11-47
Paya Lebar Square SINGAPORE 409051
+65 6678 7752