

Talks with: Ivica Gašparić – Verso Altima Group



Ivica Gašparić is Chief Technology Officer in Verso Altima Group with more than 20 years of experience. As a CTO Ivica is responsible for the technical strategy definition, innovation management, and business consultancy, focused on the long term sustainable development of the company. Today Ivica leads a team of 50 experts deploying worldwide relevant ICT projects in EMEA, APAC and US leading customers toward digital transformation and empowering information technology within every business. For the past few years, he is committed to customers' development, recognizing proactively their needs that will ensure growth and innovation implementation.

Q: As a CTO of Verso Altima Group what trends in ICT you predict for 2020-2021?

Ivica: AI, Machine learning, 5G, Blockchain and similar technologies, including new buzzwords will continuously appear. Despite the fact that technology will keep on evolving, the point is and will be how to apply such technologies to resolve everyday issues, including improving efficiency, achieving cost saving, and enabling new services. In a nutshell, real world issues are quite simple, but on the other hand, we have more tools how we can resolve them. As a result, IT companies have to continuously create and follow trends, search for optimal application of emerging technologies, and integrate them into customer's environment. Having skilled experts will be critical to support this trends.

Q: Is there an increased demand for NSO?

Ivica: There is increased demand for automation of end-to-end service provisioning and NSO is just perfect fit to this demand. Imagine telco where hundreds of services need to be provisioned or changed every day, and for each of them tens of devices need to be reconfigured, different departments need to be coordinated, and any manual mistake may cause hours of troubleshooting. With NSO all such activities become trivial. Replacing one device with another one from different vendors, moving whole configuration from one device to another one, can be a nightmare. If companies want to avoid such a nightmares NSO is a perfect match.





Q: What are the business benefits of Automation and Orchestration?

Ivica: Once you automate and orchestrate service provisioning you are able to fulfil the customers' request much faster - we are talking about seconds instead of days or sometimes even weeks. Furthermore, you will not experience service outages due to incorrect or bad configuration, or experience uncontrolled or undefined network status. And what is the most important, your best engineers will be able to focus on tasks that bring value to the company, instead of spending most of the day in troubleshooting, escalations and coordination.

Q: NSO is an extremely flexible platform, what it means?

Ivica: NSO is a tool. The tool is as much useful as experts are capable of taking out of it. NSO brings us the framework and it's up to us to upgrade this framework with a specific service modeling appropriate for the customer's environment, as well as to integrate it with other systems within customer's environment. When asking how much NSO is flexible, so far we didn't meet show-stopper in a term of implementations in complex multivendor environments. So yes, it is very flexible!

Q: Your team got some of the best experts, especially in Cisco world. Who are they?

Ivica: To get the most out of NSO, it demands expertise from two seemingly incompatible worlds, networking and DevOps. We in Verso Altima Group are lucky to have several experts proficient in both of these worlds. Dražen, Vedran, Krešimir, and Ivan... to name just some of them. Together they have a double digit number of CCIE certificates, more than 75 years of experience and what is the most important, enormous passion to resolve customers' issues in an optimal way!