Vendor swap checklist

6 checks to prove a vendor swap before the purchase order, with the numbers from our Cisco to Arista run.

Cisco to Arista, proved in a lab. The same six checks on both: Cisco 6 of 6, Arista 5 of 6. Failover got faster, and one security rule filtered nothing after the swap. The verdict held the order.

CHECK 1 OF 6

- [ ] **Build the network you run today, as it is.**

The vendor you run now, the same roles, the same addressing, the same rules.

Our lab: a Cisco IOL core, two Cisco IOL-L2 distribution switches with HSRP, OSPF, a web-blocking ACL, an access switch, a user and a server.

CHECK 2 OF 6

- [ ] **Name the checks you sign off with, and run them.**

Neighbors, routes, reachability, every security rule, and a timed failure of the active device.

Our Cisco baseline: 6 of 6. A failover of 10.81 s when the active distribution switch froze.

```
DIST1# show standby brief
Vl10        10   110 P Active  local           10.10.10.3      10.10.10.1
DIST1# show ip access-lists USERS-IN
    10 deny tcp 10.10.10.0 0.0.0.255 10.20.20.0 0.0.0.255 eq www (11 matches)
```

CHECK 3 OF 6

- [ ] **Translate only the devices you are replacing.**

Keep everything else byte for byte, so any change in the results is the swap's.

Ours: HSRP to VRRP with the same priorities, the ACL and OSPF rewritten in EOS. Core and access files hash-identical.

```
interface Vlan10
   ip access-group USERS-IN in
   vrrp 10 priority-level 110
   vrrp 10 ipv4 10.10.10.1
```

CHECK 4 OF 6

- [ ] **Run exactly the same checks on the new vendor.**

Read the result on the traffic, not on the config.

Ours: the ACL read active on Arista, and the user's web request still got HTTP 200. On Cisco: HTTP 000.

```
USER1$ curl -s -m 5 -o /dev/null -w '%{http_code}' http://10.20.20.10/
200
```

CHECK 5 OF 6

- [ ] **Time the failure on both sides.**

The same device frozen, the same ping running, both outages written down.

Ours: 10.81 s on Cisco, 4.56 s on Arista, because VRRP took over in about 2 s.

CHECK 6 OF 6

- [ ] **Write the verdict and what to confirm before the order.**

Every fail becomes a question for the vendor or an evaluation unit, plus what changes at cutover.

CHECK	CISCO BEFORE	ARISTA AFTER
OSPF, routes, reachability	pass	pass
Web block on the users VLAN	3 of 3 refused	HTTP 200, fail
Failover	10.81 s	4.56 s
Gateway MAC	0000.0c07.ac0a	0000.5e00.010a

Prove your own swap

Two prompts: describe the network you run today, then ask for the swap and the same checks. NetPilot builds both labs on real network operating systems and gives you the CLI on every device.

[The prompts, the labs and every number: netpilot.io/blog/cisco-to-arista-migration-lab]