NetMRI-to-NetBrain Migration Guide

Introduction: The End-of-Life for NetMRI

Infoblox has officially announced the end-of-life (EOL) for NetMRI, with support ending by April 2027. For organizations relying on NetMRI for network discovery, compliance management, and change tracking, this transition presents both a challenge and an opportunity.

Rather than just replacing NetMRI with another static tool, this is the perfect time to **upgrade to a modern, AI-driven network automation platform** that improves network-wide and continuous observability, efficiency, reduces risk, and ensures network resilience.

While Infoblox has recommended IP Fabric as a replacement, it's crucial to evaluate whether it provides the proven automation, troubleshooting, and real-time observability that modern networks demand.

This guide will walk you through:

- Why NetBrain is the superior migration path
- Key differences between NetMRI, IP Fabric, and NetBrain
- A step-by-step migration plan from NetMRI to NetBrain
- How to ensure a seamless transition and maximize automation capabilities

NetMRI Today vs. NetBrain Tomorrow

As organizations assess their next steps after NetMRI's end-of-life, it's essential to consider not just a replacement, but an upgrade that aligns with modern network operation demands. NetMRI was built for an era of static snapshots and scheduled scripts, whereas NetBrain provides **real-time visibility and proactive observability for multi-vendor and hybrid-cloud networks, AI-driven workflow automation, and protective change management**.

The table below highlights the key differences between NetMRI's legacy approach and NetBrain's automation-first model:

Feature/Capability	NetMRI Today	NetBrain Tomorrow
Observability Scope	Static snapshots, limited visibility	Real-time, hybrid-cloud insights
AI Integration	No AI-driven analysis	AI-powered diagnostics & troubleshooting
Automation	Limited scheduled workflows	No-code automation for troubleshooting
Change Management	Tracks changes, no enforcement	Triple Defense Change Management
Application Assurance	No application-layer insights	Live application path monitoring
Integration	Basic CMDB tracking	ITSM automation (ServicNow, Jira)

Today's networks require real-time observability, automation, and proactive troubleshooting. These are all areas where NetBrain excels.

Migration Paths: NetBrain vs. IP Fabric

When migrating from NetMRI, organizations have two primary choices:

- **NetBrain –** An automation and AI platform that provides dynamic network visibility and proactive assessment, automates manual troubleshooting and change workflows, and ensures proactive compliance.
- **IP Fabric –** A static model-based verification tool focused on intent-based assurance rather than proactive automation.

However, migrating to IP Fabric can be a **longer and more complex** process because:

- It requires manual topology modeling instead of automated real-time network discovery.
- It does not support NetMRI's automated scripts, meaning workflows may have to be rebuilt from scratch.

Migration Step	Migrating to IP Fabric	Migrating to NetBrain
Export Device Inventory	Required for topology modeling	Required for automated discovery and mapping
Export Configuration Files	Used for configuration verification	Used for automated compliance enforcement and intent automation
Export Policies	Used for drift detection	Used for dynamic, intent-based automation
Topology Discovery	Requires manual model definitions and imports	Automatically discovers and updates network topology in real-time
Troubleshooting & Automation	Only detects issues; manual resolution required	AI-driven diagnostics and automated issue remediation
Impact on Existing NetMRI Scripts	NetMRI automation scripts must be rebuilt manually	Existing automation is enhanced with AI-driven workflows

IP Fabric focuses on intent verification, meaning it identifies misconfigurations but does not automate resolution. NetBrain, on the other hand, **prevents, detects, and remediates issues automatically**.

Pre-Migration Checklist

Migrating from NetMRI to NetBrain is a strategic opportunity to modernize network management and automation. A successful transition requires proper planning, data preparation, and validation to ensure minimal disruption and maximum efficiency. By taking the time to assess your current environment, document key configurations, and align with NetBrain's automation capabilities, your team can set the stage for a seamless migration and long-term operational improvements.

To ensure a smooth migration from NetMRI to NetBrain, complete the following steps:

- ☐ **Document your NetMRI deployment –** Identify all managed devices, policies, and configurations.
- ☐ **Backup NetMRI data –** Export historical configuration files, compliance policies, and reports.
- ☐ **Review system requirements –** Ensure your infrastructure meets NetBrain's deployment needs.
- ☐ **Identify key integrations –** Check connections to CMDBs, ITSM tools (e.g., ServiceNow), and other platforms.
- ☐ **Define success metrics –** Establish KPIs for network automation, compliance, and troubleshooting improvements.

Step-by-Step Migration to NetBrain

A successful migration from NetMRI to NetBrain requires a structured, phased approach to ensure continuity, minimize disruptions, and unlock NetBrain's full potential. Unlike NetMRI, which relies on static snapshots and manual intervention, NetBrain provides real-time, dynamic network visibility and AI-driven automation.

By following this step-by-step migration process, organizations can ensure a seamless transition while gaining enhanced automation, improved compliance, and proactive troubleshooting capabilities from day one.

Here's how to migrate from NetMRI to NetBrain effectively:

Step 1: Network Discovery & Documentation

- Deploy NetBrain's automated network discovery to generate real-time topology maps and inventory reports that are customizable with AI.
- Compare NetMRI's last known network state with NetBrain's dynamic mapping to detect changes.

Step 2: Configuration & Compliance Migration

- Import NetMRI's historical configuration files into NetBrain's Golden Engineering Studio.
- Define new compliance rules and automate policy enforcement using intent-based automation.

Step 3: Automation & Troubleshooting Setup

- Implement no-code automation workflows for common troubleshooting scenarios.
- Configure AI Co-Pilot to assist junior engineers with diagnostics, compliance, and auto-remediation.

Step 4: Change Management & Validation

- Use Triple Defense Change Management to validate changes before, during, and after deployment.
- Ensure auto-remediation policies are in place to prevent misconfigurations.

Step 5: Integration with ITSM & Other Tools

- Connect NetBrain with ServiceNow, Jira, or other ITSM platforms to enable automated incident resolution.
- Validate API integrations to ensure seamless data exchange across platforms.

Post-Migration Optimization

Successfully migrating from NetMRI to NetBrain is just the beginning. To maximize the value of your investment, **ongoing optimization is crucial**. By fine-tuning automation, leveraging real-time observability, and validating configurations post-migration, your team can ensure **a seamless transition with long-term benefits**.

After migrating to NetBrain, follow these best practices to optimize performance and efficiency:

- Conduct **parallel testing** to compare NetMRI's legacy data with NetBrain's real-time insights, ensuring accuracy.
- Fine-tune **automation rules** based on real-world troubleshooting scenarios to improve network efficiency.
- Use **NetBrain's observability dashboards** for continuous compliance monitoring and network health tracking.
- Leverage **NetBrain support & training** to help teams maximize automation and minimize manual troubleshooting.
- By taking these steps, your organization will **fully unlock the power of NetBrain's automation-driven approach**, leading to greater operational efficiency, improved compliance, and reduced troubleshooting time.

Why NetBrain is the Best Migration Choice

Choosing the right NetMRI replacement is about more than just switching tools—it's about **evolving** your network operations to be more **proactive, automated, and scalable**.

Many organizations start their evaluation by looking for a like-for-like replacement, but modern networks demand more than basic configuration management and change tracking. NetBrain goes beyond replacement by providing **real-time observability, AI-driven troubleshooting, and proactive change enforcement**.

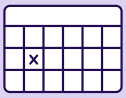
Migrating to NetBrain provides the following advantages:

- **Network-wide Post-Mortem Assessment** uncovers root causes and enables quick resolutions. Then, it scans your entire network for similar risks, allowing for issue remediation before another outage occurs.
- **AI-driven troubleshooting** reduces MTTR by automating diagnostics, ensuring faster issue resolution.
- **Real-time visibility** replaces static network snapshots with live, continuously updated topology maps.
- **Pre-, during-, and post-change validation** prevents human-error misconfigurations ensuring no disruption to production applications and services.
- **Hybrid-cloud and multi-vendor support** ensures full visibility and automation across complex, distributed environments.
- **Move beyond manual workflows** and static monitoring, embracing a future-proof approach to network automation, troubleshooting, and compliance.

Read a NetBrain Case Study

See How a Major Metropolitan Fire Department Uses NetBrain – Learn how one of the **largest fire departments** in the country enhanced network visibility, automated troubleshooting, and improved operational resilience with NetBrain.

Schedule a Demo



Schedule a Personalized Demo – See how NetBrain can replace NetMRI while adding powerful automation and AI-driven troubleshooting.

Future-proof your network with NetBrain today!