

Shakespeare's guide  
To  
Network Maintenances

*Advice you should probably never follow.*

*W. Shakespeare, J. Linkova*

This show contains sarcasm, Comic Sans  
and ideas some viewers may find disturbing.

Viewer discretion advised.

Intended for humorous audiences only.

After attending this talk you would be able to drastically reduce time you spent on preparing and executing network changes

...SO...

You can have more time to work on network change post-mortems...



Listen to many,  
speak to a few.

*Hamlet, act 1, sc. 3*

# Keep Communication To Minimum

## Never:

- Ask for the change plan review
- Send notifications
- Specify timezone or expected impact



Have more than thou showest,  
Speak less than thou knowest

*King Lear, act 1, sc 4*

# Avoid Details

DO:

- 1) Turn up a router
- 2) Configure BGP

DON'T:

- 1) set interface  
xe-0/0/0 family  
inet6 address  
2001:db8::1/127
- 2) edit protocol bgp
- 3) set neighbor  
2001:db8::2 peer-as  
1234



O, swear not by the moon, th'  
inconstant moon,  
That monthly changes in her circle orb,  
Lest that thy love prove likewise  
variable.

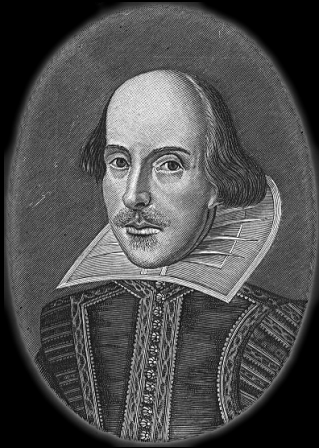
Romeo and Juliet, act 2, sc 2.



Don't prepare configuration in advance:

- Network keeps changing
- Outdated configs are dangerous

Never ever automate config changes!



**Boldness be my friend!**

**'Cymbeline' act 1, sc. 6.**

# Never Test Your Changes Beforehand

- You know what you are doing.
- Two lines change, what could go wrong?



Since brevity is the soul of wit

*Hamlet, act 2, sc 2*

# Keep Verification Instructions Brief

DO:

"Check connectivity"

"Verify everything is  
working OK"

DON'T:

"ping www.facebook.com"  
"ping6 www.facebook.com"

"http://test-ipv6.com  
should show 10/10"

"sh ./verify.sh"



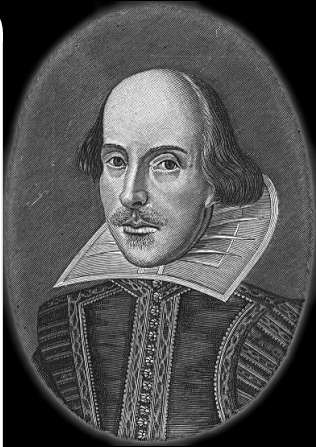
Better three hours too soon  
than a minute too late

*The Merry Wives of Windsor, act 2, sc 2*

# Be Efficient. Don't Waste Time on Testing.

Never Test:

- Before/after the change (and compare);
- Actual traffic. Verifying configs would do.
- Things expected to fail actually do



What's done can't be undone.

*Macbeth, act 5, sc. 1*



# Don't Prepare Any Rollback Plan.

If you do (why?!):

- never test it
- only plan immediate rollback

Make sure only high-skilled engineers can rollback

# Keep the Rollback Plan Simple

DO:

"Rollback all previously  
made changes"

or

"Rollback 1"

DON'T:

"delete interface xe-0/0/0"

"ipv6 nd prefix 2001:db8::/64  
preferred-lifetime 0"



~~To be or not to be:~~

Two beer or not two beer:  
that is the question.

~~Hamlet, act 3, sc 1~~

After finishing your maintenance:

turn off your phone,

go to a pub.

It's Friday night after all!