ASSET POINT®

Data Center Inventory Management

REDUCE IT COSTS AND IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES BY MANAGING YOUR DATA CENTER INVENTORY

New technologies like ITIL V3 have improved the ability to standardize data center management processes and have introduced the concept of a central repository of IT infrastructure information to support strategic planning and daily management. But they also bring the challenge of consolidating data and features from multiple sources.

Asset Point works closely with leading global organizations that rely 24x7x365 on their mission-critical IT infrastructure.

Asset Point® provides the tools needed to create and accurately maintain an IT asset master file, which has become essential for modern data center management. Only when equipped with a foundation of trustworthy data about all of your physical assets can data center managers proactively manage change within the IT environment.

Main Drivers for DCIM
- Operational efficiency
- Logistical planning for major projects
- Reducing IT costs

Prerequisites for DCIM
- Consistent process for incident and change management
- Continual verification/validation of inventory information
- DCIM-specific tool sets to provide detailed information and planning utilities
- CMS for higher-level integration, providing a "big picture" view

Benefits of DCIM
- Accurate information on which to base decisions
- Metrics and reporting
- Defensible data for financial allocations and reporting

DATA ACCURACY IS CRITICAL

Successful management of any IT environment requires accurate, reliable data. This includes not only knowing what an organization has, but where it is. Enterprises can't afford the downtime or man hours required to search for hardware when a problem is discovered. Additionally, inaccurate data can confound the planning process. Until you identify what hardware you have and where it is located, you can't properly model any technology changes – and needing to perform a full inventory verification process prior to planning wastes precious time and resources.

Asset Point provides comprehensive inventory gathering and verification features that link IT assets to their physical locations and document configuration, power and network connections. Asset Point's iPad scanners can be used with either bar code or RFID technology to collect and verify information as part of the normal operational process, resulting in the most accurate data possible and increased flexibility to properly plan and manage change. If you have confidence that your data is accurate, you are equipped to handle any changes, big or small.

PLAN FOR CHANGE CONFIDENTLY

When you have accurate data, you can take advantage of the many benefits to planning for and executing change:

- Increased operational efficiencies
- Scheduling, delivery and execution
- Response to operational outages are caused by external change activities
- Resource utilization

SOURCE: Align 1.2014

Asset Point has tools to assist with planning and executing data center moves at both the physical and logical levels.

The planning process is supported through:
- World-class move planning and data center migration modules – with both planning and logistical components
- Easy integration with existing change management systems
- Identifying and reserving space for planned hardware installations
- Tracking available resources such as space, power and cooling capacities

Asset Point provides a key link to effectively managing data center change activities.

MODELING LEADS TO VISIBILITY

Understanding the physical IT environment is essential to effectively manage data center facilities and plan for change events. Asset Point combines an extensive library of IT hardware with the current physical inventory to model cabinet space, power and heating/cooling capacities.

A comprehensive view of the data center ecosystem is accomplished by:
- Understanding your existing environment from a physical and logical perspective
- Gathering manufacturer data and incorporating information from infrastructure devices (e.g., power strips, patch panels and environmental sensors)
- Layering planned changes onto this picture to analyze and understand impacts and plan for execution
- Providing web-based dashboards with detailed information coupled with graphical display of data center floor plans and cabinet elevation drawings

ASSET MANAGEMENT TOOLS INTEGRATION

The greatest value of a current and accurate inventory of IT assets is achieved through bi-directional sharing of inventory data with other critical tools and systems. Asset Point facilitates tool integration through a robust web-services-based API ("AP Data") and an intuitive flat-file import facility. Advantages gained include:

- Import of actual, real time power-consumption statistics enables design of more dense cabinets
- Import of utilization metrics (CPU, memory, I/O) to support strategic capacity planning
- Bi-directional ticketing system integration to speed move/add/change (MAC) completion
- Export to a warehouse of shared data to create new reporting opportunities ("AP Business Intelligence")
- Integration with CMDB to keep centralized information up to date
- Accurate information on the whole data center ecosystem is available to all stakeholders, leading to risk mitigation

CONCLUSION

A baseline of accurate, verified information positions an organization for success in efficiently managing operations and strategically planning for IT change. Asset Point combines this functionality with the ability to integrate existing enterprise resources and a range of reports for metrics and trend analysis – providing a platform for informed decision making.

As a stand-alone product, an integrated data center operations tool or a component of a configuration management system (CMS), Asset Point makes day-to-day change management more efficient and strategic change planning more effective.

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