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Automation via integration: 3 real-world examples

DATA CENTER MANAGERS are increasingly looking for ways to automate tasks to save time and improve data accuracy.

We've spoken with countless data center experts on how they leverage Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) software and APIs to drive automation. Recently, some of the industry's best from eBay, MacStadium, and the University of Chicago shared their use cases on how they simplify data center management with automation.

eBay automates power budget calculations and updates

Before deploying DCIM software, eBay had difficulty identifying their power utilization for capacity planning purposes, especially for new devices and applications.

Then, they leveraged their DCIM tool's Auto Power Budget feature, and everything changed. Auto Power Budget is a machine learning algorithm that automatically calculates and updates power budget profiles for each device instance based on how they "actually" consume power in their environment. With Auto Power Budget, eBay can easily quantify their return-on-investment. For example, for a project they previously thought required six cabinets in six locations, they now know with Auto Power Budget that it only requires four cabinets in those locations, a 33% savings.

"A server ready cabinet... is about \$10,000 to us," said Ken Torres, Global Data Center Engineer. "So just for this very project... that's a cost avoidance of about \$120,000. It's pretty significant. It's one of those nice things you like to raise up to your directors or senior managers."

MacStadium Automates back-office processing

MacStadium is always working to improve their online provisioning experience. They needed a solution to help manage the high volume of changes they experience without disrupting existing customer experiences or internal workflows. They also wanted to eliminate manual data entry and the possibility of human error.

By leveraging their DCIM software's APIs, MacStadium can now assign slots and assets to be ready on demand for customers signing up on their website. The integration allows them to automatically move assets from their pre-staged account directly to their customers' accounts and updates all their internal systems.

"Using the API, we're able to poll our existing racks, see where we have space available, and assign that space automatically to a customer order via our website," said Robert Perkins, Lead Infrastructure Engineer/Architect. "We sync the rack slots, switch



port, PDU port, make and model, serial number, and asset ID between all of our systems. Changes across our billing platform, customer portal, administration system, and accounting systems are all pulling data from [our DCIM software].”

The University of Chicago is making DCIM the “Center of the Universe”

The University of Chicago has many different tools and systems, and they need to have them all communicate so they can fully understand what is going on in their environment.

“What we’re trying to do as an organization is to get out of the data world and into the information world,” said Raymond Parpart, Director Data Center Strategy & Operations. To achieve this, they are building an entire automation architecture with DCIM software at the “center of the universe for the data center.”

By integrating their DCIM with Slack and Teams, they have created Command Center channels on both platforms, and anybody in the organization who wants to know what’s going on can simply check those channels. Next in their plan is to have those alarms sent automatically to ServiceNow to create an incident ticket.

“We are the colo for the university,” Parpart said. “Anybody here at the university who’s got a system can put their systems in. We’ve got to communicate with all our researchers on what’s going on in their environments.”








DW ONLINE ROUNDTABLE

BASED around a hot industry topic for your company, this 60-minute recorded, moderated zoom roundtable would be a platform for debate and discussion.

MODERATED by an editor, this online event would include 3 speakers, with questions prepared and shared in advance.

THIS ONLINE EVENT would be publicised for 4 weeks pre and 4 weeks post through all our mediums and become a valuable educational asset for your company

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