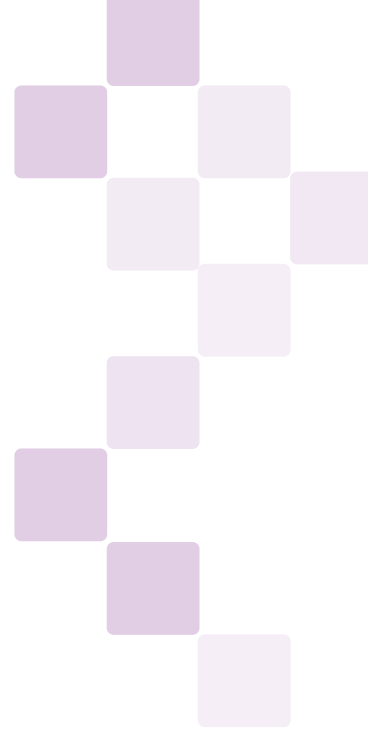


EBOOK

What is a Data Center CMDB?

DCIM as the Source of Truth



Sunbird[®]
DCIM that's easy, fast, and complete.

Introduction

Modern data centers are more complex, distributed, and difficult to manage than ever before. This is true not just for the physical data center infrastructure, but also for the software tools used to manage it.

Today's data center managers often find themselves performing swivel chair management in which they must use disparate systems to manage their data center operations.

The most common pain points of having unintegrated data center management tools are:

- **Data inaccuracy.** When data needs to be manually entered into multiple systems, there is an increased likelihood that human error will lead to incorrect data in one or both tools.
- **Reduced productivity.** The manual effort of dual entry is time-consuming and takes resources away from other more productive tasks.
- **Cross-functional silos.** Functional blockages may lead to teams only having access to the data in their specific tools. This leads to a lack of data sharing and collaboration that enables the most informed decisions.



To overcome these challenges, data center managers must create a single source of truth.

In this eBook, we'll explore how leading organizations are integrating modern CMDB and data center management tools to drive automation, boost productivity, and increase the accuracy of their data.

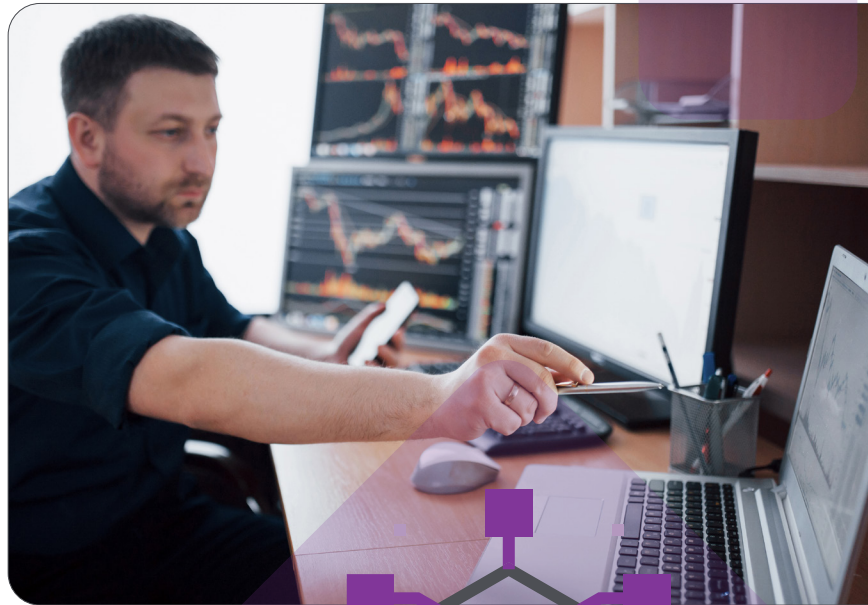
What is a Traditional IT CMDB?

To deliver IT services more efficiently and make better business decisions, most organizations leverage a Configuration Management Database (CMDB).

A traditional IT CMDB stores information on the hardware, software, systems, facilities, and personnel within an organization. It provides a view of your IT environment to help you understand what assets (also known as Configuration Items or CIs) you have and how those assets are related.

Traditional IT CMDBs are commonly used for accurate data center change management and ticketing requests, allowing data center professionals to account for and report on moves, adds, and changes. They are also frequently used for impact analysis, root cause analysis, and legal compliance.

Traditional IT CMDBs are useful, and many organizations would not be able to function properly without them. However, data centers are mission-critical to modern organizations and traditional IT CMDBs do not offer the complete solution they require.



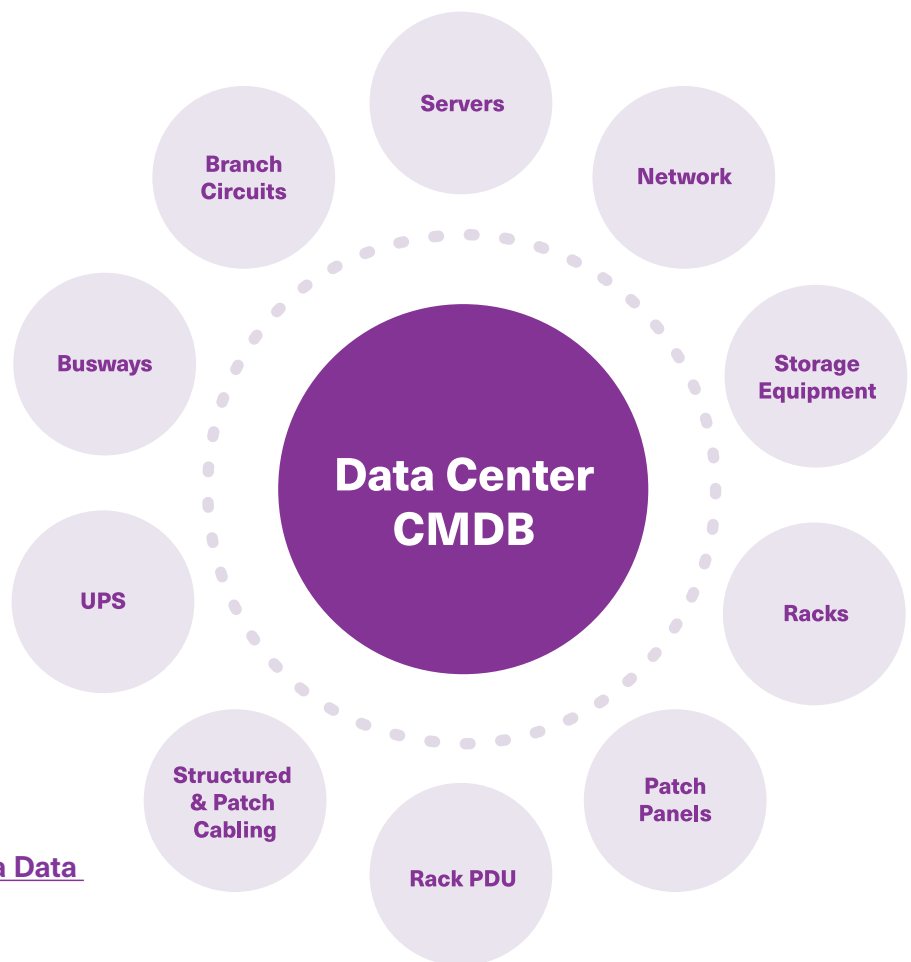
Today's data center teams need a Data Center CMDB.

What is a Data Center CMDB?

A Data Center CMDB is a component of Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) software that expands upon and enhances the information that is typically tracked in a traditional IT CMDB.

It provides an accurate, real-time view of the IT equipment residing in the data center (i.e., servers, network, storage) and the supporting infrastructure assets (i.e., racks, rack PDUs, patch panels, structured cabling, patch cabling, floor PDUs, UPSs, busways, branch circuits).

A Data Center CMDB shows you what assets you have, who owns them, where they are located, and how they are connected with relationship mapping down to physical port levels and up to virtual machine and application levels.



[Watch a two-minute demo of a Data Center CMDB.](#)

How Does a Data Center CMDB Compare to a Traditional IT CMDB?

While a Data Center CMDB and a traditional IT CMDB share some similarities, they are typically used by different teams and track different information for different use cases and desired outcomes.

Both types of CMDB complement one other. Rather than using one or the other, both tools have advantages that are amplified for all teams when they are integrated and share data.

	Traditional IT CMDB	Data Center CMDB
Used by	IT teams	Data center operations teams
User interface	Database of fields	Rich 3D visualization with detailed information
Tracks	All corporate IT assets and their configurations as logical objects	All data center resources and capacity
Use cases	Change management, ticketing, impact analysis, root cause analysis, legal compliance	Asset management, power and environment monitoring, capacity planning, connectivity and port management, visualization
Goals	Better align IT with the business through the product or service delivery lifecycle	Optimize the availability, efficiency, and utilization of the data center

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