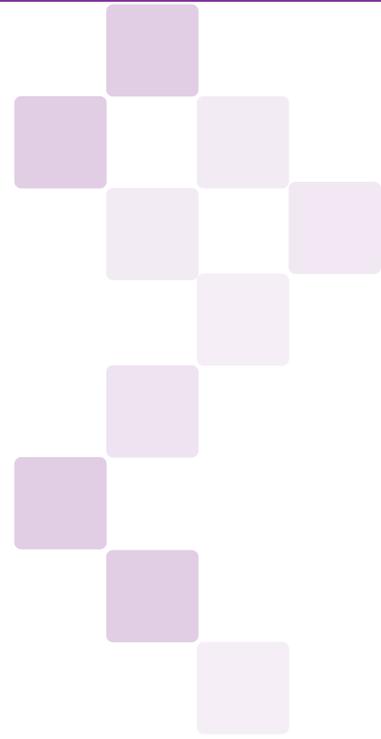


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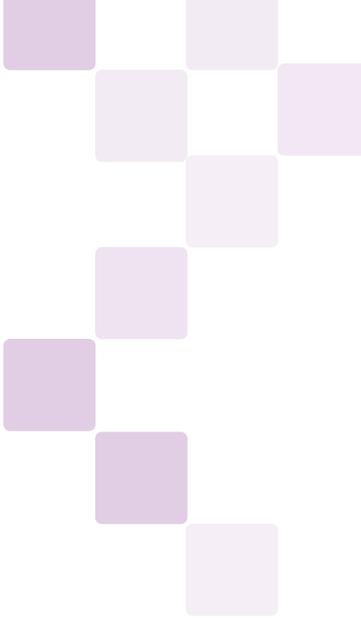
Data Center Audits: Tips and Lessons Learned



Sunbird[®]

DCIM that's easy, fast, and complete

Table of Contents



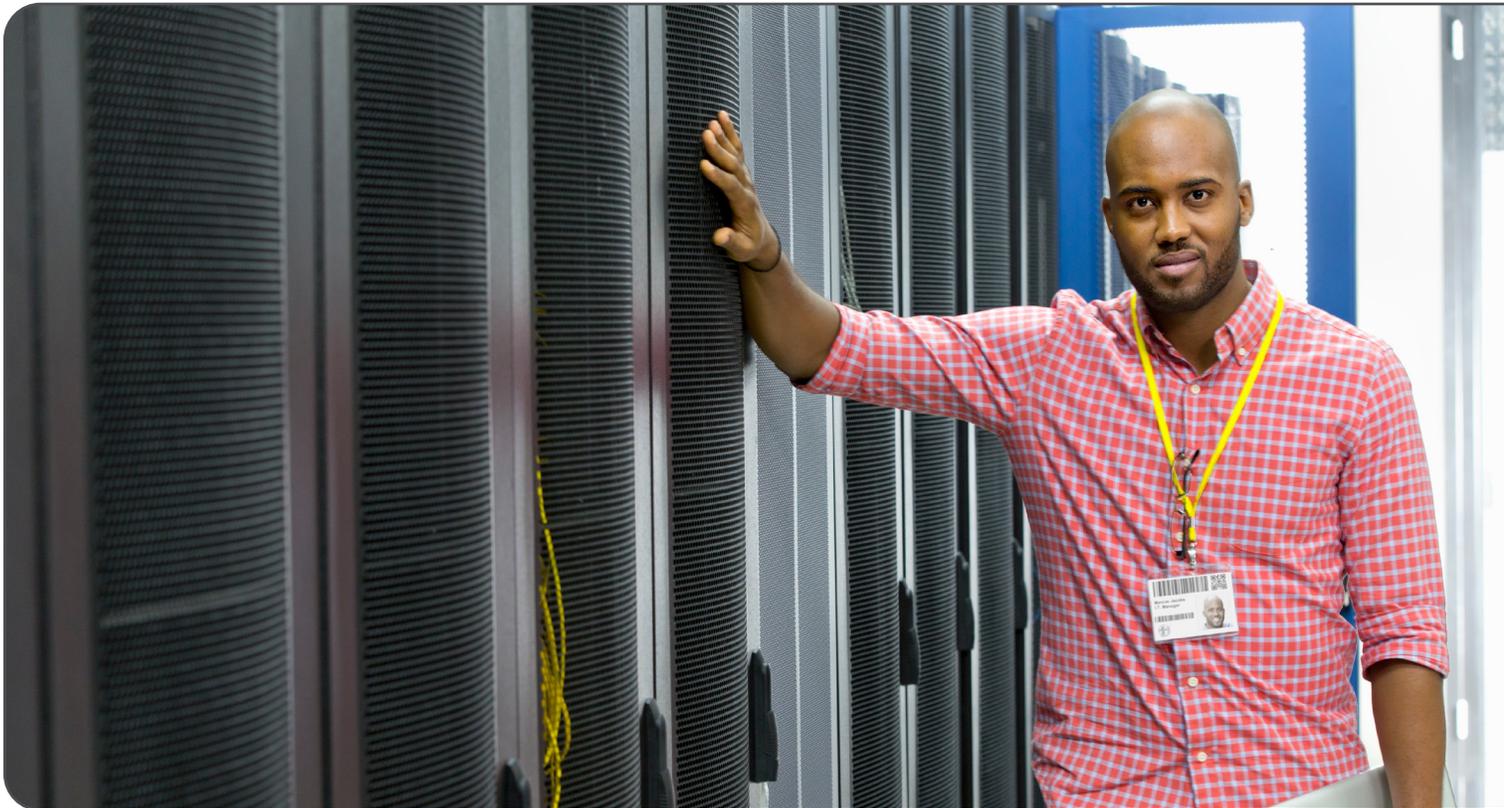
- Introduction.....3
- Why Regular Audits Are Essential.....4
- A Modern Approach: DCIM-Powered Asset Audits.....5
- Insights from Real Data Center Professionals.....6
- Maintaining Data Accuracy Through Process and Technology.....8
- Partnering with Experts: Sunbird Professional Audit Services.....10
- Real-World Customer Case Studies of Managing Technology Assets with Sunbird DCIM11
- Conclusion.....13
- Take the Next Step with Sunbird.....14

Introduction

Every decision in your data center depends on accurate, up-to-date information.

Yet, with the dynamic environments of today's data centers, documentation can quickly fall out of sync with the real world. When data becomes inaccurate, everything from planning to troubleshooting to reporting can be impacted.

In this eBook, we'll provide you with some tips and lessons learned on audits leveraging Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) software.

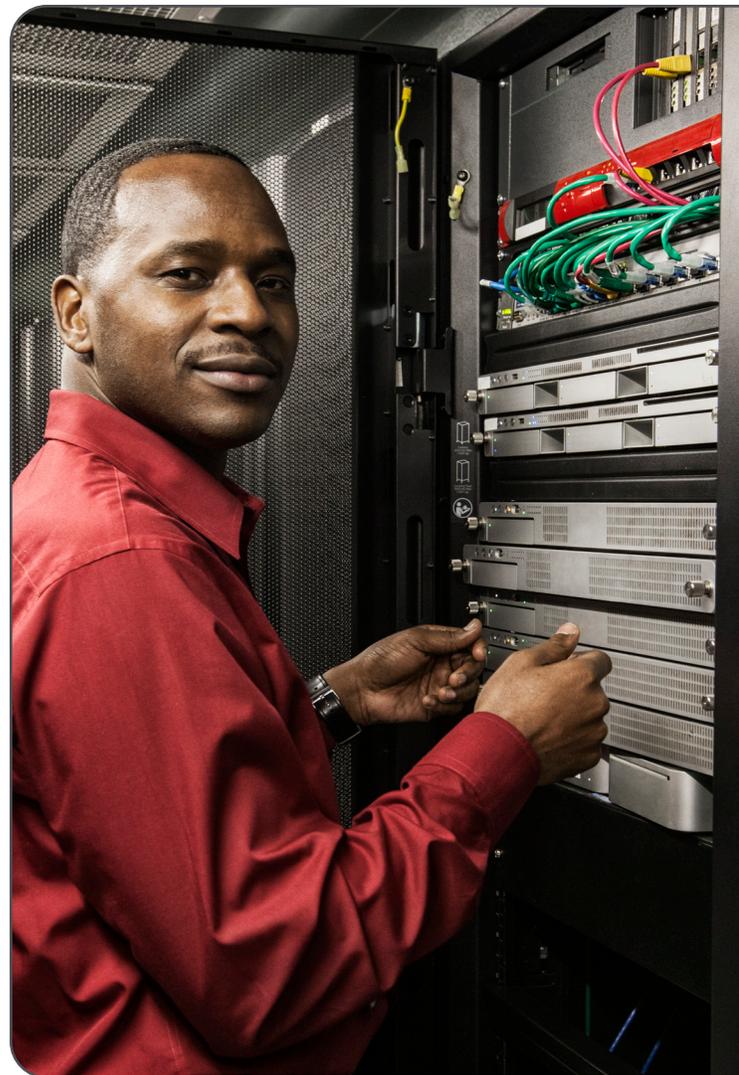


Why Regular Audits Are Essential

Regular audits help keep your documentation current with your actual environment which enables improvements across many aspects of data center management.

Key benefits of regular audits include:

- **Operational efficiency.** Have information you can trust for planning, troubleshooting, and quickly rolling out services.
- **Asset and inventory accuracy.** Ensure records match reality, track assets throughout their lifecycle, and prevent unmanaged sprawl and unknown equipment.
- **Resilience and uptime.** Confirm redundancy, validate backup systems, and identify risks that could impact service-level commitments.
- **Cost control.** Detect idle or underutilized equipment, reduce waste, and avoid unnecessary purchases.
- **Strategic planning.** Use reliable, up-to-date data to guide capacity planning, infrastructure investments, and future expansions.
- **Regulatory compliance.** Ensure adherence to legal requirements and industry standards, such as HIPAA, PCI, and GDPR.

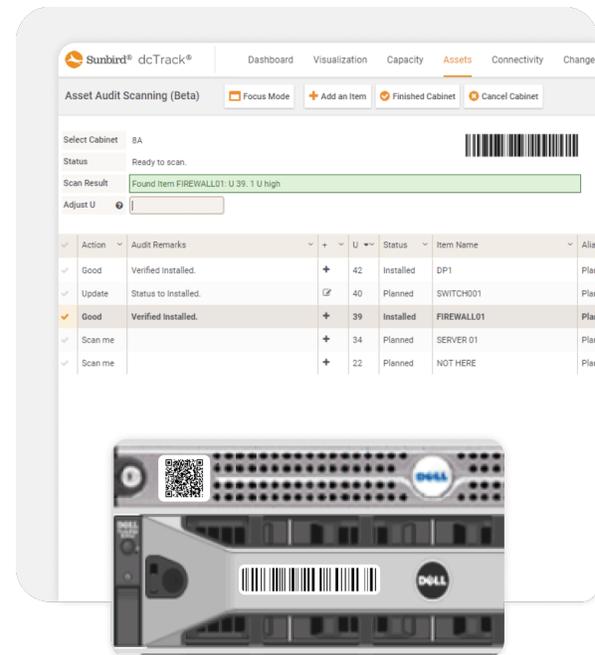


A Modern Approach: DCIM-Powered Asset Audits

DCIM software helps teams conduct audits more efficiently.

With Sunbird DCIM, audit workflows can be completed with less manual effort—often by a single auditor while maintaining a high degree of accuracy. Here’s how it works:

- **Barcode and QR code scanning.** Support for barcode and QR scanning speeds up identification and eliminates manual data entry errors. In addition to asset scanning, scanning the code on a cable brings up its entire circuit trace so you can see where a cable goes end-to-end.
- **Bulk scanning.** Bulk scan pallets of new equipment arriving on the dock to quickly add items to storage for a seamless intake process.
- **Voice-guidance.** As the auditor scans equipment, the system provides a voice response and recommends changes if the scan doesn’t match the database.
- **Instant updates.** If an item is found in a different location than expected, its cabinet and U position can be updated in real time.
- **Automated verification.** As equipment is scanned, the system automatically compares results with the database and creates an exception report so you know what to change.
- **Audit logs.** The system maintains an audit log and timestamp for all asset audit activities to know who audited what equipment and when.



 FROM THE EXPERT:

“I just did a full audit of the 18 racks in our Atlanta data center by myself. It would have probably taken me a day and half to do it manually and make the changes. I did it in 3 hours, a quarter of the time.”



Jim Whittum
Data Center Engineer

Insights From Real Data Center Professionals

At Sunbird, we have the opportunity to engage with leading data center professionals, and through these conversations we've learned their opinions on how to improve audit efficiency, accuracy, and operational visibility.

Key insights from real customers include:

- **Apply tags to all assets.** Ensure all assets have barcodes or QR codes so audits can be performed efficiently and accurately.
- **Establish a repeatable audit process.** Simple, consistent audit procedures reduce errors and ensure all sites are assessed regularly. Start with small, manageable steps and scale up.
- **Update data in real time.** Correct discrepancies as soon as they are discovered to maintain accuracy across systems and prevent errors from propagating.



(continued)

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