

PROJECT CONTROL > IT ASSET AUDIT AND DOCUMENTATION



molex[®]

THE PHYSICAL LAYER SPECIALISTS

Taking control of your IoT strategy

The pressure added by the Internet of Things (IoT) on physical layer assets and data centers means visibility and control are now critical. Many organizations believe they have a complete understanding of the assets that exist in their data centers and IT infrastructures but much of the time they're only seeing part of the picture; it's common for audit teams to uncover more assets than the network owner knew existed.

In an effort to try and maintain up to date infrastructure knowledge, system administrators often maintain complex and disparate documentation of racks, devices, links and network resources under their control. Typically that information is recorded in spreadsheets, which need to be updated every time a change is made.

In theory it's a workable solution but only when *one person* is updating records - add more people working on network Moves, Adds and Changes (MAC) and an accurate profile is impossible.

Without established processes and a solid IT Asset Audit and Documentation system, organizations lack the vital information required to create a scalable foundation for future upgrades and maintenance; IT managers will complain their issues get lost, workloads become duplicated due to the lack of visibility and the problems that people have now will get worse as the infrastructure complexity increases.

Project Control *Multi-site projects made easy!*

It's a reality that dealing with multiple vendors and contractors can mean a project owner loses time in their day that simply cannot be recovered.

Add to that the capabilities void that's left behind when IT and Facilities personnel are asked to travel to site to support remote IT infrastructure builds and you'll perhaps recognize some familiar issues.

These are just two of the reasons we've developed **Project Control** to provide a unique turnkey project management solution for organizations with IT infrastructure deployment programs across multiple sites.

Project Control enables a single point of contact for all of your projects, no matter their location and our proven project management methodology gives you access to live project status updates for each of your sites, 24-7.

From consultancy and design through to vendor management and installation; our fully-accountable service includes staging, commissioning and physical layer rollout services.

Project Control provides a flexible turnkey service, which helps you recover time lost, enables better deployment of internal resources and instantly creates clarity from complexity.



The benefits of an IT Asset Audit and Documentation system

IT Asset Audit and Documentation from Molex empowers managers to make smart decisions and make a business more competitive by enabling evaluation of their IT strengths and weaknesses and identify improvement opportunities. They will know absolutely when they are doing things correctly and can course-correct more quickly if they're not.

Understanding the details of assets, how they are powered and their network connections enables highly accurate capacity planning to the port or rack U level. Critical physical connections can be automatically and easily identified, which reduces the risks of failure. Planning, migrations and changes are easily accomplished and employee productivity dramatically increases as processes and workflows are implemented to ensure stress-free MAC work.

Having a system in place that supports business processes provides a blueprint for new employees and it supports cross-training to minimize business interruption in cases of illness or employee turnover.

Finally, IT Asset Audit and Documentation from Molex can also drive profitability by enabling organizations to discover inefficiencies without sacrificing quality and consistency. Resource waste can be identified, as can areas of neglect. Users maximize the value of everything they do by ensuring it can be leveraged elsewhere, ultimately saving time, effort and cost.

An IT Asset Audit and Documentation system...

- Identifies the physical location, connectivity, dependencies or ownership of any component within seconds across multiple sites
- Automates the creation and maintenance of Visio diagrams covering floor plans, racks, networks, power and single points of failure
- Controls capacity at multiple levels – ports, cards, equipment, space, power, rooms, space, power, storage, firewalls, etc.
- Reduces power consumption by optimizing asset utilization

Adopting a reliable asset management solution will minimize human error. By creating a baseline model library of devices, users can simply drag and drop them into racks in an application to generate rack elevation views (both front and rear) that show clearly what the rack looks like populated with devices. This reduces the opportunities for errors to occur.

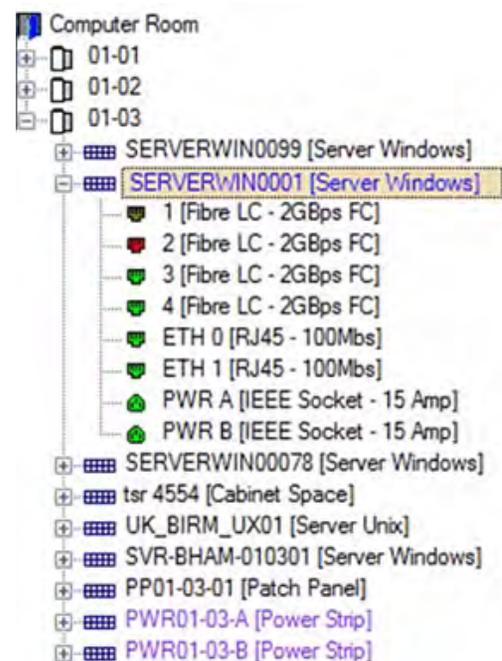


Fig 1.0 Screenshot from the hierarchical view in the application

THE SOLUTION > SPECIALISTS

How does it work?

IT Asset Audit and Documentation from Molex shows the hardware elements of physical layer infrastructure providing accurate intelligence so that Moves, Adds and Changes can be undertaken in an informed and entirely predictable way.

A combination of collected data inputs produces a range of outputs that gives users an accurate understanding of the capacity within a data center or IT infrastructure. Equally, the user might wish to understand space utilization, power connectivity or the impact of changes; the system can produce a variety of Excel abstracts for custom reporting and to help kick-start projects. It can also generate multiple visual outputs, such as floor, rack and network diagrams.

Site audits are common practice when users lack confidence in managing their assets. After an initial audit, we ensure the accuracy of the asset data can be maintained easily. It can dramatically reduce (if not eliminate) future additional site surveys, which means projects can be delivered more quickly.

Automated diagrams make it easy to view interdependencies between components; the system leverages Microsoft Visio to automatically draw diagrams, so, rather than creating a rack schematic manually with Excel or Visio (which would normally take two to three hours), the same task can be accomplished in just a few seconds with a few clicks. The full automation means thousands of rack diagrams can be generated every night.

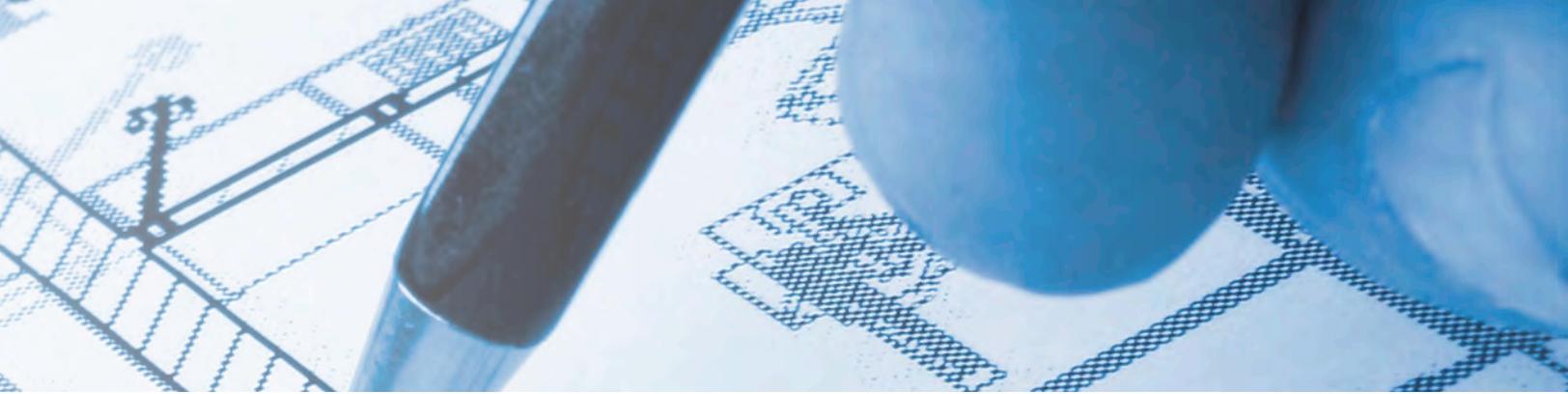
This simple improvement provides an instant way to increase team productivity and reduce project workload.

Is this a discovery engine?

No, IT Asset Audit and Documentation from Molex is not a discovery engine. The promise of discovery engines is that these tools will provide accurate data in real time because of the tool but actually it's the processes and workflows that provide accurate data. It's not good enough to know what you have, you must also know what you have planned and allocated.

A discovery engine verifies the active equipment already installed and in operation but it can't tell you how cabling runs between devices or where a device is located. discovery engines won't discover offline devices and most importantly, they can't identify or report MAC work somebody else has planned and therefore, the consequential risks posed by potential change or disruption.

All in all, discovery engines claim to provide a quick way to get control and understanding across multiple teams and locations but in reality their results are limited by their ability to report on active devices creating yet another set of data needing independent management.

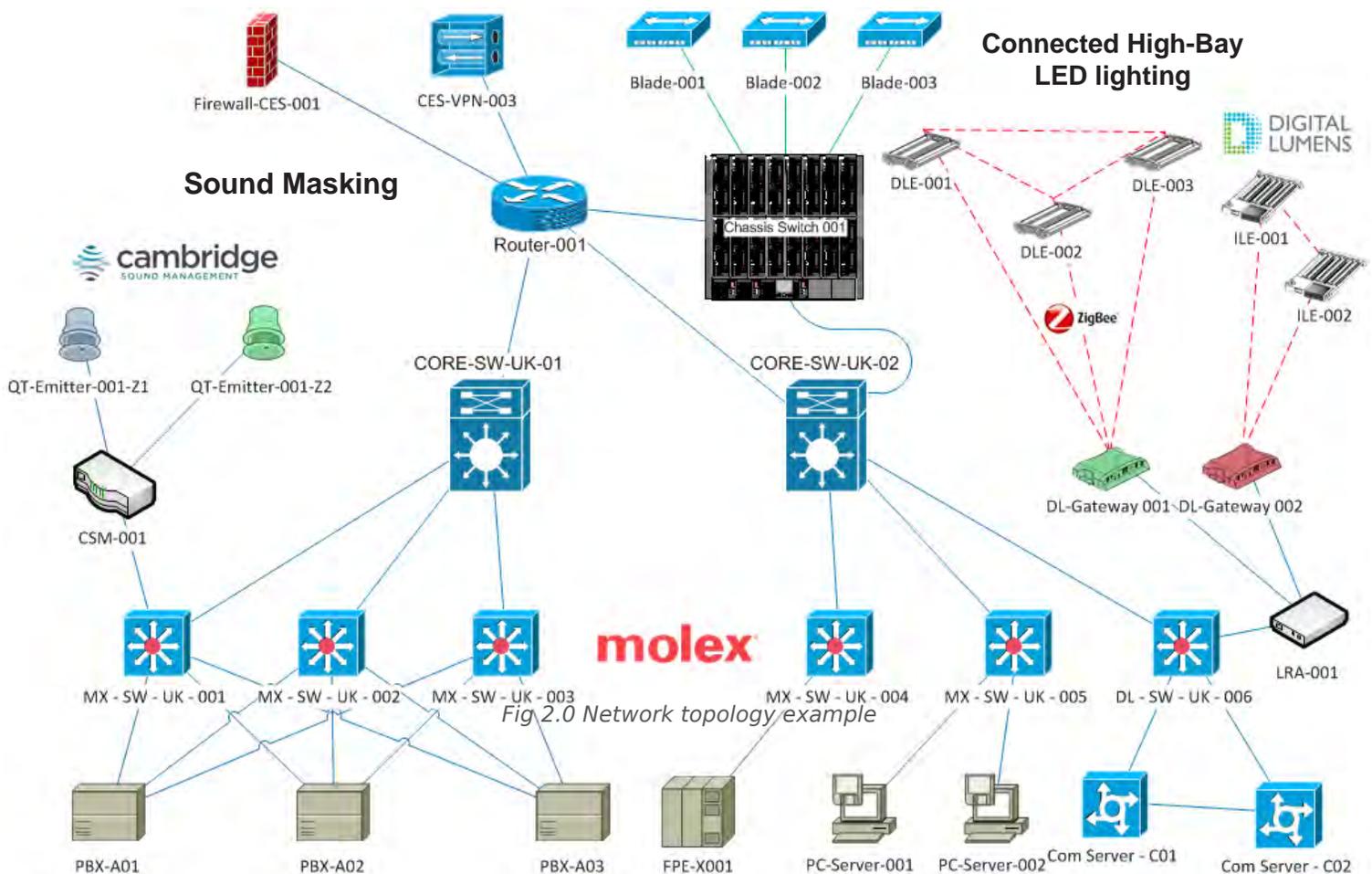


What are the impacts of not implementing an asset management strategy?

It's impossible to manage or plan a data center or physical layer effectively if you can't see what you have - visibility is essential. Without an accurate view of IT infrastructure assets, management decisions could be based on bad or corrupted data.

One-time audits or site surveys profiling a snapshot view of assets lack long-term value. Organizations can optimize efforts and outputs by choosing a robust solution, which efficiently maintains accurate data both today and tomorrow.

With IoT implementations, the impact of a bad asset management can be substantial; when decisions are made based on an inaccurate view of the precise equipment that exists, it creates a false perception of what equipment, power, space, cooling or capacity exists. If a business could fit an extra 10% of kit into the same data center space, then it could extend the life of that facility by another year or two, saving on refurbishment or renting external space. Why would you buy more racks or network switches if you can optimize the existing capacity?



FUTURE-FOCUSED

TODAY

Still doing the same thing and expecting different results?

Home-grown methodologies and spreadsheets documenting IT infrastructure are unlikely to provide accurate reporting or guarantee the sort of reliability organizations need:

- Faults, issues and attacks will always take longer to isolate and fix
- Duplicated effort is likely to occur with every project and task
- Service availability can be disrupted
- Failures can occur because of complexity
- MACs/projects will take longer to implement
- Individuals and teams will get blamed for organizational communication problems
- People and technical resources won't be used efficiently

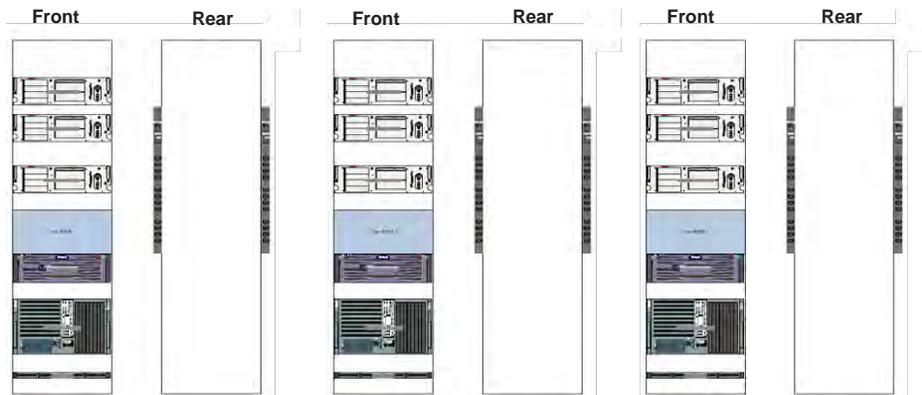


Fig 3.0 Example of a rack layout

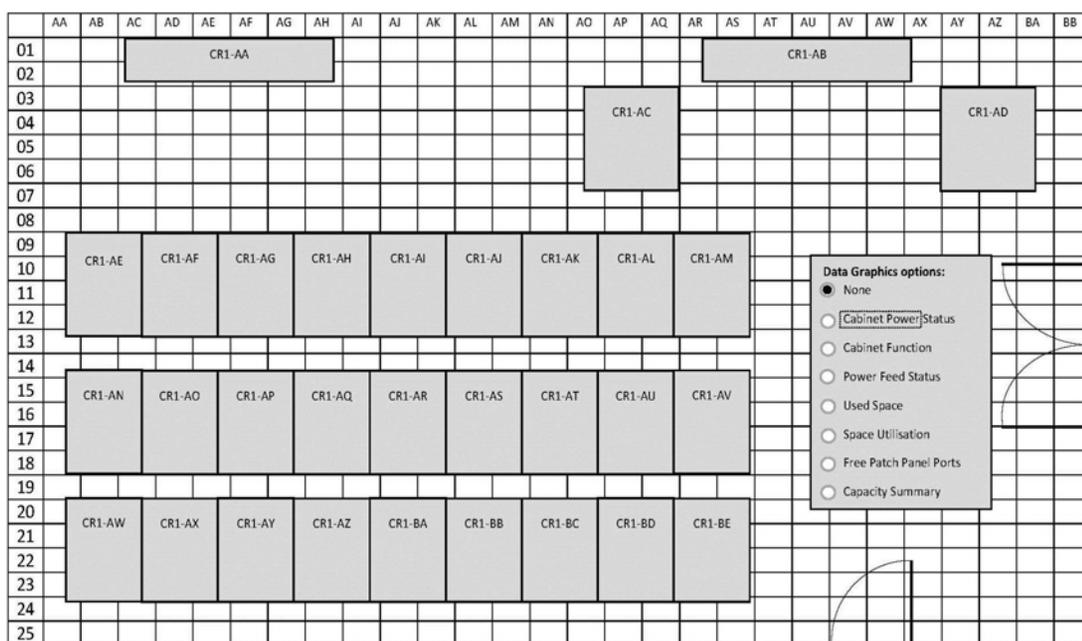


Fig 4.0 Example of a computer room

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