Digitata Networks Reference Case
Controlling the assets you own

The challenges of fixed asset management

Once seen as a Finance function, Fixed Asset Management has evolved to become a critical part of how companies operate. The common challenge for today's companies is accurately keeping track of their fixed assets accumulated across the organisation.

When measuring the benefit and ROI of an asset management system it is important to start off with the question.

"What benefits should our company hope to achieve from this exercise?"

Finance, Procurement, Operations, Logistics, IH&S and Support departments can all benefit from accurate asset tracking within an MNO.

Active network assets

 NetAM

With Digitata Networks' NetAM, depending on the OEM, the live (or active) assets of the RAN, CS-Core, PS-Core and TX network elements are automatically discovered and tracked (additions, deletions and movement). These include different boards or cards installed in the base stations and network controllers. NetAM can also be used to monitor network licences and features.

Passive network assets

 SiteSURV

Digitata Networks' SiteSURV can track passive assets such as air conditioners, generators and rectifiers (using RFID and barcodes). The passive network elements can be correlated to the same topology as active assets in the MNO.

External databases

Digitata Networks' asset management solutions can be integrated into external solutions via an ODBC or API link. These external solutions include ERP systems and warehouse management systems.

Digitata Networks' asset management focus areas

Asset management

- **Asset Survey**
  Asset serial no. (barcode/NFC), verification and condition

- **Asset Tracking**

- **Life Cycle Management**

Health and safety

- **Contractor Profiling**
  Certification, qualification, training and validity

- **Equipment/vehicle register**
  Certification, condition and suitability

- **H&S Survey**
  Site safety inspection, H&S asset status

- **Incident Reporting**

Surveys

- **Deployment/maintenance**
  Site, equipment room, switch centres, O/F route

- **Equip/asset verification**
  W/H, site, installed

Technology/platform-agnostic insight into the complete asset management lifecycle with Digitata Networks' asset management ecosystem

NetAM creates visibility to Network Active Assets by capturing this information in vendor specific formats from the network and converting them into NetAM database specific formats. This data collection activity is performed at least once daily.

For NetAM, the live asset, feature and licence information is collected from the various OEM platforms by either running MML commands on the nodes or extracting information from XML files.

Using APIs, data can be imported from or exported to ERP systems from NetAM. This data is then used to provide a complete picture of the assets in the network and assist with accurate financial reporting on the assets tracked by the NetAM application.

Audit results

During a network audit project for a Tier 1 mobile network operator in Africa, Digitata Networks' asset management solution enabled the operator to:

- match inventory to insurance needs for disaster recovery

- maintain control from an Active X warehouse

- control new site rollout projects in terms of candidates, location survey, site build process, site acceptance as-built documentation and reports

- log and manage site access

- maintain and manage captured data for the purpose of performing historical comparisons

- schedule and maintain the management of assets such as generators, batteries, air conditioners, fuel etc,

Using the asset management system gave the operator full control over thousands of new deployments reducing time, effort and financial risk, which resulted in a

25% reduction in cost

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