



DCIM PROJECT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT

SOLUTION BRIEF

THE CHALLENGE:

How do you simplify the management of large scale, or any scale, deployment of assets in a data center?

Imagine that your business has ordered new servers to support a brand new initiative and the servers will be arriving in the data center in a few weeks.

- How do you know if you have enough power, cooling and space to support the order?
- How will you be sure that your technicians will get the right instructions to rack the servers properly?
- How will you communicate to management the exact impact this new deployment has on the overall health of the datacenter?
- How will you prevent someone else from taking the empty rack space in the meantime?
- How will you track that the work is getting done?

There are many moving parts to any install, move, add or change (IMAC) process in a data center. Keeping everything in order, making sure the work gets done, and avoiding errors is critical when you are changing the parts on an airplane at 30,000 feet. And doesn't it feel that way sometimes when you are managing an active data center?

Unfortunately, most data centers manage the IMAC process using spreadsheets and the back of an envelope plus some duct tape thrown in for good measure (Author's note: the author's car is held together with duct tape, the general purpose solution to most of life's problems). The problem is that it is not realistic to manage a multimillion dollar operation with a few hundred dollars of software. Ask your CEO if he or she would like to run their sales organization without a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system, or manufacturing and finance without an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system.

To be considered "DCIM" software, you must have the ability to offer end-to-end project lifecycle management.

The answer of course is that running those parts of the business without enterprise class software is considered unacceptable. Similarly, companies are now realizing the increasingly critical nature the data center plays in successfully running their day-to-day business operations. As a result they are now treating data center infrastructure management (DCIM) software as a must have requirement.

This is because DCIM software has evolved to the point where it now provides capabilities for managing the end-to-end IMAC lifecycle process. In fact, you can't consider software to be truly "DCIM" if it doesn't provide comprehensive DCIM Project Lifecycle Management.

"The DCIM Project Lifecycle Management functionality allows us to easily orchestrate the end-to-end process for deploying new assets in the data center. It handles prototyping the deployment, verifying the capacity, projecting the impact, reserving the space, generating the work orders and tracking the project to a successful completion. With nlyte 6.2, Nomura gains extended control of our data center projects and decreases the time and cost to deploy hundreds of assets in our data center."

Mark Andrews, Data Center Manager, Nomura

DCIM PROJECT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT



DCIM PROJECT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT: SIMPLIFYING THE END TO END IMAC PROCESS

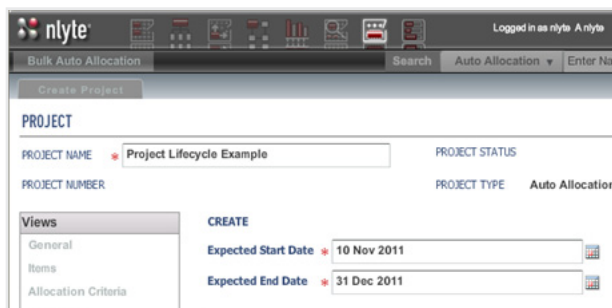
DCIM Project Lifecycle Management orchestrates the end-to-end process for deploying new assets in the data center. It handles prototyping the deployment, verifying the capacity, assessing the impact, reserving the space, generating the work orders and tracking the project to a successful on-time completion.

The nlyte DCIM suite is the only commercial DCIM package that offers true end-to-end DCIM Project Lifecycle Management that automates and integrates each step of the process. The following information walks through the management of a complete project using the nlyte software suite.

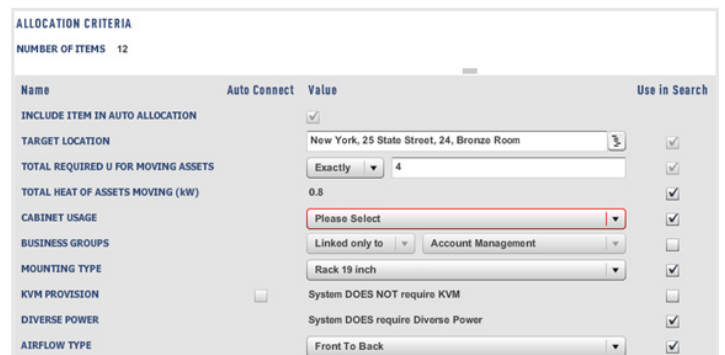
1) Plan your project and prototype asset allocation:



Start by naming your project and specifying the customer and expected start and end dates of your “what-if” scenario.



Select the assets you wish to add, move, remove or duplicate. The nlyte system knows how you have configured systems in the past, so it will make sure that a server that has dual NICs and dual power for example, is properly configured when an install, move, add or change is made.



Next you will set your allocation criteria. For example, if your servers require diverse power, the auto allocate system will make sure to only look in racks that have multiple power sources and will check for diverse power at the power strip, at the circuit breaker, at the PDU etc... across the entire power chain. You control the strictness of the criteria.

100's of servers can be allocated in minutes while also confirming availability of power, cooling, space and physical and logical networks.

The nlyte system will then check for available space, power cooling and physical and logical networks to deploy your assets. It will automatically check to make sure the predicted location meets all of the criteria you set and will show you exactly where servers could be allocated, allocated with warnings or not allocated given the current criteria.

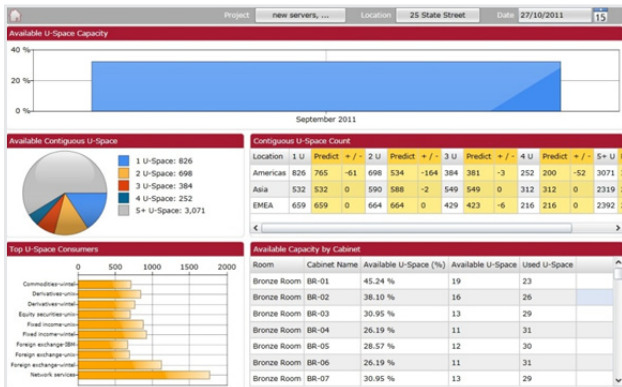
DCIM PROJECT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT

2) Assess the impact of the change:



Once you prototype your project, you can assess the impact that it and other projects will have on the state of your data center. The nlyte dashboards show both the current state of your data center and the delta impact for each prototype. The example shown here presents the current U space utilized in the pie chart and in the table to the right of the pie chart, in yellow, shows the changes in U space that will result from implementing the proposed prototype project.

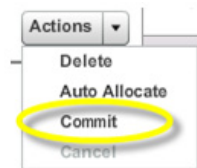
This dashboard is just one example of the views that are automatically generated by nlyte for any proposed prototype project. Additionally, you can visualize the effect of multiple prototype projects in a single dashboard.



3) Commit the project and reserve the space:



Once you have decided to move forward with your prototype project, you will need to reserve the space, power, cooling and network connections. At the push of a button, the nlyte system automatically makes the appropriate reservations so no one else can consume the resources before you have time to implement your project.



DCIM PROJECT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT

4) Generate work orders:



Now that you have committed your project reservation, you will need to provide instructions to your team to rack the new assets properly. The nlyte suite automatically generates precise work orders that describe in detail exactly how a new asset should be racked.

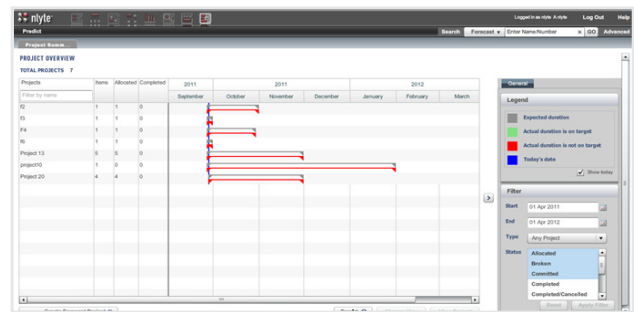
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These work orders can also be passed through the nlyte workflow system (nlyte Control Module) to provide a mechanism to manage the implementation of different kinds of systems (MS Windows or Unix for example) using different processes and approvals.

5) Track Project to an on time completion:



As the work items are completed and each task in nlyte is updated, the system displays a Gantt chart that tracks which tasks are complete, which have yet to be completed and whether or not the project is on track for an on time completion. This entire process is automatically managed for you.



CONCLUSION

nlyte DCIM project lifecycle management allows users to auto-allocate hundreds of assets, easily create what-if models for any number and size of data center projects, automatically convert those models into actionable project plans with associated work orders, and predict the impact those projects have on the availability of power, space, cooling and connectivity. Each model can support moves for hundreds of assets tracked through standard Gantt charts to an on-time project completion. nlyte DCIM project lifecycle management makes it easy to simulate and manage large scale IMACs, technology refreshes, migrations and consolidations and other complex data center projects.

ABOUT NLYTE SOFTWARE

nlyte Software was founded by data center professionals for data center professionals and is the independent provider of DCIM solutions. The nlyte DCIM suite provides the predictive intelligence and management controls needed to achieve smarter, more efficient and highly available data centers. nlyte Software is headquartered in Menlo Park, CA.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.nlyte.com>