Data Center Management Software

Data Center Physical Infrastructure Management™ (DCPIM) software from APC® by Schneider Electric enables you to optimize your energy efficiency, without compromising availability.

Customer Testimonials

“We change configurations in our data center on a weekly basis. The InfraStruXure® system, with its ability to balance loads as we swap servers, battery modules and power modules, helps to make these changes worry-free.”

—Chuck McCann, technical director, Microsoft Technology Center, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

“APC is continually adding new capabilities to its technology, such as its new Capacity and Change Management solution and 3D data centre modeling tools. This really adds another layer of professionalism and added value. No other vendor can compete with that level of innovation.”

—Greg Bourke, managing director, Canberra Data Centres, Canberra, Australia

“Monitoring power and environment at the rack-level helps us avoid downtime. The proactive event notification functionality is a big benefit to us. If a problem exists, we are immediately notified and can work to solve it easily with hot swappable power and battery modules, without having to take down the system.”

—Anthony Sica, director of operations, Shiseido Co. Ltd., Oakland, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Get more information on APC® by Schneider Electric solutions at www.apc.com
Confidently Make Critical Decisions with APC Data Center Management Software

Data Center Physical Infrastructure Management™ (DCPIM) software enables confident decision making and optimal efficiency. No more wasted man hours spent diagnosing problems. No more unplanned downtime. No more delayed server deployment due to the uncertainty of knowing which rack can cool a new, high-density server.

Finally you can virtualize, save energy, and save time.

Using software to control high power densities, you’ll be able to maintain a state of heightened availability and make the best use of your data center resources, eliminating stranded capacity and improving both its operational efficiency and energy efficiency at once.

Additionally, when you implement an APC® by Schneider Electric management software solution in your data center, you’ll facilitate:

- Faster, more intelligent decision making.
- Easy deployment of new hardware.
- The ability to monitor any vendor’s physical layer equipment.
- Improved planning and forecasting capabilities.
- Streamlined inventory management.

With an APC management software solution, you’ll unlock your data center’s capabilities, enabling it to function like the well-oiled machine it was designed to be.

Modeling for Greater Efficiency: From Basic Monitoring to Predictive Simulation

Traditional device-level monitoring systems will only get you so far. When the overall health of your data center depends on your ability to accurately plan and manage change, you need more than educated guesses.

You need a comprehensive system for data center management.

Centralized, real-time monitoring gives you a customizable, single view of all the IT assets in your multi-vendor data center. Then, by integrating the add-on modules, data center managers gain the ability to right-size their environment, proactively solving problems and efficiently managing their inventory.

APC brings you practical management capabilities, no matter where you are in the DCPIM maturity model:

- Device monitoring.
- Centralized monitoring.
- Inventory management.
- Predictive simulation and modeling.

Confidently Make Critical Decisions with APC Data Center Management Software

Device monitoring.
An essential part of any data center, this basic form of monitoring is—on its own—ideal for small applications, but becomes less effective the more your data center grows. see page 4

Centralized monitoring.
InfraStruXure® Central provides real-time visibility into the health of your physical infrastructure, regardless of vendor. With a unified view of all the IT assets, you’ll know the current status of your data center at all times. see page 5

Inventory management.
Change Manager works with InfraStruXure Central to keep track of device properties and physical equipment locations, automatically generating work orders and keeping human error at a minimum. see page 7

Predictive simulation and modeling.
With its sophisticated modeling engine based on real-time data, Capacity Manager proactively analyzes the impact of changes before they occur, enabling informed decision making and enhanced planning. see page 6
Device Monitoring: On the Network, Under Control

APC device monitoring products perform a critical function: they put your data center devices on an IT network using standard IT communication protocols. With a window into the health and status of each IT asset, data center managers can then firmly ensure availability, no matter where on the network they happen to be.

For smaller environments, device monitoring is a solution in itself that’s easily maintained. For larger organizations, however, it’s a key element that will enable such comprehensive management solutions as InfraStruXure® Central.

There are several forms of device management, many of which come pre-installed on APC products, and all of which perform crucial functions for an efficient data center environment:

- Network Management is embedded in many UPSs, as well as power distribution and cooling units, enabling such features as SNMP monitoring, remote shutdown, alerting and alarming, data logging, and environmental monitoring.
- NetBotz® sensors and cameras monitor your devices at both the rack- and room-level, instantly alerting you of any potentially hazardous temperatures, humidity, leaks, and dust, along with a host of other conditions.

InfraStruXure® Central: Enable Visibility Through Centralized Monitoring

Centralized monitoring is the key foundation element for comprehensive data center management, enabling an efficient way for organizations to monitor their company-wide, multi-vendor physical infrastructure.

Using InfraStruXure Central, customers are able to manage all of their data center devices in real-time, from anywhere on the network. And since the information is based on actual data—not the static information used by isolated inventory management tools—you can be certain that your decisions won’t adversely affect system availability.

With a system for centrally monitoring your IT assets, you can enhance your operational efficiency in practical ways:

- Save time by immediately generating reports from any monitored device.
- Give facilities and IT personnel a common language with which to optimize the physical infrastructure.
- Minimize server downtime and increase productivity by enabling personnel to perform key tasks remotely.

Not only does InfraStruXure Central provide data center managers with user-defined reports and graphs, instant fault notification, and temperature monitoring, but the application’s vendor-neutrality means you can apply these benefits to any of your data center equipment through networked SNMP devices.

Check the growing list of equipment validated to work with the latest version of InfraStruXure Central on the APC Web site under “User Manual and Installation Guides – InfraStruXure Central Device Support.”

And if you have a component that’s not currently supported through our formal validation program? No problem—a quick call to our service team will integrate your device in a matter of days.

The greatest benefit, however, is that InfraStruXure Central sets the stage for a unified system of predictive power and cooling management—one that takes the risk out of right sizing your data center.
Capacity Manager:
Predictive Planning for Higher Availability

Understanding the constraints and capabilities of your data center is a necessity. Capacity Manager puts that knowledge at your fingertips, predicting the optimal location for your physical infrastructure and rack-based IT equipment.

With its sophisticated modeling engine based on InfraStruXure® Central’s real-time data, Capacity Manager proactively analyzes the impact of changes before they occur, enabling informed decision making and enhanced planning capabilities. These decisions, based on the availability and requirements of power, cooling, and space, are fused with your own user-defined criteria, such as business grouping or a preferred level of redundancy.

The result: assurance that your physical infrastructure provides the redundancy and availability that you require. Use Capacity Manager to run your data center closer to full load with minimal safety margins:

- Use software to predict placement of equipment based on capacities and constraints to maximize use of your physical infrastructure.
- See your run rate across the entire power train, from the UPS to the rack PDU to the IT equipment.
- Automatically balance your three-phase load rack by rack.

Of course, since the application is fully integrated with Change Manager, once a new piece of equipment is provisioned, Capacity Manager is automatically updated through a common database. And, once installed, customizable views let you check the status of the hardware from any perspective. You can even simulate the de-activation of one or more cooling units to quickly see the impact on surrounding equipment.

Capacity Manager was the recipient of a gold medal from SearchDataCenter.com, which honored the software with its Product of the Year Award for 2007.

Change Manager:
An Integrated Inventory Management System

Every data center needs a process for moves, adds, and changes. Whether you’re installing one server a week or moving a dozen each day, inventory management can be a daunting task to undertake. And yet, knowing where each server is in the context of your infrastructure is absolutely essential.

Change Manager is a full work order system that takes a hands-on approach to inventory management, significantly reducing the potential for downtime by ensuring proper hardware implementation. The application automatically keeps track of device properties and physical equipment location using a data store, so you finally have accurate information any time. And you can even use a scannable barcode system to add new equipment when it arrives using the Mobile Datacenter Assistant.

Simplify your operations and use Change Manager to track and organize your data center assets:

- Stay organized by planning your team’s work using a schedule of changes, tracking changes, due dates, status, and priority.
- Save time and make light work of implementing work orders, carrying out equipment audits, and keeping track of inventory on the move.
- Easily identify new equipment and ensure the integrity of inventory data by adding scannable barcodes to data center hardware.

It’s never been easier to organize your data center. With Change Manager, you can better plan for new equipment by reserving power, cooling, and rack space. Then, once the new hardware is installed, you’ll never again have to ask, “Where is it? What’s it plugged into?” or “What’s cooling it?”

Why? Because Change Manager instantly puts an organized view of your data center right at your fingertips. It’s inventory management, made easy.
The Software Suite: Charting its Capabilities Across the Data Center

Looking for a visual breakdown of the features offered by our integrated software suite? It’s all right here—use this chart to quickly, clearly familiarize yourself with the basic capabilities of InfraStruXure® Central, Capacity Manager, and Change Manager.

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For complete technical specifications and further details on APC products, go to www.apc.com/products

Need design software, too?
InfraStruXure Designer incorporates technical specifications and data on thousands of products, assuring customers that they’re getting the best data center design possible. No more having to interpret engineering diagrams—InfraStruXure Designer gives you a 3-D proposal based on best practices, research, trends and APC’s modular design principle. So increase your speed of deployment, lower the TCO, and reduce the risk of human error—with InfraStruXure Designer, data center design has never been easier.

Data Center Snapshot: Software in Real-Life Applications

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Name: John Smith
Occupation: Data Center Manager
Industry: Communications
Data Center Size: 900 Racks
4,700 Servers
2,900 kW IT Load
Short-term Goal: Maintaining continuous uptime
Long-term Goal: Make the best use of available energy through optimal data center design and efficient equipment
Greatest Challenges: Virtualization, cost efficiencies, frequent hardware changes, and the remote management of multiple sites

> As a data center manager, John uses InfraStruXure® Central-Enterprise to manage a networked company-wide infrastructure, ranging from individual appliances to large data centers, spread over several countries.
> He uses InfraStruXure Central as the centralized repository for critical power, cooling, environmental, and surveillance data and events, which can be accessed by multiple users, from anywhere on the network.
> Using Capacity Manager, he recommends optimal equipment locations based on real-time data, as opposed to the static, nameplate data his former management system used.
> Change Manager automatically generates a work order for each new piece of equipment he scans into the system, and the hand-held device immediately updates the status of the hardware when a task is completed.
> InfraStruXure Central provides real-time monitoring—and if one of the infrastructure devices fails, a user-defined escalation policy is activated, which notifies John of the fault.
> Knowing he’s going to need new servers soon, John uses Change Manager to reserve space, power, and cooling, optimizing the use of his data center assets and ensuring that no other servers are deployed there without his consent.
> John periodically receives user-defined reports and graphs based on current and historic data, which enables him to get an overview of his infrastructure and create trending analysis to highlight potentially hazardous trends.
> To ensure he’s using the best possible data center design, John uses the airflow analysis of Capacity Manager to simulate the cooling capacity of different scenarios.

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Schneider Electric
Critical Power and Cooling Services:
Customize Your Software to Suit Your Business

APC's software services enhance your use of our management tools beginning as early as the installation stage. From there, your products can be quickly configured to suit your specific business needs, enabling you to utilize the product's full capabilities.

Software services include:

> Software Installation.
APC Service Professionals will install and register your newly purchased APC management product.

> Software Configuration.
Quickly and precisely configure the system to suit your specific business needs.

> Network Integration.
Provide planning, design and project management for the integration of APC software into your existing software or system.

> Software Consulting and Enhancement.
Customize our products by working directly with senior software engineers.

> Software Education.
Choose from a robust list of existing curriculums or work with our professional trainers to customize sessions based on your needs—we offer both on-site and remote training services.

> Software Maintenance.
Make sure your investment stays current with ongoing in-depth technical support and access to the latest software updates.

> Remote Monitoring.
Proactive management of your converged IT infrastructure by identifying and resolving day-to-day operational issues.

Looking for more information about one of our products? Curious to see how our solutions work in a real-world environment? Want to see InfraStruXure Central in action?

APC online tools, research guides, and online courses give you all the background you need to make informed decisions and smart investments.

Your Next Steps

CHECK OUT… APC online resources
APC has developed a wealth of online tools to help you clarify your requirements and explore your options:

- TradeOff Tools™
These easy-to-use, Web-based applications enable data center professionals to experiment with various design scenarios, including virtualization, efficiency, and capital costs.
tools.apc.com

- Online Selectors
The APC Online Selector Tools cut right to the chase to recommend the products that best meet your needs, saving you time and hassle.
All the Selector tools are accessed via the “Selectors” tab in the top menu bar at www.apc.com

- Test Drive
See products like InfraStruXure® Central and NetBotz® 500 in action, with live images sent right to your desktop to show you the functions you can expect from our products.
http://testdrive.apc.com/

- Multi-vendor Support
Look for your data center equipment in the ever-growing list of validated support from APC's InfraStruXure Central management software.
http://www.apcmedia.com/salestools/RJE2-7G4FFS_R0_EN.pdf

READ … APC Data Center Science Center research
APC has spent $90 million researching solutions to the most pressing customer problems. Take advantage of more than 100 “must-read” white papers, practical how-to guides, and other thought-leadership publications from the world’s leading R&D center on power, cooling, and physical infrastructure issues.

- Essential NCPI Management Requirements for Next Generation Data Centers (#14)
- Management Strategy for Network-Critical Physical Infrastructure (#100)
- Guidelines for Specification of Data Center Power Density (#120)
- Power and Cooling Capacity Management for Data Centers (#150)

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