



University of Massachusetts Medical Center StruxureWare for Data Centers

Technology. It's ever-changing. Fast-paced. Complex. How can any company or organization, no matter which industry or market, keep up? The answer lies in flexible, adaptable, and agile data center physical infrastructure and real-time management software.

David Plamondon, data center operations architect, agrees. Responsible for the day-to-day operations of University of Massachusetts Medical Center's 5-year-old, 7,500 square foot data center, Plamondon understands the impact of changing technology firsthand. He notes, "Data centers are purpose-built to a specific standard and capacity, which is, for the most part, fixed at a moment in time. The biggest challenges are daily technology changes and having to support the latest and greatest equipment while staying within the original data center design specifications.

"We provide full-hosted IT services to multiple state agencies and business units. Our previous IT infrastructure monitoring either did not exist or was spread across three departments that were all using different tools.

"You can't properly run a data center unless you have a complete picture of what is going on at any one time in either the facilities or IT side of the equation. Having one solution that can combine infrastructure and IT management, as opposed to having multiple individual solutions, was a no-brainer. We also were looking for a useable solution for our inventory management needs. We needed a centralized solution that provided a 'big picture' view.

"Using StruxureWare™ Data Center Expert, we were able to bring all of our power/cooling monitoring needs under one central dashboard. Using StruxureWare Data Center Operation, we were able to have a real-time view of our current data center operating environment so we can better prepare for future needs. Both seamlessly integrated with our

existing hardware. We were already a full APC™ by Schneider Electric™ shop, so taking the next step and going to a Schneider Electric software solution made a lot of sense.

"The Schneider Electric solution has had an impact on facilities, finance, and IT. Facilities gains real-time monitoring and historical data; finance gains the ability to charge customers for actual power usage; and IT gains an infrastructure management and planning solution.

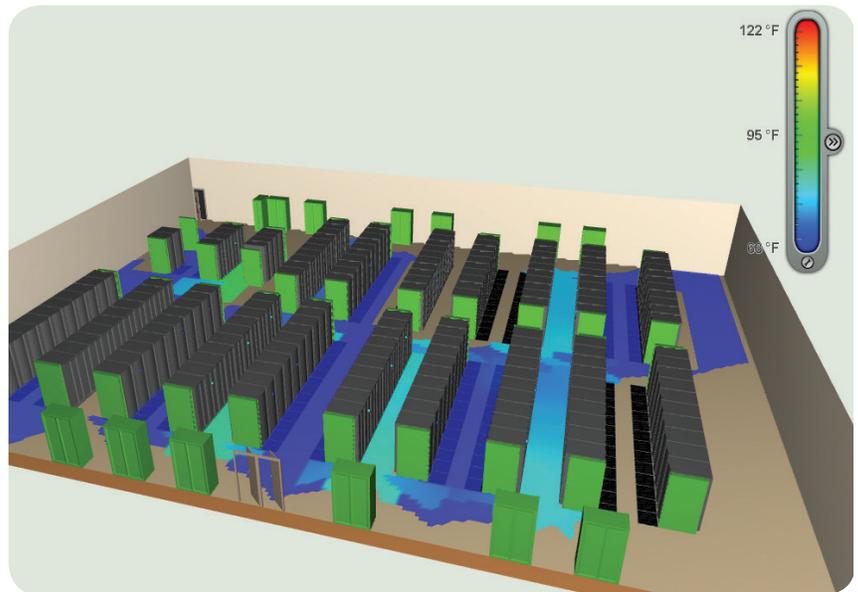
"In the past it was spreadsheets and manual logs! Now, every day I look at my console, which allows me to gauge overall operating conditions and to answer the 'Can we support the new xyz ...?' questions quickly.

"Schneider Electric resolved our immediate need for real-time monitoring and inventory management. Other benefits over time include billing, historical data retention, and the ability to chart progress. For example, we are in the middle of a data center optimization project in which we are actively consolidating physical servers into our new virtual environment. I can gauge progress by charting power usage and open rack space.

"In addition, energy efficiency will always be a driving factor in IT. One of our goals is to operate as efficiently as possible while delivering maximum uptime and reliability. We are always looking for opportunities to increase efficiency without negatively affecting performance. The historical trend data and real-time monitoring that Data Center Expert provides us are invaluable. It allows us to test and directly see the results of those changes. Many companies talk about improving efficiency, but if you can't measure it, where is the value? Schneider Electric products give us the hard data to back that up.

"So far, as part of our data center optimization project, we have been able to reduce our IT energy load by 5 percent. That is a real number that we can show on paper."

By closing gaps between IT and facilities, gaps in documentation related to physical floor space and the location of IT equipment such as servers, storage, and network devices, and gaps in information availability and response time, StruxureWare for Data Centers has helped University of Massachusetts Medical Center keep up — and even anticipate — ever-changing technology requirements.



According to Schneider Electric Software Sales Consultant Bob Quadrini, StruxureWare for Data Centers software has enabled the University of Massachusetts Medical Center to:

- > Reduce the amount of time it takes to plan where to place equipment
- > Shorten the time it takes to respond to events and generate reports
- > Have better visibility into remaining site capacity
- > Potentially offset the need to build new facilities
- > Continually improve converged IT and facilities management
- > Consider turning the data center into a business by hosting other University of Massachusetts entities
- > Improve operational efficiencies



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