SUPERCHARGING YOUR CMDB WITH NLYTE

WHITE PAPER

RICHER, DEEPER INSIGHTS ON YOUR DATA CENTER'S PHYSICAL ASSETS

IT organizations create value by delivering services. They need to continuously monitor the health and capacity of the IT infrastructure that supports the delivery of those services. Without accurate, updated data, they won't be able to efficiently manage their current IT configurations (nor understand underlying costs), let alone effectively plan for growth and change.

Most mature companies have implemented IT Service Management software (e.g., from HP, BMC Software, CA, or ServiceNow) and built at least one **Configuration Management Database (CMDB)** for their asset and configuration data.

They also will have discovered that, while their CMDB is filled with data on their IT assets, **Configuration Management stops at the door to the Data Center.** This vital IT Service Management discipline does not prescribe any specific way to manage the physical assets in the Data Center, and CMDBs built using commercial tools tend to contain little if any information on the physical layer, focusing mainly on the operating system and above.

Historically, in order to populate the CMDB with data / configuration items (CIs) for devices on the network, IT organizations generally use automated Discovery. Discovery software crawls the network and maps the Configuration Items (CIs) it finds, with logical connections to other CIs – e.g., the server chassis, inside of which might be a set of blades, housing virtual servers, and for each server there might be

memory or a number of discs. The result is a database of CIs, but one without reference to the actual physical layout (down to a rack and U location), nor its resource constraints (e.g. power, networking).

Nlyte Software, the leading suite provider of Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) solutions, provides **software connectors**, built on a robust, flexible framework, for leading ITSM platforms and CMDB components to bridge this gap between Configuration Management and the Data Center.

WHAT NLYTE AND CMDB TOGETHER ALLOW YOU TO DO

- Add visual rendering and additional inter-relationship data to your CMDB's pre-existing, structured data.
- More accurately plan for physical capacity:
  - Your CMDB knows what's in your data center, and what resources it needs.
  - Nlyte knows where each asset is, where it is in its lifecycle, and what will replace it and when.
- Conduct more accurate IT Asset Management (ITAM) as Nlyte adds the required physical world attributes which enhance business planning.
- Improve compliance, as Nlyte knows who worked with which assets, when, and where.

THE NLYTE DATA REPOSITORY

The Nlyte data repository provides a significantly deeper view of the physical CIs. The Nlyte repository shows not just what the asset is and what it is connected to, but its precise physical

location and Data Center resource consumption (e.g., power and cooling), its weight, size, shape, how much heat it emits, plus its connectivity and dependencies on other CIs.

On its own, the CMDB does not have the ability to do what-if analysis nor capacity planning which accounts for physical devices and their required resources. However, **when Nlyte is connected to the CMDB, the combined database supports a rigorous planning model**.

Building upon the asset data from the CMDB, Nlyte can visualize a detailed planned move or a what-if scenario. For example, Nlyte can predict how the data center resources will change if a CI is eliminated, moved or added. Nlyte can help assess the risk of any proposed change. Once the change actually is made, Nlyte automatically updates the CMDB. Linking to Nlyte turns a static CMDB into a joint planning tool.

Beyond Configuration Management, the CMDB informs both Change Management and Capacity Management processes when integrated with Nlyte.

NLYTE CONNECTORS BUILT ON A UNIQUE UNIVERSAL FRAMEWORK

Nlyte has a **universal connector framework** that enables the introduction of bi-directional connectors to virtually any CMDB without programming. Nlyte currently offers connectors to the BMC Atrium, HP UCMDB and ServiceNow Configuration Management platforms.

KEY BENEFITS OF NLYTE CMDB CONNECTORS:

- More informed change management decisions, reducing risk through simplified management of moves, adds and changes
- Enriched capacity optimization by linking physical capacity to compute capacity, bringing the physical layer of information into the CMDB.
- Enhanced lifecycle management of an asset by connecting the physical status with the IT and procurement status.
- Reduction of redundant information: securing "one version of the truth."
- Rapid deployment of integration between Nlyte and ITSM CMDB connectors: avoid expensive custom integration development.

DEPLOYMENT OVERVIEW

Implementation begins with an initial load. The administrator reconciles the data between the CMDB and Nlyte's DCIM repository, and then schedules synchronization at a defined interval of the team's choosing.

Organizations that regularly and effectively synchronize their Nlyte and CMDB data will benefit from **a more comprehensive, forward-looking view of their service assets** than would be attainable with the CMDB alone. For more information on leveraging your CMDB by connecting it to the Nlyte platform, contact info@nlyte.com or visit www.nlyte.com.

Simple, flexible connection strategy allows the CMDB to leverage configuration data from the Nlyte DCIM repository.