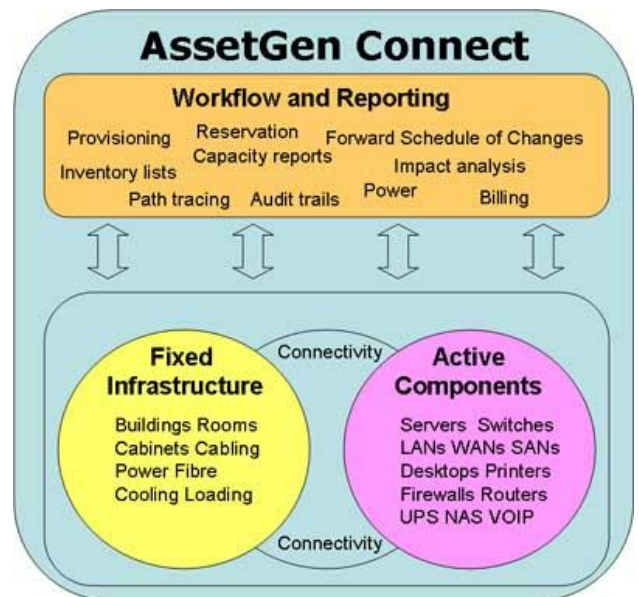


- ✓ IT Equipment, Space and Connectivity Management
- ✓ Optimise and improve capacity planning of physical infrastructure
- ✓ Automated production of equipment room and rack diagrams
- ✓ Extend management controls down to every piece of equipment
- ✓ Bill/chargeback for IT resources provided to business groups/customers

What is an Infrastructure Management Database?

In most enterprises, there are too many sets of data about the infrastructure, often held by different teams and of varying accuracy. Do expensive, skilled IT support staff have to undertake *site surveys, planning meetings, data reconciliation, audits, physical checks and tracing of connectivity* because information is not available or trusted? If a database had all the IT assets, their physical locations, the fixed infrastructure and the connectivity between them then there would be much less effort and more control of end to end services.

AssetGen Connect is the first true infrastructure database that covers all locations, all device types and enables physical connectivity of both power and data to be mapped. At the same time, it enables capacity reporting and viewing not previously possible.



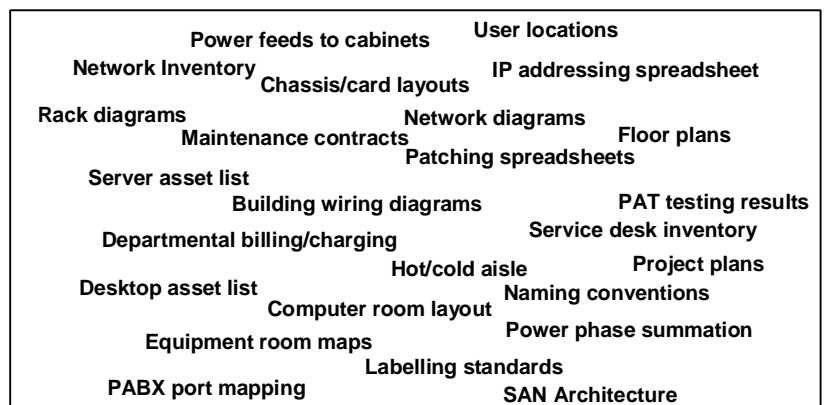
More than just a database

It only takes one unplanned power outage to realise where current knowledge is lacking

It can also provide common workflow for changes and audit trails on the amount and type of change. Depending on your viewpoint, AssetGen Connect could be called a CMDB (Configuration Management Database) for physical infrastructure. It can be extended to support logical service mapping when linked to AssetGen CMDB.

Less Effort, More Information

Information about the current infrastructure is often contained in disparate systems, often maintained manually. A simple way to justify AssetGen Connect is to replace multiple spreadsheets and databases, all with limited coverage, varying accuracy and different terms. Trying to improve service processes becomes impossible as there isn't common data, so reliance is placed on local support staff to cover the gaps. Turning that data into information so it can be used by multiple teams and provide management reporting is a key reason for implementing AssetGen Connect.



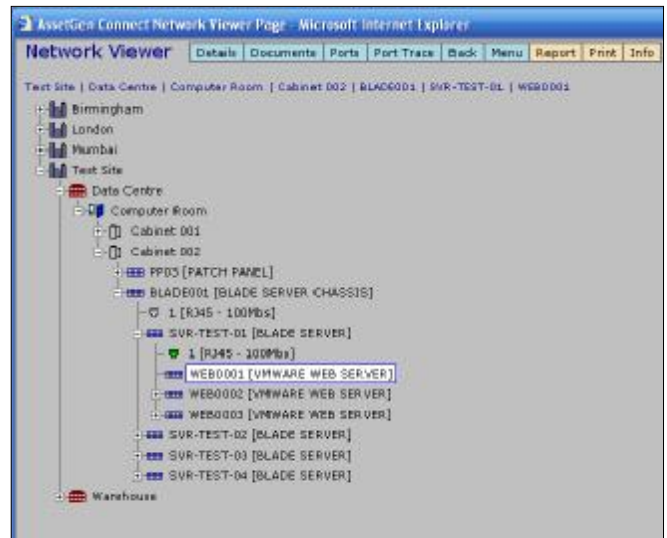
As well as the direct capital cost savings of making optimal use of infrastructure assets, there are the operational cost savings due to faster decision making during incidents, a reduction in mistakes, less need to survey sites and less project discovery meetings. Plus you have a wealth of information to support service delivery processes such as capacity, service, availability, continuity, financial costing and security management. Less effort, more information!

Finding Equipment or Connectivity Quickly

Key to AssetGen Connect is the ability to find and understand equipment or fixed infrastructure quickly. By using the network viewer in the screenshot on the right, you can easily see that:

1. Cabinet 002 in the Computer currently has two pieces of equipment (a patch panel and a blade server chassis)
2. There are 4 blade server cards in the chassis, probably with different OS versions. The chassis management port is not yet connected
3. SVR-TEST-01 has 3 virtual servers running on it, in this case WEB001 – WEB003. It has one network port currently active.

Depending on the requirement, we can easily check and verify the power to the cabinet, where the network connection goes to, and so on.

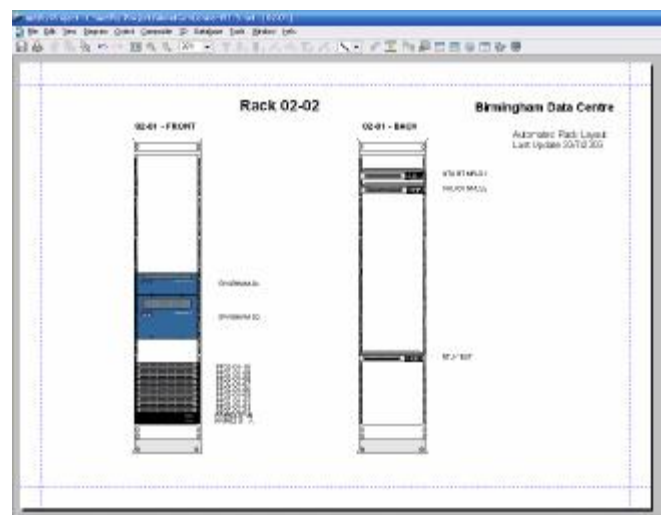


Automated Equipment Rack Layouts

AssetGen Connect can easily produce rack layouts, by linking to a visualisation system. Equipment is placed in the correct position and orientation within racks, so the planning of space is made easier without ever having to visit a site!

To reserve space for a project, a temporary device can be installed with the project name and reference, which then appears automatically within the rack. If you have 100s or 1000s of equipment racks, it is minimal effort to deliver this!

But that is not all – AssetGen will also insert ports underneath under each device, patch panel etc; and connect them so you can “see” both connectivity and the status of each port. You can check end to end paths as all the rack diagrams are linked. In the example on the right, we could drill into a switch and trace all the connections.

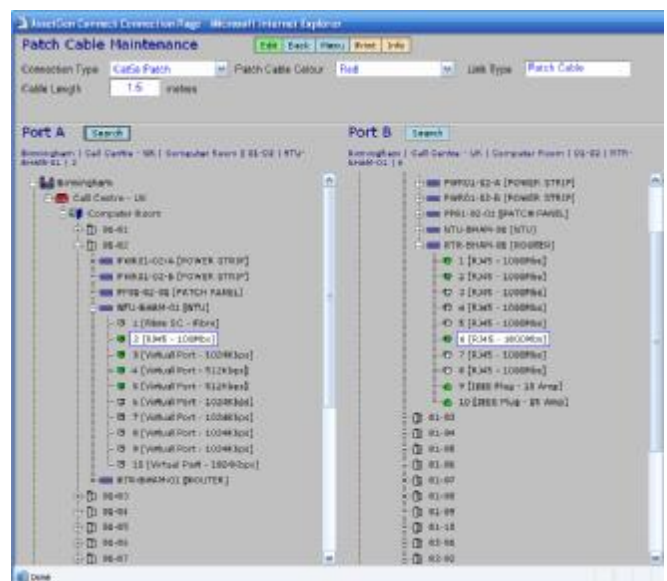


Connecting Devices

A key difference between AssetGen Connect and standard asset packages is the ability to manage connectivity of both data and power cabling. Whereas, commonly, you replicate asset details into multiple spreadsheets and lose track.

In the screenshot on the right, we can see how an NTU (Network Terminating Unit) has a physical port connected to a router, with virtual ports which go to other locations. With multi-hop connection paths, AssetGen Connect works out the end to end path, calculates cable lengths and summarises to make it easy for support staff to locate and verify a link.

When planning connections, you can quickly determine the type and location of spare ports to connect to, reserving or allocating ports manually, or within the work order module.

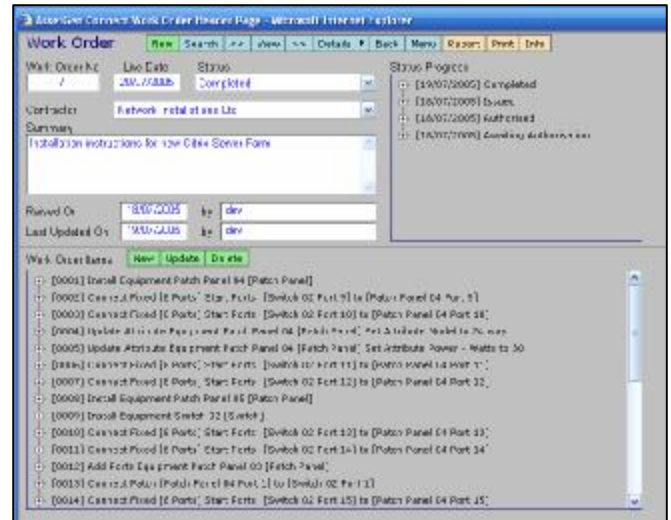


Workflow

In larger environments, project teams are often working independently on delivering hardware and software systems. AssetGen Connect helps to provide and automate the information for the various tasks in a typical project flow cycle, preventing conflicts between project teams.

For example, to install a new set of servers the following tasks will be carried out by project and support teams;

1. Identify existing devices affected, locations, data and power requirements
2. Locate spare equipment, cabling points, network ports, rack space and power feeds
3. Reserve existing equipment or capacity for specific projects, or reserve planned capacity
4. Validate designs by specialist teams or third parties, allowing modifications as required
5. Finalise design(s) and receive authorisation to implement
6. Issue and track work orders, purchase records, project plans and change forms
7. Implement and modify work orders to suit the "as built", to enable project sign off
8. Update asset lists, connectivity, risk register, power, networks, service desk, diagrams and change records
9. Review/report on capacity, numbers/types of changes, spares, repairs, value, maintenance and chargeback



Using AssetGen Connect, much of the workflow is supported directly so operations managers can track progress, validate designs, schedule changes and manage within environmental limits. The screen shot above shows a typical work order that combines new equipment, changes to existing infrastructure and work instructions. Each work order can have attributes to enable tracking against service desk requests, requestors, etc. Only with the extensive base of data within AssetGen Connect can you automate provisioning processes. Less effort, more control!

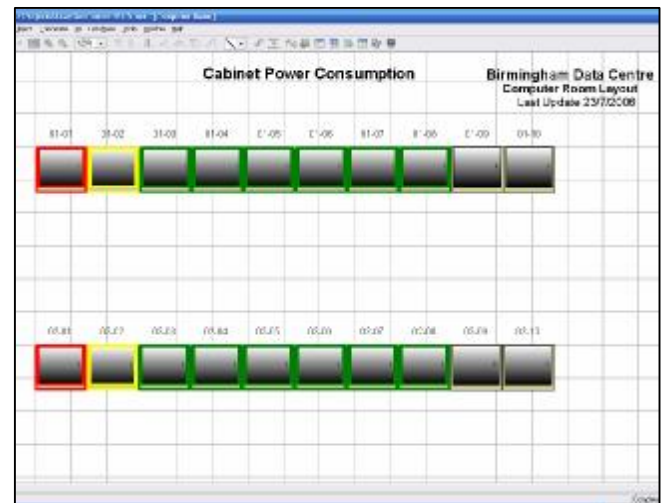
Optimising Data Centre Capacity

Modern technologies require more extensive planning due to the heat and cooling issues of high powered equipment. AssetGen Connect can summarise the power used within cabinets and provide a visual interface such as on the right. In the example screenshot, the cabinets are colour coded against rated limits and displayed on the computer room floor plan. This is a way of turning raw data into useful information.

Or you could show the same floor plan with customers / suppliers / departments colour coded.

Or you could show cabinets coded by the free rack space.

Or you could have all of these as different views of the same infrastructure. As you add or remove equipment, all are updated with no manual intervention. Less effort, less risk!



Reporting

With fixed infrastructure, IT assets and connectivity held within AssetGen Connect – reporting can be as simple or extensive as you wish. An industry standard reporting engine (Crystal Reports) is provided to enable custom reporting in addition to our standard reports. Reports shipped as standard include:

1. Audit trails by device changes and user access
2. Capacity summary of cabinets and spare ports on devices
3. Equipment lists
4. Forward schedule of changes and work orders

More complex reports such as power usage summary, equipment configurations etc. can be easily produced. A simple user interface enables filtering to build specific reports by buildings, equipment, status etc.

AssetGen Connect

The AssetGen Connect architecture is based on an MS SQL Server database, with all user access and administration through a standard web browser. Visualisation of rack layouts and floor plans is provided through additional software if required.

The industry standard MS SQL Server platform ensures integration issues are minimised, where information is to be synchronised with other toolsets such as audit tools and service desks. The same platform is used by AssetGen Sysmap for those organisations wanting a common system to document logical infrastructures and services.

User access via a web interface makes it easy for project teams, service desk staff, suppliers and others to perform an impact or dependency analysis with minimal training. Embedding a link in the existing service desk, monitoring toolsets or change system gives instant access to the knowledge held within the system.

Features Summary

Feature	Details
Equipment / Cabinet	
Covers data centre, equipment room and user location environments	Yes
Easy to use filter for searching, reports etc.	Yes
Numbers of equipment types	Unlimited
User definable attributes/fields for equipment and cabinets	Yes
Templates for common and unique attributes for equipment	Yes
Location hierarchy viewer for finding cabinets, devices, ports	Yes
User definable equipment status	Yes
Search on equipment names, status, attributes	Yes
Support for equipment mounted front/back of cabinets (hot/cold aisle)	Yes
Link existing documents, diagrams, web links to locations, cabinets, devices	Yes
Virtual device and port support (servers, PCs, VPNs)	Yes
Associate existing hardware with AssetGen SysMap for logical mapping	Yes – Requires AssetGen SysMap
Connectivity	
Supports all types of cabling copper, fibre, multilink, power, WAN	Yes
Link through option for end to end path tracing	Yes – set on a per device basis
Supports use of cable colour coding	Yes
Cable length calculations	Yes
Trace path of data or power from end to end	Yes
Administration and Reporting	
Different levels of access	Yes – 4 levels
Audit log of all changes and user activity	Yes
Forward schedule of planned and authorised changes	Yes – using work orders
Custom reports can be added	Yes
Quick reports, suited to current view	Yes
Standard database for integration with other toolsets and data sources	Yes
Import of external data history reports	Yes

Licensing Options

AssetGen Connect is available in three variants:

- Enterprise Unlimited sites and buildings
- Campus Single site, multiple buildings
- Standard Single site and building

There is no limit on the numbers of users, ports or devices being managed. Upgrading between variants is simply a matter of issuing a new licence number. Please contact our Sales Distributor for current pricing and availability.

All trademarks acknowledged

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