

Cisco reduces stranded capacity and consolidates cages with Sunbird DCIM to save money



The Situation

Cisco Systems, Inc. is a Fortune 100 global digital communications technology corporation.

At Cisco, Matt Adkins, Cloud Data Center Engineer, is responsible for monitoring Cisco's deployments of cloud hardware in thousands of racks in colocation cages, where each site can have anywhere from three to 80 cabinets.

Cisco faced challenges managing and getting the most out of their available data center footprint due to a lack of easy-to-access information.

This led to stranded capacity, underutilized power contracts, and unnecessary operational expenses.

The Solution

Cisco implemented Sunbird's DCIM solution, utilizing dcTrack and Power IQ to manage IT assets, optimize space and power, and streamline operations.

"The way we're using dcTrack right now is, in places where we have more than one cage, we're looking at ways to consolidate space and save money," said Adkins.

"In one location, we have three cages, and what we want to do is consolidate them into one cage and close down the other, more expensive cages," said Adkins.

This allows them to end recurring contracts for cages that are no longer needed.

(continued)

"Sunbird makes asset management incredibly easy... I find the visuals to be really, really handy."

Matt Adkins | Cloud Data Center Engineer
Cisco

Customer

Cisco is a Fortune 100 global digital communications technology corporation with thousands of racks of equipment in many colocation cages.

Situation

Cisco wanted to manage and consolidate their data center footprint to reduce stranded capacity, increase efficiency, and save money.

Solution

Cisco implemented Sunbird DCIM to provide digital twin visualization of their sites and more informed capacity planning.

Results

With Sunbird, Cisco achieved cost savings, optimized space and power utilization, improved communication and reporting, and increased operational efficiency.

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“We model everything and put it in dcTrack so we can see where we’ve got our existing deployments,” said Adkins. “I can move equipment from cabinet to cabinet and get approximated power draws to make sure that we’re not going over our cap.”

The visualization and reporting capabilities of Sunbird DCIM were instrumental in these efforts.

“We receive a floor plan from a site called an executive summary. We create a Visio file, convert it to AutoCAD, and use that as a 3D visual for the cage dimensions,” said Adkins. “In dcTrack, we put in the cabinets, fiber tray, power tray, and choose elevations in dcTrack above or below the floor, then model the equipment. Anyone on our operations teams knows the orientation of the equipment and what outlets devices are plugged into just from looking at it.”

The system’s ease of use and ability to manage capacity were also crucial.

“dcTrack allows us to see if we’re not using the total capacity available for each cabinet. Maybe it is less dense with network gear, which takes less power or underutilized compute racks,” said Adkins. “Then, we plan to place more or move equipment into those cabinets and still stay under our contracted power cap with the colo provider, achieving peak efficiency from a power and space perspective.”

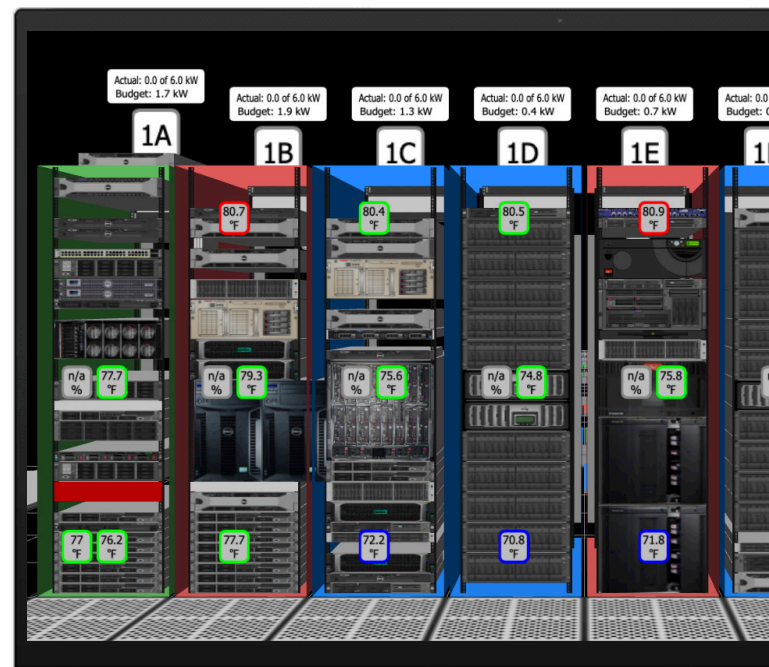
Other highlights for Cisco include integrations with PagerDuty for alarms and Intersight so the data center and computer services teams have matching device data such as host names and serial numbers.

They also enjoy the technical support and knowledge base provided by Sunbird.

“The training videos and Free Weekly Training webinars are wonderful,” said Adkins. “If I ever have a problem where I couldn’t figure something out, I just go to Sunbird’s repository and can train myself. That’s nice because it affords me to do it at any time.”

“A specific example of saved MRC was our last consolidation of three cages into one, for a savings of \$40,000 a month. We are running four current consolidation and migration efforts all with the same savings.”

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The Results



Cost Savings

"A specific example of saved MRC was our last consolidation of three cages into one, for a savings of \$40,000 a month," said Adkins. "We are running four current consolidation and migration efforts all with the same savings."



Optimized Space and Power Utilization

Cisco maximized the use of contracted power and space in their cages. "When we pull a contract for 50kW, but we're only using 35kW, then we're wasting a ton of space. dcTrack helps me use that remaining 15kW inside the cage," said Adkins.



Improved Communication and Reporting

Data center visualization provides clarity for stakeholders. "The best thing about the floor map is that it helps me illustrate to project managers, directors, or anybody else who's not in operations," said Adkins.



Increased Operational Efficiency

Digital twin visualization and capacity planning tools reduced manual tasks and saved time. "Having a digital twin is nice because I don't have to create a \$400 remote hands ticket to measure things or take pictures for me," said Adkins.

Call 732.993.4476 or visit SunbirdDCIM.com

Sunbird Software is changing the way data centers are being managed. With a focus on real user scenarios for real customer problems, we help data center operators manage tasks and processes faster and more efficient than ever before, while saving costs and improving availability. We strive to eliminate the complexity they have been forced to accept from point tools and home grown applications, removing the dependency on emails and spreadsheets to transform the delivery of data center services. Sunbird delivers on this commitment with unexpected simplicity through products that are easy to find, buy, deploy, use, and maintain. Our solutions are rooted in our deep connections with our customers who share best practices and participate in our user groups and product development process.

Based in Piscataway, NJ, Sunbird serves over 2,000 DCIM customers worldwide. For more information, please visit SunbirdDCIM.com.

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