



**The Benefits of Asset  
Management via Network  
Inventory and Managed  
Data Migration**

## Reader ROI

- Acquisitions, mergers, regulatory demands (e.g., Sarbanes–Oxley), and more stringently managed capital budgets are driving the need for network inventory systems.
- One of the traditional problems of upgrading an OSS software platform is that it requires a “leap of faith” to deactivate the old system and turn on the new system.
- Using automated methods to manage the data migration can drive down the cost of computer systems validation.

# The Benefits of Asset Management via Network Inventory and Managed Data Migration

## The state of the industry

The communications industry is becoming increasingly aware of the need for a complete and accurate asset management approach that includes an inventory of not just network hardware, but also access facilities and network utilization.

Asset management can improve your company’s bottom line. Improving asset utilization saves money. And reducing the number of facilities leased from other network providers improves cash flow. As capital spending becomes more carefully managed and the need to move to new technologies becomes more apparent, CapEx spending on legacy equipment becomes even more expensive.

Items that clearly are the focus of an asset management initiative are:

- Network hardware utilization
- Network hardware retirement
- Network hardware returned for reuse
- Network facilities reduced
- Network facilities utilized
- Network facilities compared to provider billing records
- Network optimization

## The current dilemma

Every service provider, whether landline, wireless, or cable, is struggling with the question of when and how to introduce the new-generation systems needed to optimize asset management. These asset management and network inventory projects, because they require large data migration efforts, introduce risks in lost opportunities and lost data. Numerous restarts, lengthy delays, and cost overruns could mean loss of sponsorship and necessary resources.

Failure to understand the data and the underlying business rules is a primary reason for delays and cost overruns. Existing data stores do not have consistent naming, field definitions, and business rules. Legacy data stores, each created for a specific reason, do not complement each other; the data they contain may be suspect—at best.

If data and business rules are not well analyzed, a data migration project may evolve into a program for resolving the fallout after data has been loaded. Systems trying to use the migrated data may fail at a critical time when the data is needed by production systems.

One of the traditional problems of upgrading an OSS software platform is that it requires a “leap of faith” to deactivate the old system and turn on the new system. Many strategies have been tried from “flash” cuts to duplicating the system and running it side by side with the legacy system. These methods have various problems associated with getting data from the current system into the new system. Invariably, there are hidden costs and risks with retrofitting migration utilities, building the migration environment and processes, configuring load tools, building tools to minimize the manual tasks, producing fallout and status reports, and managing the cleanup.

In order to overcome these challenges, a migration strategy needs to provide a comprehensive, flexible, and scalable approach.

## The benefits of managed data migration

The benefits of a managed data migration approach include:

- Rapid deployment reduces time, cost, and risk.
- Focusing on the areas of highest risk and eliminating “non-value-add” activities reduces the overall cost of validation.
- Optimizing development and validation activities to eliminate redundancy shortens time to implement and upgrade systems.
- Designing user acceptance scripts that can be re-used for revalidation and regression testing reduces time and cost of re-validation.
- Optimizing the approach to identify and eliminate issues prior to system release improves overall system quality.

## EMC methodologies

EMC® Consulting draws upon our experience in working with clients in many industries to manage migration projects for our customers. Our consultants have access to proven methods and tools which can accelerate the process. These include:

- Data migration strategies
- Data migration methodologies and scripts
- Network inventory package expertise
- Assessment tools for data quality analysis
- Data reconciliation tools
- Data fallout management tools for data cleanup
- Specialized migration pre-configured toolkits



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