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DATA CENTER SPECIAL

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20 Most Promising Data Center Solution Providers 2017

The data center ecosystem is witnessing more disruptive technology implementations as organizations adopt newer technologies. While virtualization of the IT infrastructure continues steadily in the data center environments, the dominance of big data, Internet of Things and machine learning will continue to fuel innovation in the data center landscape even as data center customers look to reduce the cost incurred on increased compute and storage requirements.

Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) solutions have garnered wide attention as these solutions promise cost savings through streamlined performance of the infrastructure and improved energy management. DCIM transforms data center operations by automatically monitoring and scheduling tasks pertinent to infrastructure, networking, and facilities. It also aids in workflow automation for process tracking and audit trails. Through APIs, DCIM provides operators with a single pane of glass view of the real time information related to asset

management, resource management and forecasting. Besides DCIM, there are solution providers in the market offering intuitive solutions to tackle single point of failure and unplanned downtime in the data center environment.

Interestingly, more number of organizations are looking to outsource their data center requirements by running their business applications on servers which are geographically located in an area that incurs lower maintenance cost due to conducive climate conditions. Organizations are also looking for outsourcing partners who use renewable or alternate sources of energy for lesser carbon footprints.

To help CIOs pick the best solutions to drive their data center ROI, a distinguished panel of CEOs, CIOs, VCs, analysts including CIOReview editorial board has listed 20 companies that are spearheading innovation in the data center arena.

We present to you CIOReview's '20 Most Promising Data Center Solution Providers 2017'.

Sunbird Software, Inc.

recognized by CIOReview magazine as



An annual listing of 20 companies that are at the forefront of providing data center solutions and impacting the marketplace

Company:
Sunbird Software

Description:
Provider of data-center infrastructure management software

Key Person:
Ching-I Hsu
CEO

Website:
sunbirdcim.com

Sunbird Software

Transforming the Way Data Centers Are Managed

Typically, a manager of a 100-rack data center monitors over 17 billion data points annually just for the power supplies for the servers on each rack—excluding additional data points for asset metadata, power, and environmental information. Analyzing these massive datasets to improve data center performance is a herculean task when the data center manager relies on manual tools like Excel and Visio for infrastructure management. Somerset, NJ-based Sunbird Software provides Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) software as an alternative solution for managing data center infrastructure. “Our solution empowers modern data center managers to overcome the limitations of Excel and Visio,” says Ching-I Hsu, CEO of Sunbird Software.

Sunbird’s easily deployable and operable DCIM solution collects information from intelligent rack PDUs, environmental sensors, facility items, and other devices. It displays information on budgeted power capacity, cabinet space, data port usage, and floor space capacity as well as an asset inventory of facility items classified as CRACs, cabinets, data panels, devices, floor PDUs, network items, power outlets, probes, Rack PDUs, and UPSs. Through a set of six preconfigured dashboards and more than 65 widgets, Sunbird’s DCIM solution presents

essential information and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that enables data center managers to know the real-time asset, power, cooling, and environmental statuses of their data center infrastructure.

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Our solution empowers modern data center managers to overcome the limitations of Excel and Visio and boost efficiency and productivity
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“Our dashboard for asset management presents information about the number of assets and breaks down each asset class by attributes like model, cost, age, and class,” says Ching-I Hsu. Data center manager can harness the information to plan maintenance schedules or assess their asset replacement strategies. “Sunbird DCIM enables organizations to not only efficiently manage assets but also to attain energy efficiency. Our power management dashboard plays a crucial role in their efforts,” says Ching-I Hsu. The dashboard for power management provides trending charts that compare actual and budgeted power consumption by either a customer or user-defined thresholds across the entire power chain through the collection of real-time information from any SNMP-enabled device.

Sunbird’s DCIM solution simplifies compliance with

ASHRAE guidelines and assists to avoid costly damage, reduce risk, and prevent overcooling. The solution provides metrics such as temperature, humidity, ΔT , and ΔH within a cabinet. “Sunbird’s thermal-lapse video is an interactive report that helps data center managers maintain uptime and more efficiently use energy and cooling in their data centers,” says Ching-I Hsu.

As Sunbird’s solution seamlessly integrates with third-party tools, clients’ workflow and planning processes are simplified tasks. The change management dashboard displays information on the number of requests, the types of items to be changed, the completion timeline, and the organizational workflow, which data center managers can use to expedite request processing. In one of the implementation highlights, a multi-billion-dollar global food and personal care company had seven data centers worldwide and over 4,000 cabinets. The client was relying on Excel files and Visio drawings, and data collection, analytics, and sharing were the challenges. The client sought a solution to determine and visualize in real time the service impact of all data center incidents. After deploying Sunbird’s multi-user DCIM system, the client could transition to an SQL database and manage data center operations more effectively. Eventually, the client could reduce data collection and reporting times while improving uptime, efficiency, and productivity.

“Sunbird constantly meets with customers to gain useful information, insights, and analytics that drive our product forward,” says Ching-I Hsu. With its set of cutting-edge features and unique approach, Sunbird aims to change the paradigms of the DCIM arena. 



Ching-I Hsu