

Data Center Infrastructure Management Evaluation Checklist



With this Evaluation Guide from CA Technologies, you can build a list of requirements for your DCIM journey. Seek out the answers to these important questions from the DCIM vendors you are evaluating.

Capability	Evaluation Criteria	CA DCIM	Vendor
Architecture and Scalability			
Streamlined Implementation	Does the solution provide auto-discovery via SNMP, WMI, RF Code, and other methods for streamlined asset population?	Yes	
	Does it have automated upload capabilities such as bulk data import?	Yes	
Software Gateway	Does the solution support most device protocols and frameworks out-of-the-box including SNMP, CSV, IPV6, BACnet, Modbus TCP/RTU, WMI, IPMP, EnergyWise, OPC and others, without the need to install, configure, and maintain additional hardware, devices, or appliances?	Yes	
Hardware Agnostic	Does the solution provide integration with any device, sensor, server type, PDU, and BMS also enabling environmental sensing and branch circuit monitoring?	Yes	
	Does it serve to bring a common view across equipment manufacturers so as to maximize the value of DCIM, as opposed to specializing in a particular manufacturer's products?	Yes	
Scalability	Can the solution provide fast response times for short interval data at hyperscale?	Yes	
	Does its data architecture also make for efficient storage by means of interval roll-up and data aggregation?	Yes	
	Can the solution provide scalable real-time data polling and storage capabilities without an additional data-logging device or partner solution?	Yes	
IT Management Integration	Does the solution enable integration with IT management systems such as service desk, workload automation, change management, incident management, and native workflow solutions?	Yes	
Virtual Environment Integration	Does the solution integrate with most web-service enabled virtualization management software, enabling mapping to virtual and physical dependencies?	Yes	
Browser Accessible	Does the vendor offer a browser accessible solution for both on-premises and SaaS options?	Yes	
Multiple-facility Management	Can the solution provide a single view of all data center locations and allow you to drill down to see panels, racks, devices, sub-meters, sensors and scale to support other facility types beyond the data center, such as commercial buildings and manufacturing plants?	Yes	
User Access Rights	Does the solution provide robust access rights and contact-level security for users?	Yes	
Pricing	Does the vendor offer simple pricing that is based either on the number of racks and other floor-mounted assets, or MegaWatt capacity, avoiding confusing and highly variable pricing based on data points, devices, square feet, etc.?	Yes	
IT and Facility Systems Integration	Does the solution provide information by including data from both IT and facility systems and devices, enabling meaningful operational analysis without the need for an additional appliance or product?	Yes	
	Does the solution easily integrate with third-party platforms without the complexities of a proprietary architecture?	Yes	
Converged Capacity Management	Does the vendor offer a solution set that covers IT and data center capacity management, including compute, storage, network, power, space, and cooling?	Yes	

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End-User Functionality			
Capacity Planning	Does the solution provide capacity management including advanced predictive analysis and projections enabling you to better analyze capacity utilization, support service levels, and re-allocate or consolidate resources as needed?	Yes	
Real-time Data Polling and Power Management	Does the solution provide insight into real-time (without a 15 minute delay) component-level information including power via agents already installed on the server with visibility into CPU?	Yes	
	Does the solution provide insight into data center power usage by tapping into meters, sensors and devices in real time to view power, energy, temperature, humidity and more?	Yes	
Configurable Dashboards	Can the solution pull information out of various systems e.g. BMS, HVAC, sensors, servers, applications, etc. and interpret and display the information via a configurable UI?	Yes	
Reporting and Analytics	Can the solution provide you with live reporting, trends and chargeback reports, what-if analysis, scenario planning, and visibility into facility (e.g.power) as well as IT (e.g. workload) related metrics?	Yes	
Inventory and Asset Management	Does the solution provide inventory maintenance tracking, warranty tracking, and reporting so you can manage your hardware assets?	Yes	
BMS Integration	Does the solution integrate with building management systems out of the box?	Yes	
3D Visualization and Thermal Imaging	Does the solution provide 3D and 2D visualization with thermal imaging overlays in real-time and via manual user value input, available for a more rapid understanding of data center assets and conditions?	Yes	
Data Management	Does the solution support historical data and also real-time data polling at various time-intervals like second, minute, or five-minute?	Yes	
Dependency Mapping	Can the solution provide insight into dependencies visually for power, network, and other variables?	Yes	
	Does the solution provide visibility into power, network (copper/fiber), and storage with root-cause and impact analytics in tabular or 3D views?	Yes	
Network Troubleshooting	Can the solution provide network infrastructure monitoring, network connectivity, network paths, and configuration mapping for insight into connectivity to help you troubleshoot issues?	Yes	
Calculation Engine	Can the solution calculate out-of-the-box metrics including PUE, DCiE, SI-EER, CUE, WUE, ERE, IT-PEW, and also allow you to more easily create new calculations for custom metrics to meet internal and external reporting needs?	Yes	
Business Relevant Metrics	Can the solution capture business relevant metrics like energy cost per transaction or other easily customizable metric to help align IT with business services?	Yes	
Multi-tenancy	Does the solution provide multi-tenancy capabilities including user-privileges, role-based application access, role-based report access, and role-based asset visibility?	Yes	
Intelligent Alerting	Does the solution provide alert compression and advanced alerting algorithms including deviation from norm and time over threshold to help reduce false positive alarms?	Yes	
Security and Lighting System Integration	Can you view as well as set up automated actions based on thresholds, workflows, and alarm triggers to remotely control lighting, security and other systems without the need for additional appliances or custom integrations?	Yes	

Vendor Strength

IT Management Organization	Does the vendor have 35+ years of experience in delivering software and solutions across the complete IT and Business Service lifecycle?	Yes
Software Vendor	Is the vendor 100 percent dedicated to software development, delivery, implementation, support and services with no hardware biases?	Yes
Global Organization	Does the vendor have offices, support staff and professional services consultants in convenient locations around the world?	Yes
Industry Analyst Recognition	Is the vendor an established, global player, recognized by industry analyst research firms as a leader in the DCIM field?	Yes



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