



Planet IRM is “Mission Critical” for Data Centers

Planet IRM consolidates infrastructure data, expedites information access and simplifies change management processes.

In order to maintain a competitive edge in the electronic securities and stock trading marketplace, this rapidly expanding trading powerhouse needed to control growth, manage operational risk and institute measurable processes that could be monitored and improved. The company’s management team also understood the need for compliance to corporate governance laws; that asset control was important to maintaining a reliable technology infrastructure; and employees needed systems and tools that transcended organizational changes to efficiently maintain the systems. PLANET IRM was chosen as a solution to help meet these challenges. PLANET IRM’s visual event management capabilities also provided benefits that hadn’t even been considered.

Founded in 1997, this company was a pioneer in providing electronic securities transactions for millions of investors throughout the world. This electronic trading exchange boasts a cutting edge technology infrastructure that is responsible for executing approximately one out of every seven NASDAQ trades. Each day over 270 million trades worth several billion dollars are cleared across their systems. These numbers continue to grow at a blistering rate.

The company’s original data center in NYC started with only a few “baker’s racks” with no more than 50 pieces of network and server equipment. Since beginning operations, message traffic has increased over 2500% and the size of their technology infrastructure has increased by over 500%. PLANET IRM was installed in late 2000 to document and manage a new disaster recovery site in NJ. All equipment rack eleva-

tions, servers, network equipment, connectivity, and circuits were entered and maintained. PLANET IRM was used to manage several hundred installations, moves, adds, and changes (IMACs) each month, support troubleshooting and generate ad hoc management reports.

The use of PLANET IRM allowed the company to consolidate and eliminate different databases and applications. These included Visio for rack elevations and floor plans, several different spreadsheets for connectivity and an Access database for circuits.

“We need access to critical information in minutes, not hours”

In late 2001, the company merged with another trading firm. PLANET IRM was used to help facilitate the consolidation of both companies’ data centers and networks. This included storing the audit results of the new company’s assets and circuits, providing key information for business continuity plans to ensure that no service interruptions occurred during the consolidation, and supporting the design of the new consolidated data center. PLANET IRM also supported the tactical moves of equipment from two old New York City locations to the new data center in New Jersey by generating floor plans, rack elevation diagrams, connectivity reports for electricity and networks, and all appropriate labels.

As the company continues to grow and mature, the technology infrastructure changes to support the expanding needs. The new disaster recovery site was designed and built in central New Jersey with PLANET IRM playing a key role. It’s being used to create the plans to develop alternatives and contingencies.



PLANET IRM's visual capabilities make the work simple and easy with its drag and drop interface. It was used to support the move from the old disaster recovery sites into the new facility.

"PLANET IRM was a great choice for the company. Not only did PLANET IRM meet our immediate needs to increase corporate governance, reduce operational risk and facilitate standard processes, but it also became a critical component to our successful merger, data center consolidation and data center re-location project," states a company spokesperson.

The management team also liked the fact that PLANET IRM can seamlessly integrate with third party help desk and fault management applications like Tivoli and HP OpenView. This allows technicians to instantly find the physical location of any device that generates and alarm.

They were also pleasantly surprised when they learned that technicians were using PLANET IRM as a training tool, making it easy for new hires to become acquainted with the environment and data center management processes.

Before installing PLANET IRM, the company used to maintain critical information through several independent methods. PLANET IRM enabled them to tie all this information together. By utilizing PLANET IRM for the company merger and data center consolidation, the company was able to minimize audit costs and provide a tool to automate many of the manual processes associated with discovery, design, labeling, and work-order generation.

By using PLANET IRM, technicians can access critical information in minutes, not hours. They no longer spend up to 80% of their time rediscovering the network to prepare for IMACs or to troubleshoot problems. They can also easily identify available ports, spare rack space, circuit loads, and connectivity paths.

PLANET IRM has helped the company to meet strategic and tactical goals. It documents the company's dynamic technology infrastructure as it continues to support continued growth and increased shareholder value.

About Planet Associates

Planet Associates, Inc. develops, licenses and supports the PLANET IRM family of physical infrastructure relationship management software products. The company also offers telecommunications administration, physical layer management, system design, inventory, implementation, and documentation services for organizations, consultants and contractors.

PLANET IRM is an extensible foundation technology that serves as the core accounting system for all network management applications.

Tivoli and HP Openview are trademarks of their respective companies.