



Racked Systems Audit

CoreRFID's IT-Tracker™ for Data Centre Assets

RFID provides a reliable, low cost way of auditing data centre technology.

As the range of data devices deployed in data centres grows and the rate of change of servers, storage farms, communications routers and the network interfaces increases it becomes increasingly difficult to keep track of just what is installed where.

Asset registers that depend on paper records are frequently inaccurate. Bar code technology can be used to mark devices but checking bar coded devices can be slow.

One solution is to use RFID technology to identify data centre devices. CoreRFID have created the IT-Tracker™ software system, a quick, low cost way to introduce RFID based IT asset audit applications. PDC significantly improves the control that organisations have over their distributed IT devices.

RFID & Data Centre Management

Today's data centre can be a place of constant change. As data storage needs or processing requirements increase, new devices are introduced. As networks are reconfigured or new sites brought on to the corporate network, routers and network interfaces are brought in or removed. This pattern of constant change is made worse by the swap-out / swap-needed for service maintenance.

As a result it can become difficult to keep track of just which physical devices are located where within the data centre.

Radio frequency identification (RFID) tags offer a simple way to uniquely identify every data centre device. RFID tags are secure and can be permanently attached (with adhesive or mechanically), They are not easily tampered with.

Attaching RFID tags to data centre assets means they can be easily located and checked. The value of RFID in the data centre is already acknowledged by vendors such as IBM and HP, who now offer their systems with tags already attached. CoreRFID's IT Tracker system is a complete solution to the problems of recording and keeping track of RFID tagged IT assets. CoreRFID provide scanners, tags, readers and a proven software system that can be readily integrated with existing asset registration systems.

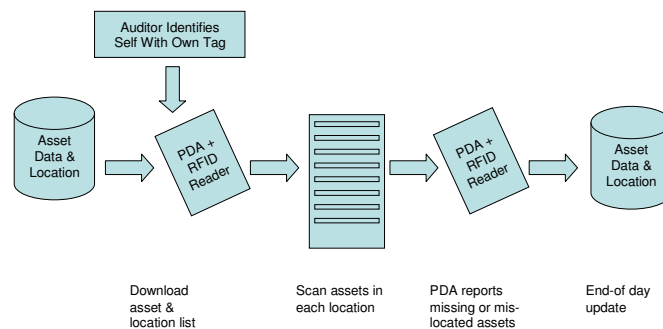


RFID in the data centre speeds the checking of servers and storage devices.

The benefits are *increased accuracy, better accountability and faster audits.*

The IT Tracker Asset Audit System

The system provides a list of the equipment for each data centre area and rack. Devices, racks and cabinets are identified with RFID tags. A hand-held computer or PDA, with an RFID reader, is used to detect which tagged devices are present and which rack or cabinet they are associated with. The PDA indicates missing devices and those present that weren't expected.



Checks in the data centre are carried out following simple, on-screen, menus on the PDA. The customised interface ensures that all processes are completed consistently helping to ensure compliance with ITIL – related processes. Direct entry of data and automatic collection of information from tags improves accuracy and reduces the risk of mistakes.

Both the auditor and the asset are identified during the audit, establishing a clear chain of accountability. Because the asset tag is scanned with a location tag, the risk of mis-locating the asset is removed. IT Tracker can be used for assets inside the data centre and those located around sites in equipment cabinets.

Data is stored locally in the PDA and synchronised with a remote database. This can be done in real time or at the end of day using WiFi or GPRS links. Data entered can update maintenance schedules, asset registers, and configuration lists. Details can also be integrated with databases such as Oracle or Microsoft SQL Server. Core RFID can assist with database integration.

RFID tags are easy to attach and can be reliably fixed to devices. IT Tracker can work with tags fixed by the user and those fitted by the original IT supplier.

IT Tracker is a robust, flexible, system, easy to customise and integrate with existing asset management systems. It can be combined with CoreRFID's portal solution to warn of the unauthorised removal of equipment from a location. The software is fully supported by CoreRFID. CoreRFID advises on selecting appropriate tags, formats for tag coding and the readers best suited to the customer's needs. CoreRFID helps ensure that the right elements are chosen to meet cost and performance requirements.

The Benefits

Deleted: More frequent, regular audits

IT-Tracker in the Data Centre means:

- Less effort for asset audits
- Improved compliance
- More accurate data on rack locations
- Reduced asset audit paperwork
- Increased accountability & reduced human error
- Improved information on configurations and warranty

About CoreRFID

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