

## **Navy Total Asset Life-Cycle Management – Creating Value through Asset Optimization**

In order to receive the maximum return on its IT investments, the Navy must use assets effectively over their life spans. This is a core principle of IT portfolio management and financial administration. Achieving this is difficult due to increased complexity and constant change related to IT assets. IT assets range from physical assets (mainframe systems, servers and non-NMCI desktops), to intangible assets (software licenses and telecom service contracts), to mobile assets (laptops, PDAs, cell phones and pagers). If these assets are improperly managed, it is virtually impossible to put a true value on your technology investments, calculate the return on investment (ROI) and control the cost of ownership.

This topic describes a methodology and tools to optimize the use of the resources within the USN IT environment, track usage and measure the ROI of your systems, whether it is a single-use machine or a complex enterprise system using software and hardware. This discussion focuses on these challenges, and how Computer Associates International, Inc.'s (CA) vision of Asset Optimization—a strategic, integrated approach to asset management—helps to address and overcome those challenges.

### **The essential components of Asset Optimization**

Deployment or **Discovery tools** allow organizations to find all installed assets at any given time. These tools play a major role in understanding location, evidence of usage, configuration, and changes associated with IT assets. Many organizations have discovery tools in place as they provide a large percentage of the harvested information required to manage assets throughout their lifecycle.

Another essential component is the **Service Desk** which assists the user by providing resolution and process for incident management. It provides the necessary elements to manage Installations, Moves, Adds, and Changes (IMAC). By integrating with deployment tools, technicians can derive detailed technical configuration. Integration to an ownership repository allows staff to determine if the asset is due for refresh, is under warranty or even has a service contract. Accessing deployment and ownership information from the Service Desk quickly allows staff to get the end user back to essential productivity.

The **Ownership Repository** is usually the least understood as most organizations tend to have a Help Desk and inventory tools, but have no way of maintaining ownership of asset information required for mission critical financial and contractual decisions concerning IT assets. Tracking ownership information provides contractual, inventory, licensing, and legal information that enable the group to support the entire process of owning and managing assets. Having access to budgeting, costs, forecasting, vendor negotiations and invoice

validation will allow the organization to prove they are fully supporting the assigned tasks with the assets given.

Each repository provides value on its own, but by integrating them greater efficiencies can be derived. That integration should reflect business goals and strategies in order to maximize efficiencies, avoids being out of compliance, avoid supporting unused assets, and allows organizations to fully use negotiated contractual rights.

### **In Conclusion**

IT Asset Management should be treated as a disciplined, logical process used to manage non-NMCI infrastructure. By using this approach, Navy organizations can gain a powerful, completely adaptive solution to better support constituents. It will also enable them to more efficiently accomplish goals, and actually prove they are using the assets which they have been given with greater assiduity.