

Development and Implementation of an Internal Asset Tracking Software

Kushal M. Aurangabadkar, David M. Spies, James C. Roebuck, Shanna Leonard, Alexandra M. Armenta, Debra A. Stern, John Gross, Elizabeth Beckett-Firmage, Francisco A. Garcia, Mari S. Wilhelm, and Fernando D. Martinez

Arizona Study Center, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Introduction: The National Children's Study (NCS) involves the management of hardware, software, peripheral devices, licenses and systems by field and central office staff. Thus, the center faced the need for a dependable asset tracking system in order to avoid the loss of assets and to track current configurations, assignments, and status.

Existing open-source asset tracking packages, could not integrate into our IMS. This was necessary to track the assignment of computers to field staff in a timely manner. Also our solution allows the flexibility to track both software and hardware assets and relationships between assets, such as service contracts linked to multiple hardware devices, this capability was absent in the products we evaluated

Methods: The Informatics team at the Arizona study center interviewed stakeholders to understand the purchase, distribution, allocation and assignment of the assets to various NCS staff members. The analysis from these interviews helped the team to build a software design model that allows each department or organization the flexibility to track assets based on their required business logic.

Results: The software provides facilities like assigning unique identifiers to all assets, categorizing assets, dynamically adding asset properties, associating various assets with each other, tracking assignment to staff, and tracking the location of assets. The software is integrated into the current IMS, and flexible enough to be developed into an independent module.