Asset Audit

Company profile

The company is a very large data center, spread across multiple floors with a large number of high-end servers, switches and other expensive hardware, having more than 99.9% up time achieved. This company has attained a very good customer base as well.

Business situation

- As the servers were stacked close to each other in large racks, there existed a substandard situation where the barcodes cannot be scanned in such narrow spaces.

- Also the regular RFID tags would not work on metal surfaces and tags embedded in plastic cases are thick

- Physical count of tall server racks not a feasible activity and therefore asset auditing had become a major challenge.

Solution

- Sameva along with its RFID technology partner came up with an enactment i.e., RFID metal mount tags, which are thin and works on metal surfaces instead of regular RFID approach. This method has the ability to work in offline mode after syncing the data due to data security reasons along with built-in option for auditing for a specific room or section to avoid large unused data sitting on readers.

- This solution would also create the ability to add assets on the fly for new assets added and also to make necessary inventory moves in the application for assets that are of different.

Asset tracking and auditing poses many challenges when we talk about auditing data centers. The application need to be able to handle very high concentration of tags at a specific place and able to parse them in real time. Many a times a component or server is replaced if it fails without making a note in the inventory register. Sometimes there might be a server moved from a different location. All these cases are very common in such places. Over and above these, there is also issue regarding the data security.

The mobile application designed was capable of syncing only the specific data relating to a specific section being audited. Hence unnecessary accumulation of data on the mobile device was reduced. This optimization gives scope for the application to work faster.

The data can be synced at the end of completing one round of audit. The result of audit can be seen in the mobile device which would show what was expected, found, missing, difference and also new and unknown assets for that location.

New assets that were added could be assigned to an item definition on the fly and this information would reflect on the server once the details were synced.

Benefits

- Auditing process could be done in minutes since the RFID tags could be read from a distance and read accuracy was very high

- Adding new assets could be done on the fly during audit process

- Asset moved from different location could be identified and if needed re-assignment of location to that asset could also be done on fly

- Entire workflow was very easy to understand and steps were minimum

- Since the application was working in offline mode without need of network during audit process, the issue of data security was also resolved.