

# Using a CM Tool for Asset Management

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## Introduction

- Since 1996 I've specialised in Configuration Management. On a number of occasions I've been asked to use the CM system to do Asset Management.....
- My background

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## Main Themes

- Drivers for CM Tool Usage
- Well it's got a lifecycle hasn't it
- That ol' spreadsheet
- CM Tool evolution
- Three examples
- Service Management Toolsets

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## Drivers for CM Tool Usage for Asset Management

- Tool is already there
- Relative ubiquity
- End-to-End Configuration  
Management
- Reducing Hidden Costs
- Sharing information

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## Assets have Lifecycles

- CM can trace its origins to hardware
- Assets often have a longer lifecycle than software items
- Many CM Tools offer poor support for lifecycles

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## That ol' Spreadsheet

- Doing CM unconsciously
- Delivery and Payment Scheduling
- Often both intricate and ingenious
- Treasured repositories
- Difficult to reproduce
- Versioning and Commenting

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## CM Tool Evolution

- Specifically PCMS/PVCS Dimensions/Serena Dimensions
- Originated in late 1980's
- Change Driven
- Originally hardware oriented
- Sold as tool for Application Lifecycle Management

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## Three Examples

- Big Pharma
- A managed service for Government
- Small steps with big datacentres

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## Big Pharma

- Simple Inventory Management System for Y2K/EMU
- Used PVCS Process Manager 4.4.3.2
- Used a special item-type lifecycle to represent baseline lifecycles
- Simplified Validation and Compliance

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## Managed Service for Government

- Used Version 7 of PVCS Dimensions
- Used Item Templates, Valid Sets, Attributes and Lifecycles
- Initially driven by Financial Requirements
- NB CM Function Reported to PMO

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## Small Steps with Big Datacentres

- Client managed 10-year programme
- Over 1200 servers in two datacentres
- Specific Requirements for Contract Termination
- Used Dimensions version 8
- Redefinition of “CMDB” project

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## Service Management Toolsets

- Developing Lifecycle Management
- Gaining Version Management Capabilities
- Entering the CM space

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