

Avocent's CTO Ben Grimes reports the top three trends that will dominate

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1. Centralised, automated asset management - Due to compliance needs and declining budgets, IT leaders will automate their company's entire asset lifecycle across the enterprise. This means integrating physical, and software related assets – including logical, contractual, and financial data in order to facilitate IT business planning and to manage technical standards, and acquire and deploy and retire assets. This kind of asset management goes beyond what most companies do today – but that is changing! This is driven by a need to view and manage that information together in one place.

2. Power Management – IT's role toward social responsibility will take a back seat to saving on enterprise money. While it is green to conserve – it is just as important in cutting the power and cooling bill in the data centre. Power strips or intelligent PDUs that monitor consumption at the outlet level will help IT identify wasted capacity that can be used for future growth. In addition, measuring down to the device level provides the ability track usage/ cost to implement chargeback policies to divide their overall cost against the business demands of the departments they support.

3. Managing Complexity - The adoption of virtualisation technology is growing because it can offset increasing hardware and power costs, but it brings additional management challenges. In 2009, IT administrators will be looking for cost effective tools to manage the most complex issues within their environment -- power and virtualisation. For example, virtual servers are easy to deploy which can lead to inaccurate license counts, inaccurate asset information, and wasted processing cycles for unused or "lost" virtual machines. The companies with even mid-sized data centres will look to manage virtual and traditional physical servers in a more integrated way, using new software platforms that do this. Since single-vendor environments are rare - finding virtualisation and data centre management software that allows IT to manage heterogeneous hardware in a data centre is key.

Note to editors:

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