UT10430 - Panel Discussion: Approaches to Field Asset Management

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This class will present attendees with a solid understanding from several customer experiences with field asset management and mobile inspection software. In collaboration with a number of customers in the utilities (electric, water, communications, and gas), we will discuss field asset issues and solutions for utilities including:

- Field inspections and data collection
- Image and content capture for ReCap 360 software models directly from the field
- Integration and synchronization with enterprise databases, including GIS
- Training and human factors for field workers
- Best practices for IT requirements, including integration standards and security
Key learning objectives

At the end of this class, we will have discussed:

- Customer stories related to integrating mobile inspection for field assets
- Discuss the business needs through out the industry
- Use of various technologies for mobile inspection
- Best practices and practical approaches to developing, maintaining, and synchronizing data across multiple systems
- The value-added workflow by using APIs to synchronize field asset data
Introductions
Panelists

- Curtis Folgelman
  - GIS Manager, City of Alexandria
- Deeter Smith
  - GIS Administrator, Okaloosa Gas
- Tom Wilga
  - GIS Coordinator and Field Inspection, Welland Hydro
- Saath Koy
  - Assets and Records Control, First Energy
- Krupesh Kakkente
  - BIM 360 Technology Advisor, CADsoft Consulting
Field Asset Management
Current State of Field Asset Management and Inspection

- Mixed use of applications, hardware, and paper
- Connectivity to main database is varied
  - Wireless
  - Connection not available
- Input can vary between field workers
- Training on technology applications can have mixed results
Challenges in the Business Process

- Regulatory changes
  - Mandates from various agencies
  - Changes for assets as well as process being used to inspect
- Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Damage assessment
  - Immediate need for complete picture
- Liability Changes and Requirements
Technology Deployment Changes

- Cloud computing enabling more in the field
- Rapid deployment of flexible inspection processes
  - Quickly add and adjust functionality
- Cost-effectiveness for IT investment
  - Dramatically reduced overhead
  - Limited IT management
- Security concerns
  - How to address them
  - Best Practices
Technology Platform Changes

- Mobility is key
- Everyone has a supercomputer in their hand
  - Can capture wide range of data at very low cost
- Abundant connectivity options
  - Most above ground assets can easily be inspected while connected (except in emergency situations)
- Ability to capture mostly accurate location
- Capture imagery and other details in very easy to use screens
Business Requirements and Mandates
What was the business need that made mobile inspection an urgent requirement?

- Government Mandate
- Inspections need to be consistent
- Renewable Business practices
Details of Inspection Tools
Current Practices

What are the current tools you are using in your inspection process?

- Is it consistent?
- Is it mobile?
- Is it integrated?
What is the goal of your organization for the future of the inspection process?

- Does the process produce consistent data?
- Are the crews able to access data mobility?
- Is it integrated?
What improvements has automation brought to your inspection process?

- Data Availability
- Data Accuracy
- Consistent Reporting
- Streamlined Process
The Future of Making Things
Looking Forward

What is the future you foresee for this technology?

- Mobility Requirements
- Data Gathering
- Reduced level of effort