HP Universal CMDB

HP Universal CMDB is a configuration management database (CMDB) for enterprise IT organizations to document and store the business service definitions and associated infrastructure relationships.

Data sheet

Many IT organizations turn to a CMDB to create a shared single version of truth to support business service management, IT Service Management, change management, and asset management initiatives. These initiatives help align IT efforts with business requirements and run IT operations more efficiently and effectively.

The success depends on the CMDB that provides a complete view into the configuration items (CIs) and the interdependencies of how various IT elements relate together to deliver the business service.

How it works

The foundation of the Universal CMDB is based on three key elements: a rich data model, visualization, and federation to additional data repositories. The Universal CMDB provides impact analysis, change tracking, and reporting capabilities to transform CMDB data into comprehensible, actionable information that helps answer critical questions and solve business problems.

Most importantly, the HP Universal CMDB provides other IT solutions both service context and CI-level information. These solutions not only include HP offerings, but also a broad range of third-party solutions.

Data model

At the core of the HP Universal CMDB is a rich data model that supports both physical elements, such as servers, network, storage, and software, and logical elements—such as business services, virtual private networks (VPNs), end users, and service-level agreements—necessary to map fully the business service infrastructure.

This, along with the data model's built-in support for automatically modeling the complex relationships between these elements, provides a strong foundation for HP Universal CMDB. This data model is populated automatically and maintained through HP Discovery and Dependency Mapping software. The HP Universal CMDB and HP Discovery and Dependency Mapping products share the same DNA and use the same data model so integration is seamless. The data model can be extended to support new data types and attributes.

Visualization and mapping

It is necessary to visualize CMDB data in easy-to-understand maps so that multiple audiences can use the information effectively. This enables effective collaboration between teams that leverage the CMDB and accelerates problem resolution. The Universal CMDB Modeling Studio provides out-of-the-box and customizable ways to visualize infrastructure in a logical and intuitive manner.

Data federation

Because valuable data resides in multiple data repositories, the Universal CMDB has federation and reconciliation capabilities that enable businesses to leverage existing data stores. The HP Universal CMDB Integration Studio is a graphical user interface that allows CMDB teams to use drag-and-drop icons to enable integration, federation, and reconciliation across diverse data sets. These capabilities allow users to search and utilize data without needing to understand exactly where it resides or the technology behind accessing it.

Analytics

HP Universal CMDB's Topology Query Language (TQL) provides an analytic capability designed to take advantage of Universal CMDB's dependency mapping and visualization to support custom query-based analysis. TQL provides an object-oriented framework for describing applications and business services, and includes both physical and logical objects, their attributes, and their relationships to one another. In this way, TQL enables the creation of graphical views designed to capture relevant interdependencies across IT services, applications, and infrastructure CI groups. Users can define queries and report options through a drag-and-drop graphical "query-by-example" style manager. This makes complex data management less time consuming and more simple providing timely insight.

Impact analysis

CMDB is most useful only if it can help customers take action based on the information stored in the CMDB. The Universal CMDB provides impact analysis to help customers understand the business impact of IT actions such as configuration changes or routine maintenance. Building impact analysis into the CMDB offers a streamlined approach to managing impact policies instead of having to merge multiple data sets and blend them together. Because impact analysis natively leverages the CMDB's rich data model, it can automatically create impact rules based on model information to reduce effort and overhead.

Change tracking

The Universal CMDB maintains a continuous history of CI changes. Change tracking allows you quickly to triage change-induced outages, audit the change management process, and provide compliance and consistency with enterprise standards.

Reporting

The Universal CMDB enables users who are not programmers to easily create custom reports using drag-and-drop functionality. No additional lead time is required to get answers to complex questions. The users then can take action immediately and avoid unnecessary business risk.

Time to value

A faster way to reduce time to value is to focus CMDB implementations around the key initiatives that support the enterprise's business priorities and to leverage technology and automation to build the CMDB. Key initiatives typically include ITIL implementation, business service management, and change and configuration management. By identifying critical IT initiatives first and leveraging the power of HP Discovery and Dependency Mapping software, enterprises can obtain value in months as opposed to years. And the information gathered from these initial exercises can then be leveraged across other key IT initiatives to create an enterprise-wide CMDB.

Features and benefits

- Provide a single version of the truth to improve collaboration among IT and business teams.
- Proactively analyze change and service impact to reduce business risk.
- Leverage existing investments in business and technical repositories.

Contact information

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