Data Center Management Tools: A Trade Study

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It will be the goal of this paper to present a trade study on what software is available for managing and visualizing lab/server rooms. The possibilities which are considered will be compared and contrasted with the alternate option of internally developed software. More specifically we will compare developing code internally with alternatives of Device42, ItDB, RackMonkey, RackTables, and [Other software here]. Aspects of these that we consider important are general usability, price, scalability (?), the quality of any GUIs, searchability, and [Other features here]. I currently consider this paper to be a working first draft.

Let us then consider our first piece of software, Device42. Device42 is a professional and industry recognized software package that comes with user-friendly GUIs for both cable and rack organization. It also comes with IP address, temperature, and password management as well as a comprehensive search capability. All of these features come at a cost though, and quite literally at that. To be able to use 1,001 to 2,500 devices costs an annual subscription fee of $7,499 with a maximum allowed usage of 25 thousand IP addresses. For unlimited devices and addresses is $19,999. The above limit on IP addresses is on those addresses which are marked as not available in the Device42 software. Further information or a first-hand look at any Device42 visuals can be found on their website, [device42.com](http://www.device42.com/).