THE BENEFITS OF WEB-BASED FACILITY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE
Traditional vs. Web-Based Facility Management Software

Traditional facility management systems and software are fading out due to the rise in fluid and fully integrated web-based alternatives. Web-based software includes everything a facility manager needs to ensure long-term success in a cost-efficient manner. Since facility managers require immediate access to centralized information, it is crucial that this information is stored in a safe and accessible program. Web-based programs are designed with an intuitive and time-sensitive user-interface in mind. With web-based software, there is no longer a need for costly repairs, IT specialists, or bulky onsite servers.

Web-based management software is ideal for any facility that requires streamlined access to information, a protected inventory of assets, and preventative maintenance. Immediate access to data is crucial in hospitals and airports, but it is also necessary in:

- Senoir Care Centers
- Stadiums
- Apartments
- Data Centers
- Warehouses
- Other major facilities

Utilizing web-based management software can increase output, minimize downtime, and lower the overall cost of management. This streamlined approach is beneficial to system managers in various fields and facilities, and the positives can be seen almost immediately. Before understanding the benefits, it is important to understand the details of web-based systems and their traditional counterparts.
Streamlining Multiple Services with Web-based Management Software

Traditional management software is broken down into various products and services. Web-based software streamlines these services into one package so that all of the essential management tools are available for immediate and effortless use. To understand how web-based software streamlines these services, it is important to understand each unique service:

**Computerized Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS)** - CMMS software is used to store data regarding floor plans, inventory, and storage. It also provides a cost-benefit analysis regarding updates, repairs, and other servicing requirements.

**Financial Information Management System (FIMS)** - FIMS software stores essential information regarding assets, budgets, and projected outlooks. This ensures that budgets are adhered to and that proper financial tracking is executed.

**Enterprise Asset Management (EAM)** - EAM software allows for optimized management of facilities by calculating maintenance procedures, replacements, designs, commissions, and other physical assets.

**Computer-Aided Facility Management (CAFM)** - An umbrella term for general facility management streamlined by the use of computers. While not as specialized as FIMS or EAM software, CAFM is often used interchangeable with CMMS, although both have unique, separate features.

With web-based management software, all of the services above are streamlined into one easily navigated source. Traditionally, each of these items would have to be purchased and stored separately, which can cause problems in management cooperation, upgrading, and overall efficiency. By combining each software system into one web-based program, it is possible to gain greater analysis of the overall facility, budget, and output along with a greater ease of use.
A traditional wired and application-based system is costly, high-maintenance, and often cumbersome, as the servers require space in the facility. Aside from the rigorous training required for operating these systems and the regular updates, traditional systems also require IT specialists on-call to help fix any problems as they arise.

Conversely, web-based facility management systems are centralized, independent from equipment and hardware, and effortlessly updated. All of the required data is stored on a trusted server outside of the facility, and this means more space inside of the facility and protection from power failures. Should a problem occur in the facility, the off-site servers will be unharmed and ready to work once the manager is ready. Equipment and hardware independence also avoids the costly problems of hiring an IT specialist to fix onsite problems. This saves both time and money.

Updates are no longer a chore as they can be added and integrated instantly and effortlessly online. Previously, a specialist would be brought onsite to update the software and teach the facility manager how to operate it. With instant and intuitive updating, it’s possible to continue working without wasting resources on learning how to update and configure the system.

A web-based facility management system greatly reduces the costs and resources usually spent on managing systems. The freedom from maintenance allows managers and workers to focus solely on their work without the hassle of finding solutions or spending funds on IT support. Integrated and intuitive updating means minimized downtime, and the secure offsite servers will have the protection of IT specialists so that managers don’t have to call themselves. As the essential functions (CMMS, EAM, FIM, and CAFM) can be accessed instantly on any laptop or computer, managers and workers can utilize the streamlined services anywhere and at any time to improve overall output and performance.
Scalable to Fit Any Budget

Web-based software also allows for scalable and personalized access to fit various budgets and needs. The software can be limited to include only what a customer needs, which can greatly reduce the overall cost while still providing all of the essential resources. Since all of the software is online, it can also be instantly expanded should a customer decide to utilize more software and services.

A Streamlined User-Interface

Facility managers should utilize their expertise on managing and not on learning the ins and outs of numerous programs. Web-based management software streamlines CMMS, EAM, and FIMS into one fully integrated program so that the user interface is standard across the board. This means less time spent learning and adjusting to various programs and more time spent managing and improving output.

An integrated workplace management system (IWMS) ties all of the software together so that management functions are completed simply and without errors. Due to the integrated nature of the software, there is less room for error when transmitting data, calculating or locating assets, or sending information across multiple sources. This is especially crucial when sending timesensitive information to decision makers as well.

The simple user-interface also allows energy to be spent on complex tasks and not on of the software itself. This means that new plans, budgets, and other events can be instantly sent across the board and effortlessly updated as needed. A simple userinterface also improves the completion rate for tasks due to its intuitive layout design. In this way, the management team, staff, and customers can all be on the same page without risk of miscommunication.
Phasing out older methods of facility management is simple, and web-based software can be quickly integrated into any business or facility. If applicable, the previously collected data will be streamlined into the offsite servers so that the web-based software can be used nearly instantly. Because there are no physical servers or software to install, switching to web-based software is as simple as signing into an email account.

Traditional systems and programs of facility management are fading out due to the cost-effective use of web-based software. There is no longer the need for facility managers to deal with bulky servers or faulty software. With web-based software, managers can focus solely on what matters without the hassle or cost of repairs, upgrades, or miscommunications across multiple systems. As the evolution of web-based facility management software continues, facility managers will welcome the streamlined and cost-effective improvements to yesterday’s wired programs.