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Aperture Launches New Innovative Technology for Managing Data Center Capacity; Critical to Preventing Data Center Outages

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Aperture Technologies Inc., the leading global provider of software for managing the physical infrastructure of data centers, has launched Aperture VISTA Capacity Management, a new application that enables data center managers to better understand and predict the consumption of power, cooling, space and other physical resources.

In order to effectively manage the data center, it is essential that managers are able to understand the capacity remaining within critical infrastructure resources such as power, cooling and (floor/rack) space. If the data center is not managed proactively, resource conflicts can occur which increase the likelihood of a disruption in service. When capacity is poorly managed, there is a greater risk of under-provisioning (which can delay the roll-out of critical systems) or over-provisioning (which makes operations inefficient and unnecessarily expensive). With the lead time to acquire, provision or build new data centers measured in years, organizations need a long term plan for forecasting when and what type of infrastructure resources they will need.

Aperture collaborated closely with its leading Fortune 100 customers to develop this new application which is the industry's first full-function capacity management tool. Aperture VISTA Capacity Management enables organizations to track infrastructure usage over time and apply forecasts of future application pipelines to predict the consumption of data center resources. It enables data centers to determine when key resources will run out, providing plenty of lead-time for future data center planning and minimizing the risks associated with outages or service disruptions. By enabling data center resources to be managed accurately, Aperture VISTA Capacity Management enables organizations to minimize operational cost without running the risk of under-provisioning. Organizations can also save the costs associated with short term leased or rented space or other stop gap measures resulting from inadequate forecasting and planning.

Using Aperture VISTA Capacity Management, businesses can capture their past infrastructure usage, understand future trends based on past use and report on key capacity metrics and thresholds. There are processes for modeling planned projects impacting the infrastructure, which include the flowing of those projects into equipment provisioning work requests when committed. The software enables managers to maintain the Capacity Management Plan, assign capacity to business units for budgeting purposes, investigate scenarios around infrastructure use, and support new infrastructure build-outs. By understanding the number of months remaining on key parameters of capacity, managers can build a business case for how and when new infrastructure should be provisioned and deliver the services required to support the business in a cost effective manner.

"Facilities management and IT management have typically not cooperated on data center planning to the level needed for today's enterprise," said Bill Clifford, chairman and CEO of Aperture Technologies. "Historically, capacity management of the data center only considered floor and rack space, and did not have to cover power and cooling capacities. IT did not need to communicate with Facilities to understand when capacity would be exceeded. Today, with high density equipment changing the way data centers are operated, IT and Facilities must cooperate in planning how resources are allocated, ensuring they are aligned with the needs of the business. This requires the tools and capabilities that Aperture is providing."

Bill Clifford added, "Aperture VISTA Capacity Management furthers the vision of Aperture VISTA to bring these groups together under a professional data center management practice, which significantly improves the efficiency and capability of the data center."

Tom Roberts, director of Data Center Services for Trinity Health said, "Our data centers are absolutely essential to the delivery of clinical information to our hospitals and the critical need of this information to be on time and available, so in this area we only work with companies which we know and trust, such as Aperture. The foundation for managing the data center is based on the management of capacity: whether it's cooling, power, or space. Aperture VISTA Capacity Management will allow us to accurately and meticulously plan the growth and lifecycle of our data centers and all of its components while understanding the effects different scenarios have on future capacity. This will prevent downtime, ensure the longevity of our data centers, help us manage projects and save us money."

Richard Villars, vice president for Storage Systems research at IDC said, "Enterprises are facing a period of rapid data center expansion as they and their customers create and store more rich content and make more copies of their data for decision support and improved application availability. Hard-pressed enterprises will need to maximize their use of current data center capacity by leveraging best practices and carefully managing data center infrastructure and architecture to avoid potential outages due to power and cooling capacity issues. While storage capacity expansion in current data centers is inevitable, improving or even maintaining data center availability will require a keen understanding of future storage trends so that proper planning for data center capacity growth can ensue."

Aperture VISTA Capacity Management is an add-on application to Aperture VISTA, the market-leading application for planning and managing the data center physical infrastructure.