Data Center Documentation Check: What Your Result Means

What your result means and which best practices have proven themselves in data center operations.

4 to 5 points

Your documentation and your data center are drifting apart. Every change widens the gap.

A one-time inventory only helps for a short while. What matters is capturing future changes directly at the rack.

2 to 3 points

There are gaps. They usually surface when a change or an audit is coming up.

Start with the topics that remained open in the check, and there with the racks that support critical services.

0 to 1 point

Your documentation is close to reality. The question is how much effort that takes.

Look at how much manual work goes into inventories and updating records after the fact. That is your lever for maintaining this level with less effort.

Best practices for the five questions

1

DEPENDENCIES

Know what depends on a rack before the change

Before a change, can you see which critical functions depend on a rack?

Best Practice: Every rack is linked to the applications and business services that depend on it. Reviewing these dependencies is a fixed step in every change approval, starting with the racks that support critical functions.

2

DEPENDENCIES

Device, application and service in one model

Is it documented for every device in the rack which applications and services run on it?

Best Practice: Devices, applications and services live in one data model instead of separate lists. That way, nobody has to reconcile rack spreadsheets and the CMDB by hand before a change.

3

AUDIT

Every asset has an accountable owner

Is the owner of every ICT asset in the data center recorded and up to date?

Best Practice: Every asset has an accountable owner, and that owner is updated with every change rather than during the annual inventory. That way, no device stays in the rack that nobody feels responsible for anymore.

4

AUDIT

Prepare for audits without a manual inventory

Do you go into an audit by internal audit or the regulator without a manual inventory?

Best Practice: Continuous reconciliation replaces the reporting-date inventory: with every on-site visit, the affected rack is checked as well, and its current status is reconciled with the inventory and kept up to date. Audit preparation then starts with current data.

5 CHANGES

Capture changes where they happen

If something is re-patched at the rack today, will it be in your documentation by tomorrow at the latest?
Best Practice: Changes are captured directly at the rack, at the moment of re-patching, not later at a desk. Every record updated after the fact is a chance for something to get lost, especially when service providers or remote hands do the work.

HOW TO CLOSE THE GAP

FNT Command knows the data center. FNT DC Vision brings that knowledge to the rack.

FNT Command
The data foundation

The digital twin of your data center: one data model for assets, space, power, cooling, cabling and connectivity, with dependencies up to applications and business services.

FNT DC Vision
The path to the rack

Brings this data directly to the rack via app and augmented reality. AI-powered recognition matches what is actually installed. Your teams confirm the result and record every change immediately.

1 Capture **2 Validate** **3 Write back**

With every on-site visit, the data foundation becomes more accurate instead of outdated.

How FNT Command and FNT DC Vision put this into practice

Dependencies (QUESTIONS 1 AND 2)	From the cable to the server to the business service in one data model. At the rack, your teams see before the change what depends on it.
Audit (QUESTIONS 3 AND 4)	Check racks via app instead of a reporting-date inventory. Your ICT asset inventory stays current and traceable for internal audit and regulators.
Changes (QUESTION 5)	Captured at the moment of change, directly at the rack. Documentation keeps pace instead of lagging behind.

Ready to optimize your data center operations?
Try it yourself: test FNT Command free for 30 days with sample data.

Try FNT Command for free