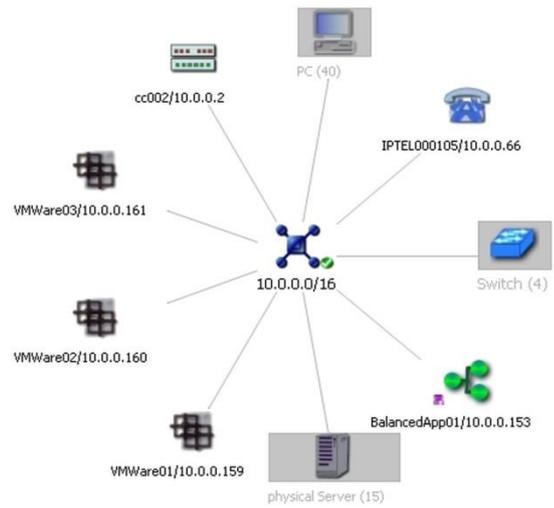


What sets AixBOMS apart from other DCIM products?

When working with a vast amount of technical information, as is common in the service provider industry, modern visualization methods have become indispensable. But graphical aids make the difference: **within AixBOMS they are based on the data repository, as are all other activities!** The data repository delivers up-to-date information and ensures compliance with rules and regulations. The graphical aids in AixBOMS are not just designed to provide users with clear visual overviews of database objects but—more importantly—they also provide 100% accurate and current representations of database objects.

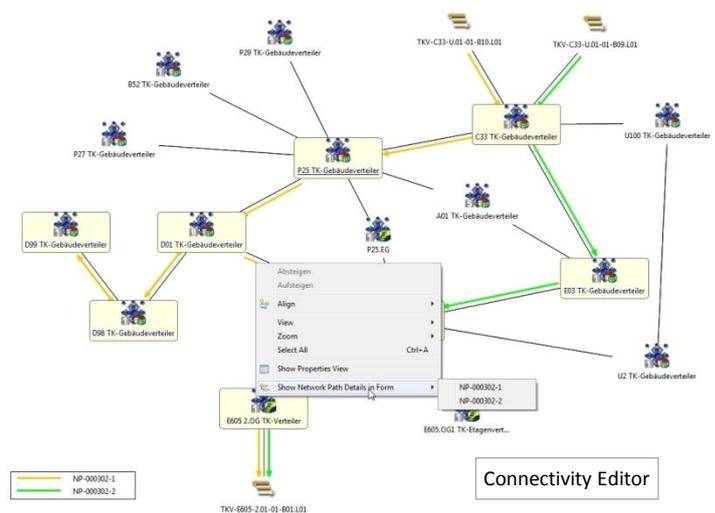
AixBOMS presents information in meaningful ways

Graphical aids assist users in quickly navigating through different management areas without having to think about the processes occurring behind the scenes. User perspectives are modeled after familiar visual representations: hierarchical structures are displayed as tree structures, connections as lines, and rooms, floors and areas as maps and plans. All of the graphics are completely CMDB-based, meaning they are drawn in real-time and based on current database content. Additionally, images can be added as a background to indicate the exact geographic position of database objects. We have chosen not to integrate GIS (geographic information systems) in order to avoid additional customer licensing fees.



Network structure with automatic grouping

Structural views are displayed in AixBOMS as data connections within a respective management area using a predefined layout framework. However, layouts are highly user-customizable with the AixBOMS Navigator GUI (Graphical User Interface) via simple graphical functions such as zoom and grouping, thus eliminating the need for any additional image editing software. Changes made to a data structure are saved in the database and taken into account for later viewing or editing. In addition to their role as graphical aids, data structures also facilitate management options based on user rights and focus.



Connectivity Editor

AixBOMS provides a series of basic structural elements that have been optimized for various use cases; further structural elements can easily be added. These include:



Configuration Trees for device configuration with parent-child component relationships



Master Data including graphical representation of relationships between master data objects such as location, floor number, room, person, contracts, etc.



Single Connection Editor for connection analysis



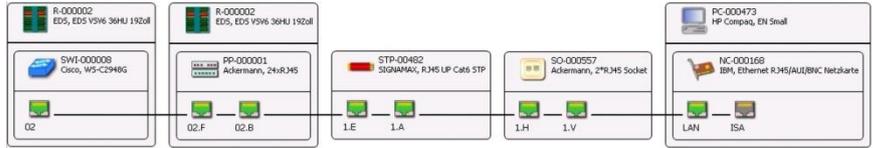
Connectivity Structure Editors, depicting (logical) layer 1 and Layer N network paths



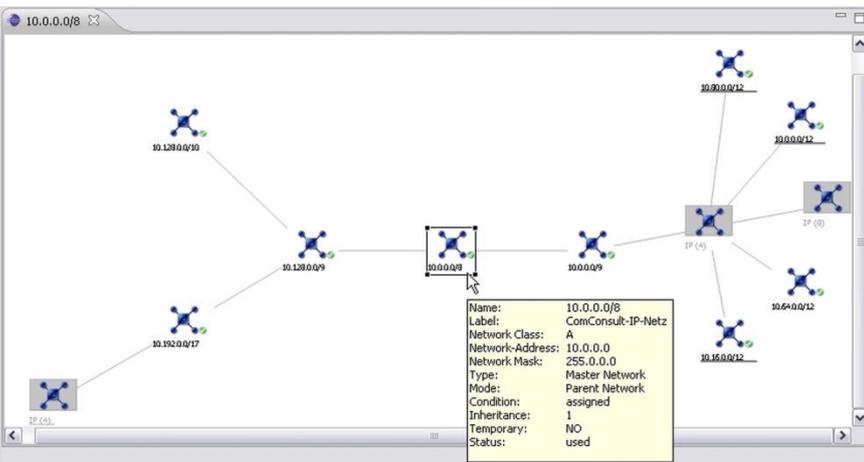
Port and Cable Structure Editors for connections between ports, cables and components



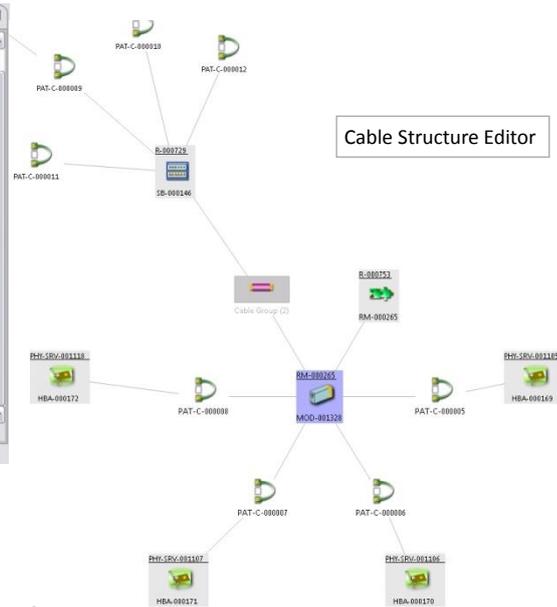
Network (Topology) Editors and Network Trees with network topology and subnetwork structures



Connection Analysis



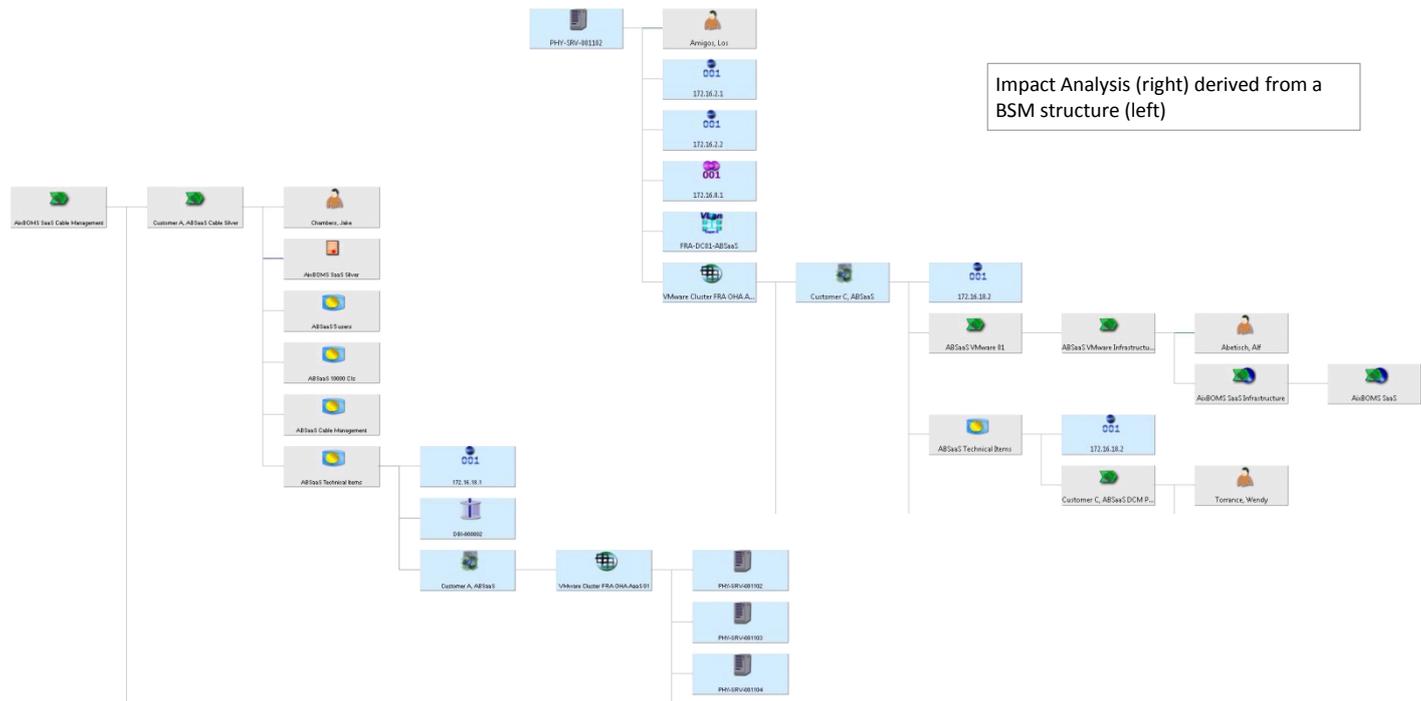
Network Editor



Cable Structure Editor



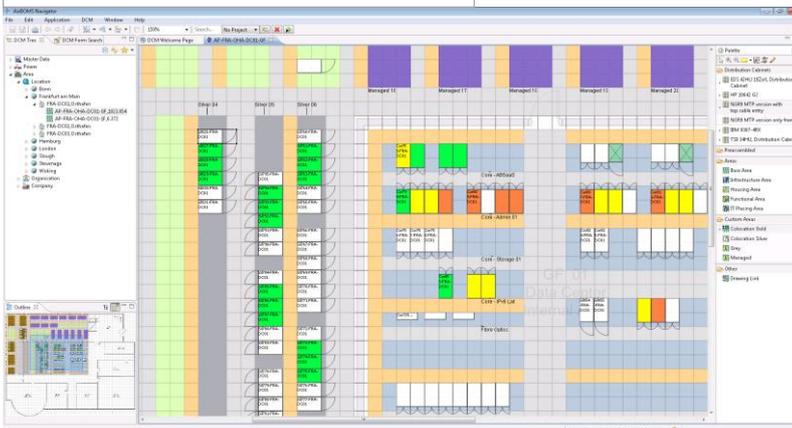
Service Trees for depicting relationships between services, CIs (Configuration Items) and master data. Impact Analysis for detecting services affected by a faulty CI.



Impact Analysis (right) derived from a BSM structure (left)

AixBOMS can easily render area, floor and site plans, as well as photorealistic front and rear views of distribution cabinets, without the need for any additional CAD software. These are automatically updated to reflect any changes made to the associated CIs in the CMDb.

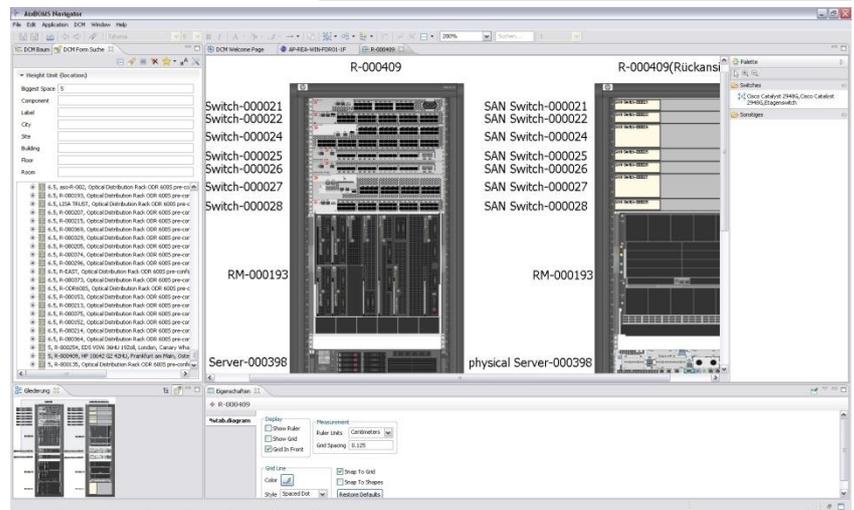
CMDB-based data center area plan



By using GMF (Graphical Modeling Framework) technology, graphical editors are not only standards-based but also developed to work in both directions; i.e., changes made with the editors will update corresponding database entries. In order to ensure consistently high levels of data quality, the changes made to CIs via the graphical editors are also subject to numerous business rules and extensive background plausibility or consistency checks.

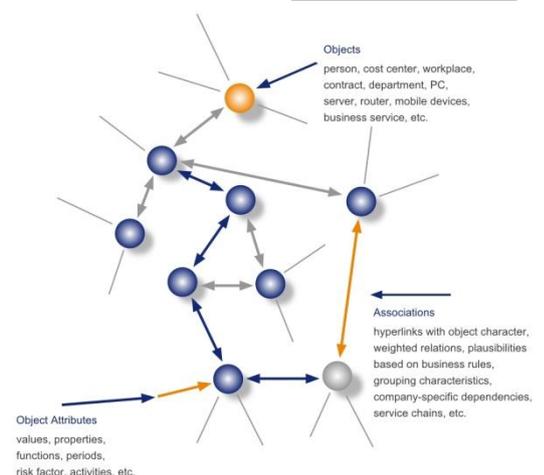
Because the AixBOMS database is object-oriented and CIs can be represented by—and modified via—graphic elements, applicable CI management functions can often be accessed simply by right-clicking a graphic element (e.g. using RackView to bring up a detailed view of a cabinet in the data center). AixBOMS employs a layered graphics technique that not only provides beautiful images but also allows for single layers of the graphical aids to be faded in and out. Photo-realistic renderings (icons) are available in the template library to provide data center operators with the most authentic visual representations of their management areas. New class-specific icons can be user-generated using the AixBOMS Icon Editor and easily assigned to all related objects with a click of the mouse button.

Distribution cabinet with front and rear view in RackView



AixBOMS and its underlying data model are object-oriented and have been developed from the ground up for managing IT systems. Nearly 200 predefined CI classes are supplied and ready for use out-of-the-box. The extensive set of rules and regulations used by AixBOMS' applications and tools are built upon the supplied CI classes and governs access rights as well as company policies, and system-specific conditions.

AixBOMS data model



Our “Business Rules” were developed to guarantee an adherence to **naming conventions**, to ensure that **required fields** contain data, and to make sure that the **order** of job operations is taken into account during job executions. They provide a conditional description of CMDB entries with dependencies based on logical criteria such as: “is affected by a modernization measure”, “is already reserved for other purposes”, “may only be deleted after approval by department manager”, “dropped from maintenance agreement”, etc. Business rules are also applied when accessing individual management functions and shared data and can be expanded upon by reviewing the current state of feasible and permissible methods.

The shared utilization of a data basis designed to be used as a central information hub for data would be impossible without business rules. With AixBOMS and its predecessor CCM (ComConsult Communication Manager), we have offered solutions in data center management that have been used for managing real customer environments for more than 25 years. Data quality has been a cardinal rule for us since day one and is reflected in the quantity and quality of our supplied business rules. Currently over **4500 Business Rules** are supplied with an AixBOMS standard installation, and of course, these can be supplemented with customer-specific rules at any time.

AixBOMS, its reporting tools, and its graphics technology are Java-based: Eclipse®, BIRT (Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools), and GMF (Graphical Modeling Framework) technologies form an open source development environment that has become widespread due to its easy integration abilities. They also guarantee that no additional license costs will arise, making AixBOMS a sound investment for the future.

AixBOMS can be easily integrated in preexisting environments: The Integration Engine Light supports quick and easy data transfer from commonly used applications and formats. Our Integration Engine Enterprise solution is based on sophisticated database ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) processes, which regulate data exchange with other data pools. Interim storage, via the so-called “Staging Area”, plays a decisive role with regards to both high quality and high performance allowing for a filtered and iterated go-live approach that can be adapted to any company’s respective capacities.

Last but not least: AixBOMS does much more than just DCIM. AixBOMS provides customers with a multifaceted suite of tools which is continuously expanded based on customer requests and their day-to-day operational needs. As such, we know that DCIM is only one part of a bigger picture when talking about IT management. Information that is spread out over many areas of management is merged together in AixBOMS’ uniform user interface. Service Providers, for example, not only benefit from the functionality offered in the Cable and Connectivity Management applications, with Floor Plans and Connection Analysis, but also from the Impact and Structure Analysis tools and the accounting capabilities of the Business Service Management application. The data type, data quantity, and way that data is accessed are all configurable within AixBOMS.