



NIH Office of Research Facilities (ORF) Integrated Workplace Management System (IWMS)

For: Federal Facilities Council (FFC)
Standing Committee on Real Property Inventory, Planning, and
Transactional Real Estate

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Agenda

- 1. Speaker Bio & Background of NIH Office of Research Facilities**
- 2. NIH ORF's Legacy Technology & Data Landscape**
- 3. The ORF Integrated Workplace Management System (IWMS)**
 - Objectives
 - Analysis of Alternatives (AoA)
 - Acquisition & Funding Strategy
 - Implementation Approach
- 4. Connecting NIH Facility Lifecycle Data**
 - Data Governance
 - Space Data Management
 - Asset & Parts Data Management
 - Facility Services & Transactions
 - Connecting Space, Assets, & Parts
- 5. Beyond IWMS: Geometric Digital Twins, Operational Technology & IoT**



BACKGROUND

Speaker Bio

Name: Kylash Ramesh, PMP, LSSBB, FAC-COR III

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Title(s):

Program Manager, Integrated Workplace Management
Chair, ORF IT Governance

Educational Background:

B.S. from UMCP in Business/Economics

M.S. from UMGC in Cybersecurity Technology

Professional Background:

NIH since 2016 – first job after college

Interned at MEP Engineering firm before NIH

Podcast Episode:

[“Supplement the Data” – Asset Management Decision-Making for Owners & Integrating Data and Human Experiences](#)



Background of NIH Office of Research Facilities (ORF)



Mission: Provide, maintain, and operate safe, healthy, and attractive NIH facilities.

Lifecycle Functions: Planning, Construction, Operations & Maintenance, Re-capitalization

Support Functions: Utilities, Energy, Environmental, Accreditation, Real Estate/Lease, Budget/Finance, Acquisitions

Scale: Over 300+ buildings; tens of millions of sqft.

Complexity: Heterogenous mix of space types, ranging from basic office & residential, to highly sophisticated mission critical 24/7/365 facilities



NIH ORF's Legacy Technology & Data Landscape



- Maintenance had 3 different systems.
- Construction had 2 different systems.
- Capital Planning had 3-5 “systems”.
- Space had its own system.

ORF's Legacy Systems & Data:

- did not meet full functional or technical requirements.
- did not provide ease of use to users and customers.
- were not integrated in a manner which supports data visibility or cross-functional workflows.
- some on-premise
- some in non-FedRAMP cloud environments
- some no longer supported by vendor



THE ORF INTEGRATED WORKPLACE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IWMS)

What is an Integrated Workplace Management System (IWMS)?

Five Core Functionalities of an IWMS



Objective

Objective: Improve ORF's efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability when administering the NIH Facility Lifecycle by procuring, implementing, and sustaining an Integrated Workplace Management System (IWMS)

Improve efficiency:

- NIH Occupants use 1 system to request facility services (maintenance, construction, space), instead of multiple
- NIH Facility staff manage work and provide status updates in 1 system, instead of multiple
- NIH Facility System Admins & Data Analysts oversee 1 system, instead of multiple

Improve effectiveness:

- Reduce unexpected downtime through risk-based preventative and predictive maintenance
- Provide targeted & non-technical communication to affected occupants for planned and unplanned utility outages
- Mature Asset Management to forecast, budget, plan, and develop projects to address assets nearing end-of-life

Improve accountability:

- Expand transparency to NIH occupants and oversight bodies demonstrating data-driven decision making

Step 1: Working Group & Analysis of Alternative (AoA)

1. In 2019, ORF established a working group with representatives from each functional area (Maintenance, Construction, Space, Capital Planning) to identify software requirements for their respective functional area.
2. ORF received dozens of software demos from vendors to learn about the products in the marketplace and ask questions.
3. Ultimately, ORF established 140 individual requirements, and weighted each requirement.
4. ORF identified 3 potential software solutions on the short-list: Archibus, IBM TRIREGA, & Nuvolo.
5. Each of the 3 potential solutions were evaluated based on how well the requirements were met.

Performance Rating - Weight	ARCHIBUS	IBM TRIRIGA	Service-Now Nuvolo
Green (Total)	103	118	122
Green - Critical	35	38	40
Green - High	49	54	54
Green - Medium	13	17	19
Green - Low	6	8	8
Yellow (Total)	31	18	18
Yellow - Critical	6	4	3
Yellow - High	13	8	9
Yellow - Medium	8	4	3
Yellow - Low	4	2	3
Red (Total)	6	4	0
Red - Critical	2	1	0
Red - High	1	1	0
Red - Medium	1	1	0
Red - Low	1	1	0
Total	140	140	140

GREEN - Proficient
YELLOW - Acceptable
RED - Unacceptable

Requirement Weight Key
CRITICAL - Go / No-Go
HIGH – A mission critical requirement; required for the next release
MEDIUM – Supports necessary system operations; required eventually but could wait until a later release if necessary
LOW – A functional or quality enhancement; would be nice to have someday if resources permit

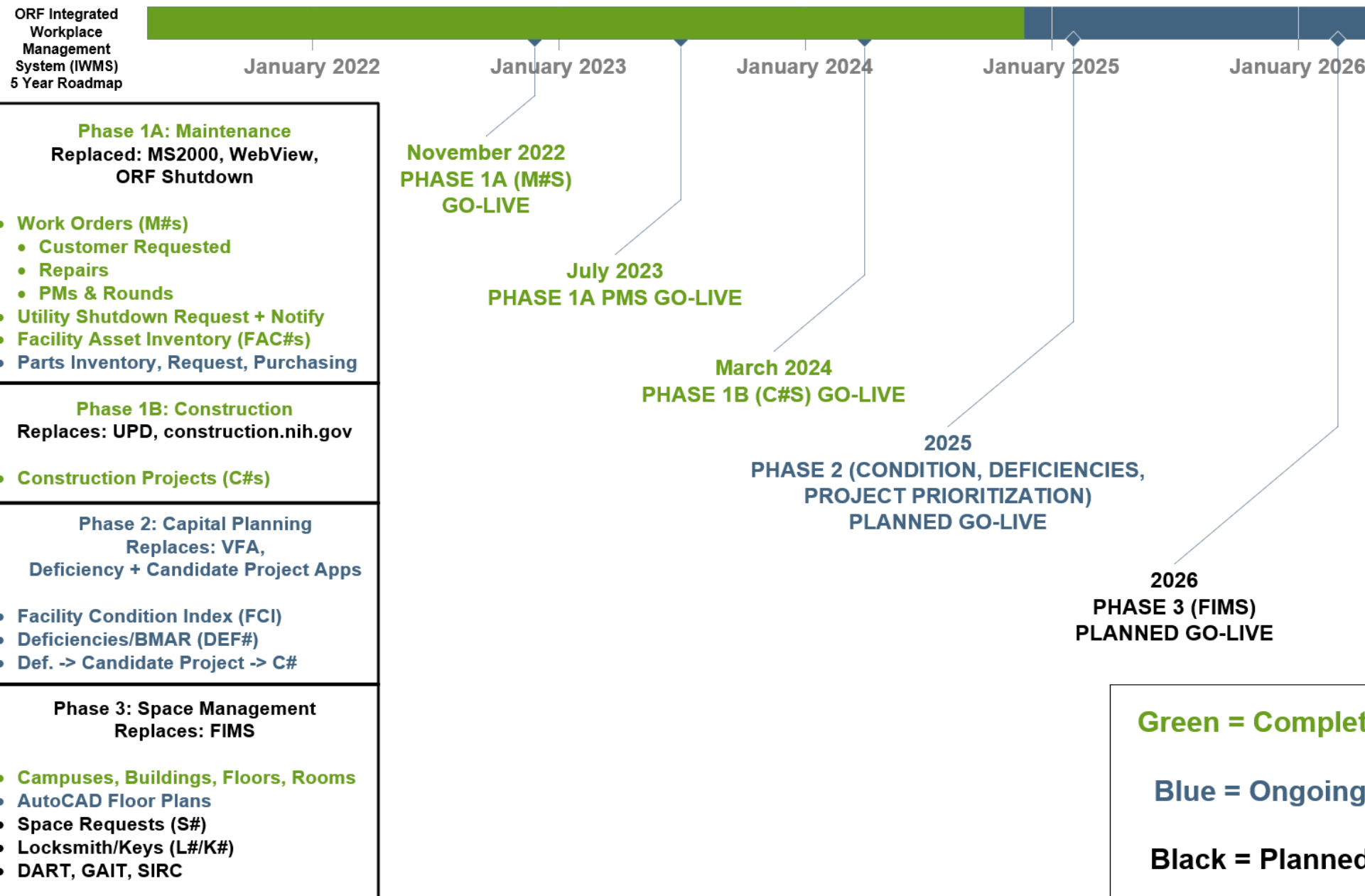
Step 2: IT Governance, Funding, & Acquisitions



1. In early 2020, after identifying Nuvolo as ORF's preferred IWMS solution, we obtained IT Governance approvals for procurement.
2. We then submitted an FY21 funding request to provide non-recurring funds for the initial implementation labor, and recurring funds for the licenses.
3. Afterwards, we identified the [NIH Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center \(NITAAC\)](#) and the CIO-SP3 GWAC as the most suitable acquisition approach.
4. In May 2021, ORF awarded the IWMS contract, which provided implementation labor hours and software licenses for the Nuvolo solution.

Implementation Approach: Phased by Function

IWMS Phase	Status	Functions	Facilities Role
Phase 1A: Maintenance & Asset Management	Completed 2022/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer-Requested Maintenance • Preventative Maintenance (PMs) & Repairs • Asset Inventory Management • Parts Inventory & Purchasing • Utility Shutdown Approval & Notification 	Operations & Maintenance (O&M)
Phase 1B: Construction Project Management	Completed 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline Planned Budget & Schedule • Actual Obligations & Schedule Milestones • Weekly Status Updates & Project Health • Project Closeout & Turnover 	Project Managers & CORs
Phase 2: Capital Planning	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition Assessment • Deficiency Identification • Candidate Project Development • Candidate Project Scoring & Prioritization 	Engineers
Phase 3: Space Management	Planned for 2025/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campuses, Buildings, Floors, Rooms • AutoCAD Floorplans • Space Reservations & Hoteling • Key, Lock, and Space Requests 	Architects

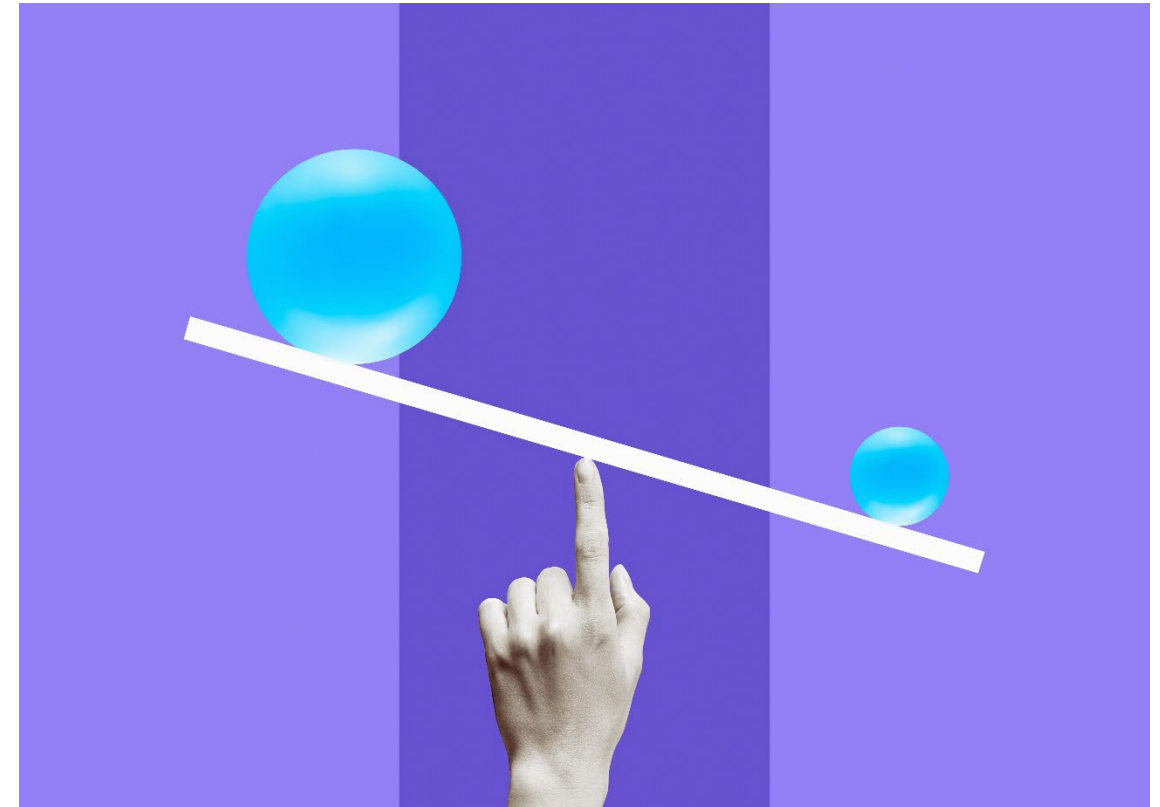




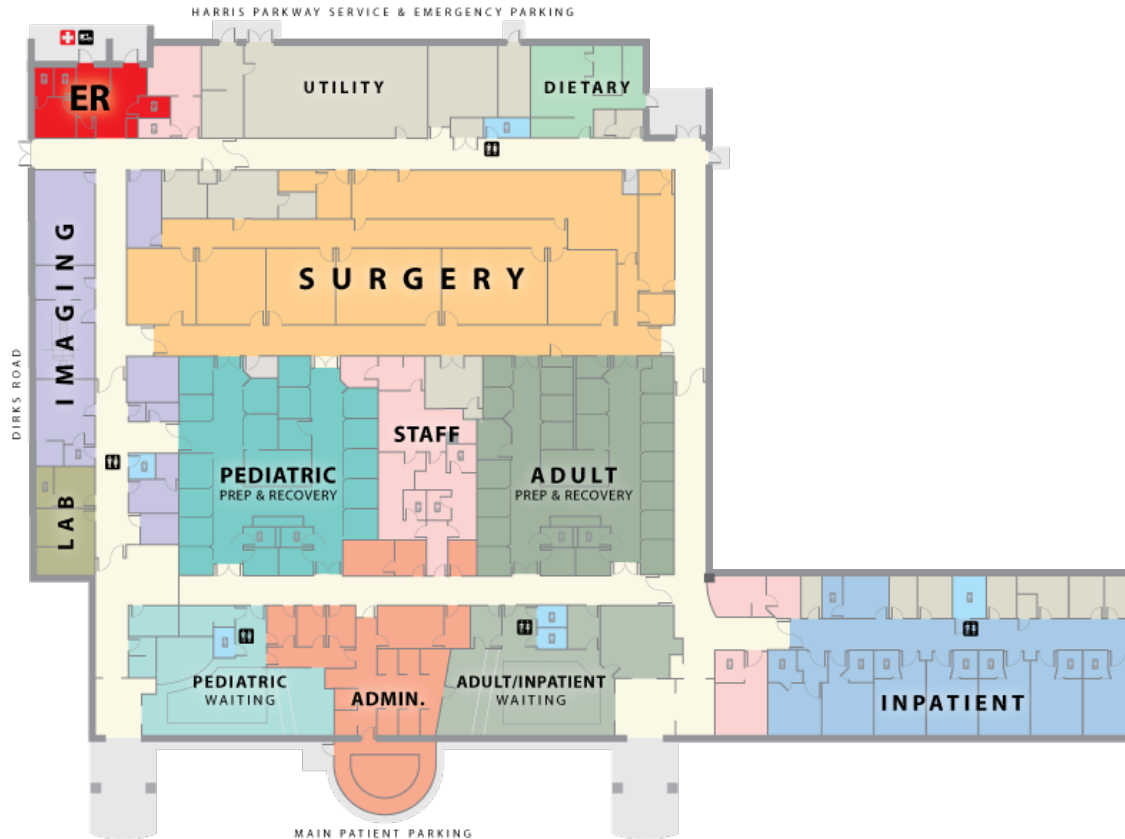
CONNECTING NIH FACILITY LIFECYCLE DATA

Data Governance

- An IWMS provides more value when the underlying data is used for decision-making.
- We should only use high quality data to make decisions; otherwise, we risk making the wrong decision by using inaccurate data.
- Maintaining data takes resources, and we should only track a volume and granularity of data that can be maintained.
- How do we obtain & sustain high quality data?
 - **Standards (What)** – how is the data named, classified, and structured? What data is in-scope vs out-of-scope?
 - **Access & Ownership (Who)** – who should be able to see the data? Who is responsible for keeping it accurate?
 - **Changes (When)** – how is the data changed and when does it need to be updated?
 - **Source (Where)** – where is the data authoritatively stored and updated?



Space Inventory Data Management



- NIH has several campuses, each campus has several buildings, each building has several floor(s), and each floor has several rooms.
- This data is structured in a Space Hierarchy within ORF's IWMS solution, Nuvolo.
- This data can be viewed by all NIH/ORF staff, but can only be created, edited, and deleted by a dedicated ORF team.
- The area (sqft.) data is calculated using standards from the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)
- The Buildings are classified in accordance with HHS, GSA, and OMB policies.
- The Rooms are classified using OmniClass Table 13 from Construction Specification Institute (CSI)

Asset & Parts Inventory Data Management

- NIH ORF is responsible for millions of physical products with varying levels of cost and risk of failure.
- We cannot maintain millions of data records; therefore, we must distinguish between Assets vs Parts.
- We track physical products that carry high costs or high risk of failure as “Assets”; everything else are “Parts”
- This data can be viewed by all NIH/ORF staff, but can only be created, edited, and deleted by a dedicated ORF team.
- The Assets are classified & named using UniFormat from Construction Specification Institute (CSI).
- The ORF Asset Hierarchy lists all products that ORF tracks as assets.

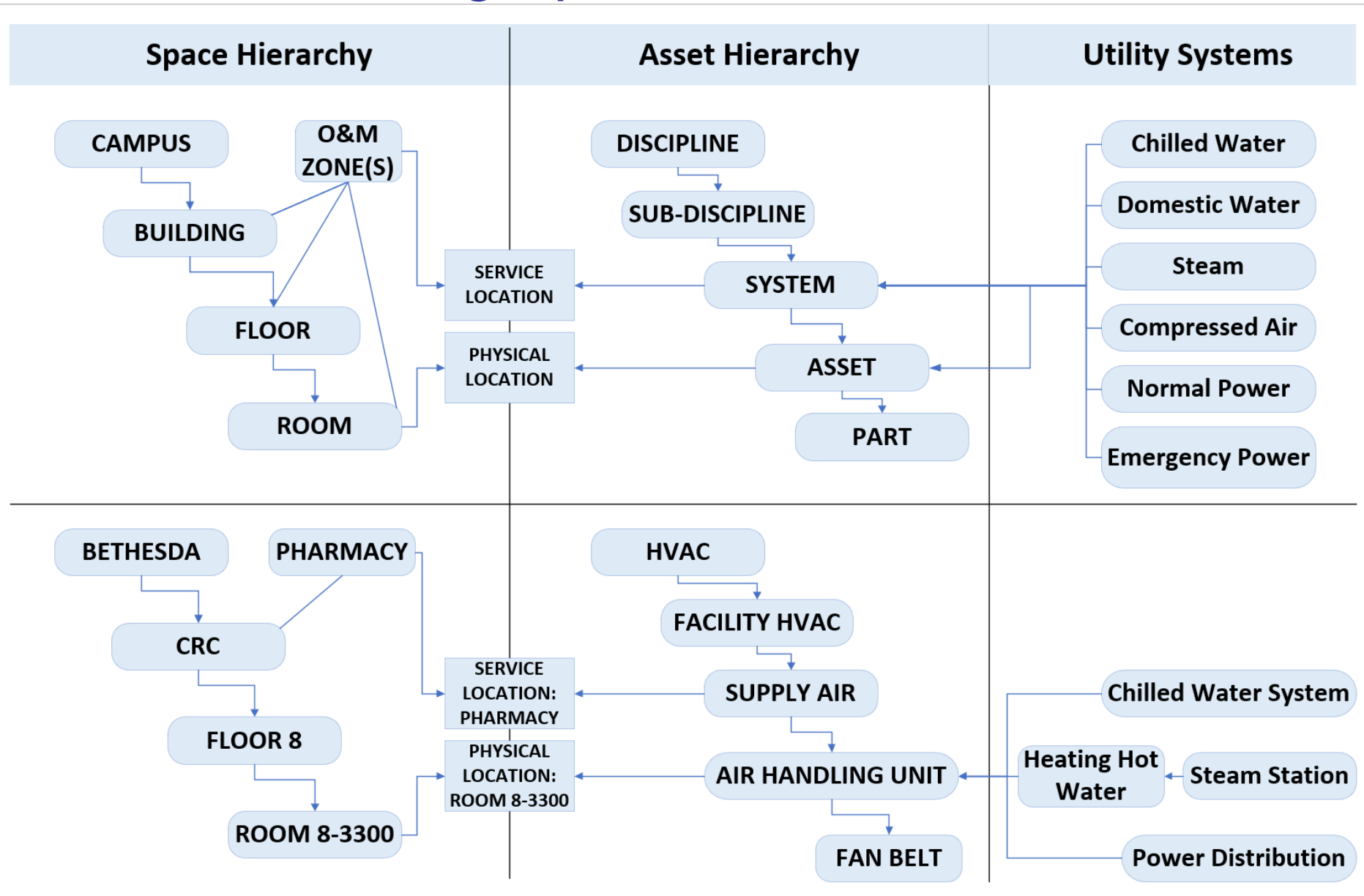


Facility Services & Transactions

Service	Unique Tracking # Prefix	Example Tracking #
Maintenance Work Order	M#	M 30140184
Key Request	K#	K 1381048
Lock Request	L#	L 1204018
Construction Project	C#	C 200180
Condition Assessment	FCA#	FCA 10009
Deficiency	DEF#	DEF 424812
Candidate Project	CAND#	CAND 20008
Space Request	S#	S 201830

- Space & Asset Data are the foundational sets of reference data for Facility Owners.
- We want to ensure that all the services we provide are “linked” or “tied” to the Spaces and/or Assets that the service is applicable to.
- For example, we want to know what assets were installed, modified, or demolished by a Construction Project, and the spaces affected by that project.
- Put differently, none of our services should have a “free-text-box” when indicating the space or asset applicable to the service – **it should always be a “drop down menu”**.
- **This is only feasible if the data is in 1 system.**

Connecting Spaces, Assets, & Parts





BEYOND IWMS: GEOMETRIC DIGITAL TWINS, OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY & IOT

