Integrated systems mean maximum system efficiency

All legacy systems expand and grow over time, processes evolve and functional requirements are developed. However systems developed with a short-term view can quickly fall victim to poorly planned system architecture, inefficiencies and incremental cost increases as outmoded systems struggle to cope with new demands. Ongoing changes to legislation and technology mean that systems have to be flexible and IT systems need to adapt accordingly.

Taking a longer term view at the beginning of any project can make a significant impact on costs savings. Although the initial integration may require greater resource expenditure, the resulting cost savings over the medium and longer term more than compensate. Allowing system growth reduces the costs in having to replace outdated systems and ensures vital business continuity.

Stand-alone software systems with multiple overlapping databases, restrict the users ability to access a centralised view of all essential data. Simplified cross-referencing of related information allows for improved efficiency and greater reporting accuracy providing an integrated view of your company's operations. Integrated data means greater accuracy with live status updates fed by the most up-to-date information.

Decision making is made easier when accurate, live information can be instantly retrieved and used to make informed decisions. Organisation wide visibility is enhanced, as cross-functional areas become better informed with clear lines of communication. This `bigger picture' approach is vital in today's NHS where service standards and care levels are being constantly assessed.

Combining system functionality has an immediate benefit of reduced IT and operational costs. The maintenance of one single system is easier than trying to maintain a number of separate systems.
Integration software provides the ability to integrate a diverse range data from a variety of sources. Integrated data sets are easier to share by related applications such as task management systems, dashboards and reporting systems. Data can be shared not only within a single system but also between previously stand-alone systems.

DMT/fmfirst integration in action
The Domestic Monitoring Tool (DMT) is the cleaning audit management system that supports national standards compliance for NHS National Services Scotland. **fmfirst® estates and facilities** was one of the first Facilities Management system in operation to capitalise on the cleaning audit data collected by the DMT system.

fmfirst® estates and facilities has an existing, proven, successful integration functionality. The fmfirst/DMT integration project covers a large geographical area and multiple site locations. The system is installed across the whole of the Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC) health board (one of the largest health organisations in Western Europe). More recently, the inclusion of NHS Forth Valley has increased usage even further. It is now being used in over 132 sites with 75 concurrent desktop and 100 mobile device users.

When housekeeping identify an estates related problem during a DMT cleaning audit - tasks are automatically created within the central fmfirst® estates and facilities system when the DMT mobile device uploads any collected data.

Once a task is signed-off as completed or moved to a status of eg. Work in Progress/On hold/Rejected in fmfirst®, information is fed back and DMT audit records updated with the appropriate status. This automation eliminates the need to manually create documents or enter task details to pass onto the FM Department. Data security is enhanced as data input errors are reduced. Live task status updates inform the management decision making process and resource planning.

This automation of task status updates between fmfirst® and the DMT allows for the seamless integration of legacy estates data. Greater reporting accuracy is made possible with live data updates between estates and housekeeping and mobile compatibility has increased remote worker efficiency. Integration projects also include an extensive programme of user training, legacy data cleansing and importation.

Contact Asckey on 0845 270 7747 to find out how data integration can enhance your operational performance and efficiency.