



Case Study: Toronto Pearson International Airport Uses Planet® IRM to Track \$4.4B Expansion Plan

Toronto Pearson International Airport is Canada's busiest airport, handling more than 31 million passengers a year. In 1996, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) assumed responsibility for the management and operation of Toronto Pearson to enhance the economic growth and development of the Greater Toronto Area. By the year 2020 the number of travelers passing through the airports' gates is expected to reach 50 million.

To meet this goal, as well as the growing air travel needs of the region, the GTAA undertook an ambitious redevelopment plan that will allow Toronto Pearson to keep pace with the rapidly growing travel needs of southern Ontario. This 10-year, \$4.4 billion plan included terminal, airside, and infield development as well as utilities and airport support.

The airport is home to one of the most complex Cisco architectures in the world. The infrastructure encompasses 47 networks, 750 individual fiber cables, 40,000 horizontal drops, 174 equipment rooms, 29,900 patch cables, and 459 copper backbone cables, supporting fire and security systems, campus area networks, and wireless LANs. Today, this vast infrastructure is completely recorded in Planet Associates' critical infrastructure management tool, Planet® IRM.

Before breaking ground on its new terminal, the GTAA evaluated cable management systems for tracking the extensive cabling infrastructure and IT assets it was about to install. "Planet IRM offered us considerable flexibility and a user-friendly interface," said Chris Langley, manager of IT & Telecom

provisioning services for the Greater Toronto Airports Authority. "While there were other systems out there that were sophisticated as well, they weren't easy for cabling technicians to use. And if the people entering data into our system have difficulty, it's not going to work right for us."

GTAA deployed Planet IRM to track all of its network and hardware devices, and manage all moves, additions and changes. The infrastructure

"We needed a tool to provide us with a complete, current view of all of our critical assets and interconnectivity as we expand, and Planet IRM has done that."

Thomas Tisch
GTAA Director of IT&T Operations

management tool keeps track of the main control rooms, phone closets, all of the airport hardware, rack elevations, equipment interconnections, and power demands. "Planet IRM allows for automatic route planning instead of us having to sit down with paper records to determine where cables go and what they support. It's an added level of sophistication that would not otherwise exist," Langley said.

The software has proven very helpful for planning future builds. If a new office is being constructed, GTAA performs all of the cabling design in Planet IRM, provides all the cabling numbers and routing to the contractor, and puts out an RFP. This gives contractors a more accurate way to perform costing. "If we have a plan to install new servers or



other hardware, we can simply go into Planet IRM, check out the phone closets and computer rooms and see what rack space is available instead of having to physically go to the site,” Langley said. “We can quickly identify where equipment will go, reserve that space, and route circuits over existing copper and fiber or discover if there are additional circuit needs.”

GTAA has also gained early notice of needed power upgrades. Instead of learning after the fact they need additional power to support new equipment, they can see up front at-a-glance what is needed so as to not cause delays in deployment.

In addition, when GTAA decommissioned one of its terminals, they could identify services that travel over the cables that traverse through the building. “Often we have cables that run through several buildings,” agency IT manager Langley explained. “Without Planet we wouldn’t know how they were routed. This knowledge enables us

to reroute cabling in a most effective way. Planet IRM enables us to do that very quickly. Without Planet it would be very time-consuming to do.”

The agency has found Planet IRM helps ensure data accuracy and is well regarded by its staff. “Our technicians find it easier than any other cable management application and very convenient,” Langley added.

Thomas Tisch, the GTAA’s Director of IT&T Operations, said the Planet software has helped the airport authority visualize, analyze, manage and control its critical infrastructure at a time of significant change.

“This expansion we’ve been undertaking is critical to our future,” Tisch said. “We needed a tool to provide us with a complete, current view of all of our critical assets and interconnectivity as we expand, and Planet IRM has done that.”

*About Planet Associates Inc.
Planet Associates, Inc. develops, licenses and supports the Planet®
IRM family of critical infrastructure relationship management software
products and services.*

Planet® is a registered trademark of Planet Associates, Inc.