Minacom CTMS
Centralized Test Management System

Scalability
Manageability
Traceability
The Minacom Centralized Test Management System (CTMS) provides you that bridge. Based on a centralized test strategy; a generic user interface; and an open, cost-effective, industry-standard architecture, CTMS can help you implement interactive test and performance management across your multivendor network. Blending TMN with Bellcore generic test-management and exploiting Windows NT architecture, CTMS blends into your network-management environment while providing an integrated path towards TMN service and management layers. This means that even while focusing on interactive fault-test-performance management, CTMS can accept and process requests from the service-management and business-management layers of your organization – thereby automating applications for trouble tickets, network rerouting, service modification, performance-rebate programs, and remote network management.

A Familiar and Consistent View

Unique to CTMS is the server platform it's built upon as well as the client systems it supports: CTMS is based on the scalable, robust and cost-effective Microsoft Windows NT Server operating system, and it supports both Microsoft Windows – and UNIX-based client platforms. In addition to its comprehensive functionality, CTMS leverages the productivity and cost effectiveness of Windows hardware and software technologies, while remaining interoperable with legacy systems.

With its Windows NT Workstation – based user interface, CTMS is the only operational support system reconciling tough TMN specifications, such as detailed requirements supporting multivendor compatibility, with a solution that’s easily accessible by operators, technicians, and managers alike. Features such as zoom, print preview, and integration of text and graphics help simplify monitoring and report production. Moreover, for deploying reports, presentations, and trend analyses internally and to the Internet, CTMS can export test and performance data directly into Word, Excel, HTML, and more than a dozen other standard file formats.

Still other benefits of the CTMS user interface come through its generic design. Modeled after the Microsoft Windows Explorer tool, the user interface provides a familiar and consistent view into the functionality of multivendor test units, thus raising the quality of monitoring and testing and lowering training and support costs. Furthermore, the scalability of CTMS provided by Windows NT Server enables you to add virtually as many users as you like and distribute responsibilities across multiple servers,
locations and organizations. As a result, you can leverage network and personnel resources across the enterprise.

Another feature stemming from CTMS's foundation in the Windows environment is its support for the Open Database Connectivity standard, known as ODBC. Through ODBC, CTMS can support applications running against three of today's most powerful and popular database-management systems: Microsoft SQL Server, Sybase, and Oracle, on both Windows NT Server and UNIX platforms. This capability frees you to leverage the value of existing databases and create new ones tailored to individual applications.

Internet Capabilities for Remote Testing

CTMS is expressly designed for the remote and automated testing of large and complex networks with network elements and test systems from multiple vendors. By virtualizing the test systems' proprietary interfaces through its generic test object interface, CTMS can perform sophisticated TMN test-management applications while enabling you to manage network elements and test systems as easily as you manage printers and other peripherals. Scalable from stand-alone to client/server versions, CTMS can fill a wide range of application situations and, through its Internet capabilities, can help you and your customers track network performance from any location. Reports and alerts can also be automatically multicasted to designated desktops as push content.

In addition to standard transaction and push capabilities that leverage Windows NT Server and its associated Web services, CTMS also supports the emerging industry initiative known as Web-based Enterprise Management. WBEM is designed to facilitate network management using a format independent of vendor, protocol, or management standard. Through its support for WBEM, CTMS can send performance rebates metrics and test history to the Web, enabling your regional or field-based employees, customers, vendors, and partners to remotely track performance, traffic congestion, handover failures, alarms, circuit-maintenance history, and other network metrics of thousands of circuits on your network.

A Universally Well-Managed Network

Minacom CTMS is the telecommunication industry's only solution automating and integrating network testing and performance management with mission-critical carrier and business processes throughout the enterprise. As such, Minacom CTMS can provide you a universally well-managed telecom network and the confidence that you're using your technical talent productively and cost-effectively.

Better still, the value of CTMS to your company and your network doesn't stop at what CTMS can do for you today. The benefits of a centralized, integrated, and automated solution for test and performance management extend well into the future— as CTMS helps you implement the kind of innovative service offerings you need to secure your company's position in an ever-more competitive industry.

Find out how Minacom CTMS can deliver such benefits to your company, and why it's already receiving rave reviews at others.
CTMS features a distributed architecture among multiple workstations and servers. Using the Microsoft SQL Server replication capability, the Management Information Base also can be distributed among several locations. Through the APIs and system-level integration capabilities available in Windows NT Server, CTMS can use its multiple interfaces to blend with various layers of network management.

There are no front panels on new telecom testing instruments, and that’s for a reason: manufacturers know the power and cost-effectiveness of a software-based test management solution. Yet most such solutions now available fail to take advantage of the opportunity provided by standardized interfaces available through TMN and, instead, merely replicate the old front panels of individual instruments. But that’s no solution. With the widely diverse and proprietary formats of today’s portable and remote test units, testing and monitoring through the front-panel approach just doesn’t work anymore.

The developers of Minacom CTMS know this. CTMS moves beyond proprietary virtual panels to a generic, Windows based user interface that consolidates functional information from many vendor devices. Within a familiar, easy-to-learn and consistent context, TMN standardized testing processes are applied independent of device specific panel formats. Attention is shifted from panel to process, from technical interface to tasks. Success is automatically reinforced. And, where required, actual device panels can still be reproduced.
For the technician on the road...

For the network management workgroup...

For the enterprise...

Scalability
Imagine that

you're a long-distance carrier competing in the international market and the governing regulatory body has just announced an easing of tariffs that would enable you to take advantage of a dramatic savings program offered by a reseller based in England. There's a catch, however. To join the program, you must reroute all your call traffic between the United States and Italy through the United Kingdom—beginning one week from today. This means reconfiguring several switches and hundreds of cross-connects, multiplexers, and other network elements. It also means ensuring that alarms are all in place. That performance and quality are unaffected. That accounting and billing continue without interruption. That security is not compromised in any way. And that all the above is to be done in just one short week.

What you need is

a telecom service management solution capable of working with input from individuals at all functional and geographic levels of your organization. That solution must be available and accessible by individuals, upper management, engineering, marketing and sales, accounting, field testing, and anywhere else that people are working to make the rerouting a reality. Only with such a solution can you integrate and automate the entire testing process, which you must do if you are to meet the deadline and keep your customers.

The Minacom Centralized Test Management System

- a distributed TMN test-management system designed to blend transparently into interactive and machine-to-machine management architecture — gives you a way to implement such a solution. Find out how by calling one of our engineers now.