



SOS Purchasing Newsletter

August 1, 2011



Capital Planning with Technology

Using Technology Assisted Renewal Analysis to Maximize facility Repair and Renewal

Do you know your Capital Renewal Needs for the Next 5 Years?

Underfunded for the second consecutive decade, dwindling M&O budgets continue to cause an increase in the maintenance activity backlog. And, with each passing year, plus stricter budgets, the threat of catastrophic failure of one or more systems within your buildings keeps getting worse. Preventive maintenance tasks that are unwisely deferred do not simply disappear. In fact, they add to the stress on the operations budget. On average, it costs five-times more to repair an item than to maintain it. In a down economy, no school can afford that type of capital spending.

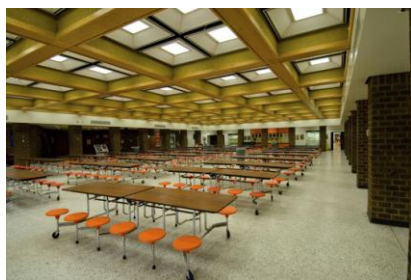
So, What Do You Do?

Knowing what type of information is needed for capital planning is crucial. Proper capital planning includes capturing detailed information on all structures, building components and systems. An accurate facility needs assessment must identify building deficiencies and project the cost to repair or replace those deficiencies.

Life Cycle Modeling

Traditionally capital planning involves an in-depth facility condition assessment (FCA). The only problem is this can be both time- and cost-prohibitive.

A less expensive approach to estimate facility renewal needs that has not been available to most organizations until now (although already used at Stanford, The University of California System, and other institutions) is to obtain information via life cycle modeling, using technology assisted renewal analysis. This web-based statistical method predicts when each major subsystem (e.g. electrical, HVAC, plumbing, roofing, etc.) is likely to fail and what the cost of replacement will be.



This methodology uses facility type, gross square footage, construction and renovation dates, life cycles, and cost of replacement for institutionally defined facility subsystems, to calculate annual facilities renewal needs. Predicted renewal costs are then aggregated by building and time period to project future renewal needs. Although predictions of life cycles and replacement costs are based on industry standards, they can also be adjusted to reflect actual expenditure data provided by the institution.

Technology assisted renewal analysis (or TARA for short) can be used to accurately calculate maintenance needs at a much lower cost than an FCA. While the assessment approach averages approximately 15-cents per square foot, the cost of using technology assisted renewal analysis is less than 1-cent per gross square foot. Once the life cycle model is implemented, an assessment can be done annually—or at any desired cycle—so that data remains current. Link this data to an automated work order management and preventive maintenance system and the result is an ongoing process of facilities maintenance and capital planning.

Another tactic is to create a hybrid method that incorporates both the life cycle modeling and FCA approaches – the best of both worlds. While a full FCA can be cost-prohibitive, once a specific area of need is identified by technology assisted renewal analysis, a more targeted FCA can take place. Using this approach, an institution can obtain more detailed insight for specific priority needs.

Utilizing a web-native capital planning system allows stakeholders across an organization to track and access valuable facility assessment data online, in real time, for immediate analysis, prioritization and costing. SchoolDude.com sees the value behind technology assisted renewal analysis and has incorporated this TARA methodology into its solution for capital planning, PlanningDirect. Users can easily document facility needs and develop an action plan based on a funding forecast, and that realtime facility plan can be quickly updated throughout the year, as facility needs, priorities and budgets evolve.

For more information or to request a full white paper on this topic, visit www.schooldude.com or email tara@schooldude.com

School Dude and Building Solutions are featured presenters for national training being sponsored by National Business Officers Association. Bill Keslar, president of Building Solutions, says the training will focus on best practices for facilities management.



Tuition Management

FACTS / Nelnet Business Solutions is the nation's leading provider of tuition payment plans. At FACTS, we've spent nearly 25 years listening to schools and administrators about what they want from a tuition management program. Today, we unveil a new vision for serving your school and families. In addition to helping families with monthly tuition payments, we also offer expanded flexibility for parents and schools that meet your high expectations—and ours. We can also bill your families for incidental fees accumulated throughout the year, meaning you'll never have to send another invoice from your school office—we'll handle it all for you.



School Benefits

- Multiple payment options for parents -- automatic bank payments, credit card, and paper invoices
- Flexible payment dates -- schools can pick any payment dates to offer to parents
- Choose remittance dates -- to meet cash flow needs and predetermined payroll dates
- FACTS bills for incidental fees incurred by families throughout the year. Never send another invoice ever again
- Realtime administrator interface to view status of agreements, make changes, download reports, etc
- Email reminders to parents
- Links from your school's Web site
- Data integration with your SIS means no manual entry of information

Family Experience

- Increased affordability
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- Receive email reminders
- Pay ahead - online.
- Pay by telephone
- Multiple students, one agreement

For information contact Jim Waits, Sr. Vice President FACTS Management Co. at 214-226-3431 or jwaits@factsmgt.com
<http://www.factsmgt.com/salesdemos/TuitionManagement.html>



RenWeb Now Offers iPhone/iPad Apps!

RenWeb is pleased to announce the debut both its new Parent Alert iPhone App and new Faculty iPhone App at the 2011 RenWeb Power Conference in July. RenWeb School Management Software, the school software provider leader among private schools, continues to grow and enhance their software to meet school's technology needs. With over 2,000 schools nationwide and in 26 countries internationally, RenWeb offers a completely integrated web-based solution priced affordably for both large and small schools.

The Parent Alert App will allow administrators to send emergency alerts from school, home or on the road without accessing a computer. There's no need to worry about the electricity or Internet being out of service - alerts can be sent directly from an iPhone or iPad to the device of choice for parents, students and staff!

The Faculty App will allow teachers to perform their most common duties without having to log into RenWeb on their computer. That includes adding and editing assignments and grades, taking attendance and placing lunch orders!



There are no “modules” to buy with RenWeb. RenWeb’s complete package includes over 185 features with a single purchase, including:

- Attendance and Discipline Tracking Admissions/Inquiry and Online Re-enrollment
- Online Applications and Inquiry forms customized free for the school
- Customizable web forms
- Online Grade Book (including teacher web sites for homework, pictures, announcements, etc.)
- Parent/Student Web Site
- Report card and transcript generation with a click of a button
- School-wide emailing capabilities
- Calendaring
- Automated Class Scheduling (both elementary and secondary school)
- Family/Staff Emailing Capabilities
- Student Billing/Tuition Management System
- Online bill/tuition paying and Auto Debit (including auto debit of donations and online donation capability)
- Student Performance Analysis
- Integrated Student and Family Information
- Course and Class Information (including extracurricular activities)
- Report Manager and Create-a-Report
- Medical/Immunization Tracking
- Library Component
- Religious Information Tracking
- Staff Human Resource Tracking
- Student Electronic Homework Drop
- Lunch Room and/or School Bookstore Ordering and Payment - cash register system
- Surveying capability
- Family Directory Online (families can update their own information online as well)
- Child Care Component
- Staff Human Resources Component
- Electronic Student Portfolio
- Electronic Homework Drop
- Staff Chat feature
- Security, Data Hosting and Daily Backup

RenWeb provides a complete, quick turn-key conversion and setup for new schools. For a webinar demonstration and/or pricing information, please contact: **Kim Conner**, School Management Consultant/Sales, O: 325-672-3550 / C:214-215-7715, www.RenWeb.com

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