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Business Challenges of GIS integration in Power Distribution Utilities

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Abstract:

Till now, power distribution utilities in India have been using GIS technology for electrical consumer indexing and asset mapping function generally as a stand-alone application. However, due to the recent impetus on distribution reforms with central funding, many utilities have come to realize the importance of integrating the GIS components with core business processes like new connection management, meter data acquisition, billing, collection and customer care, network analysis and energy audit. This paper discusses the approach being adopted by state distribution utilities and challenges faced in the integration of core business functions on a common framework using GIS, with the purpose of better customer and assets management, operations management and controlling ATC losses. The state utilities now prefer to have a GIS middleware integration platform using a parameterized business rules engine and a service-oriented architecture (SOA).