

The SIMMARIX Solution

SIMMARIX is an internet-based energy information system, which provides utilities, commercial and industrial customer's fast, accurate and secure access to metered information from electricity, gas or water meters. This information is presented in both financial and energy units to allow for easy understanding of the information.

SIMMARIX is a "total data package", a powerful software tool for both customers and utilities. Users can use the interval data processed by SIMMARIX to successfully operate, negotiate and compete in the energy marketplace.

SIMMARIX offers an uncomplicated way to review, analyze and report on consumption and costs. With a click of a mouse, users can quickly see how much electricity, natural gas or water they have used during the hour, day, week, month or year. Facility managers can compare usage from facility to facility or if properly metered, between pieces of their plants or even pieces of equipment. They can also perform historical comparisons, monitor peak demand or perform "what if" analysis on usage and costs.

Today's utilities need to change from traditional methods of collecting and providing metered information. Customers are being forced to absorb increasing prices resulting in a need to analyze costs and seek out savings. Utility data collection methods are often not geared to evolving customer needs. Meter data management services are not core to the main goals and objectives of the utilities. SIMMARIX can provide cost effect solutions to both the utility and the customer.

New market dynamics are requiring utilities and customers to monitor their energy consumption more often in order to better manage their energy costs. This requires installation of smart interval meters and the polling of these meters on a daily basis. The SIMMARIX solution is targeted at the electric industry. It can however be used in any industry where smart metering is used. This includes the water and gas industries. SIMMARIX will be expanding into these areas once our market share in the electric industry has been stabilized and steady profitability is achieved.

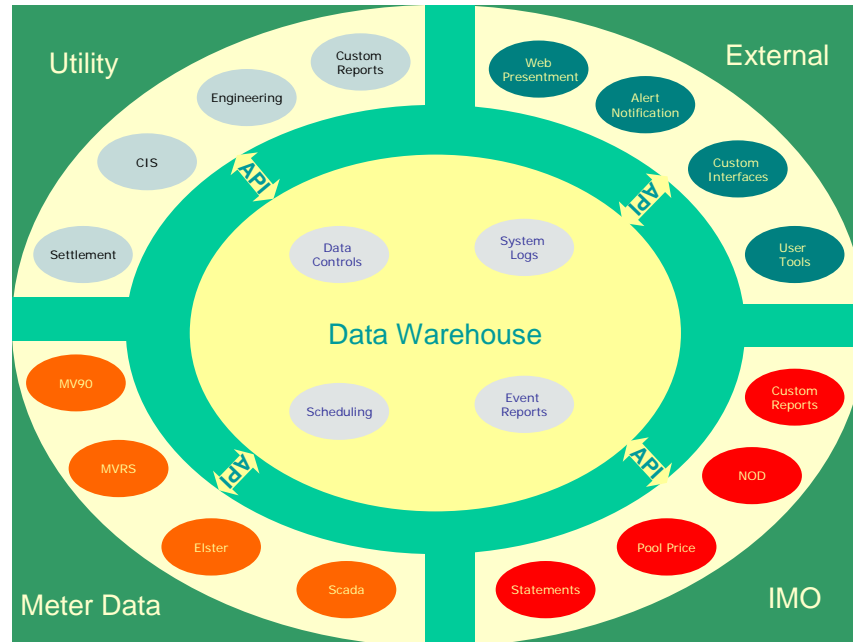
Timely energy use information is becoming increasingly more important. A month or more time lag in energy information affects customer budgets and their ability to manage cost overruns. SIMMARIX provides the tools to users that enable the ability to:

- Act on real time energy information across multiple sites with a seamless and user-friendly interface,
- Analyze historical and current consumption data,
- Accurately analyze energy costs and rate scenarios.
- Ability to react to pricing signals.

SIMMARIX is the most cost effective, streamlined and easy to use energy information product on the market. SIMMARIX was designed and developed to meet the needs of today's regulated and deregulated marketplaces. Users will appreciate its simplicity of use for data analysis and reporting. The SIMMARIX solution is a fully customizable and cost effective solution for all interval data needs.

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The SIMMARIX solution can form the hub for a market participant's information management system. The solution through its open architecture can interface with a variety of third party data collection tools and other data warehouses. Similar interfaces allow the system to communicate with a multitude of information systems utilized by market participants.



Since SIMMARIX is an internet based solution, all of its data presentation features, analytical tools, data controls, event and system logs can be viewed via a web browser bringing users an up to date view of their energy usage and/or billing information.

Meter Data Management – Data Collection

SIMMARIX offers solutions for data collection, meter data management and information distribution for local distribution companies and energy marketers. The solution is open, flexible and scalable. The SIMMARIX database contains actual meter reads and an auditable history on that meter read.

Meter Data Management - Meter Data Access

More and more people and groups throughout organizations require access to commodity data. SIMMARIX uses a web-based interface that is cost-effective to share meter data among many different users with no IT burdens.

SIMMARIX is an easy-to-use Internet data access application that presents load data in tabular or graphical formats via the Internet to user's desktop. This functionality is available to all market participants (End-use Customers (EUC), Local Distribution Companies (LDC), Aggregators, Energy Service Providers (ESP), Wholesalers or Independent System Operators (ISO), all users need is a standard web browser. Any user can then use this application to manage energy costs, optimize business operations or plan for the future.

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Meter Data Management - Customer Care

The SIMMARIX solution provides for commodity data presentment for all data (interval, TOU, monthly or billing) and improves the availability of meter or bill data and cost information to users. An LDC, allowing access to SIMMARIX by their end-use customers, can reduce the time spent by a customer care representative explaining meter errors or load usage patterns.

Another advantage of allowing end-use customer access to their data is that the number of meter data requests to the LDC should be reduced.

Analytical Support - Operational Savings

SIMMARIX allows users to monitor energy consumption and run facilities more efficiently. Continuous facility variance analysis and power analytics are becoming common practices to lower energy costs.

Users can also monitor energy financials and verify utility bills using actual utility rate schedules and the utility's billing cycle. Users can accumulate energy costs for fiscal period (hour, day, month and year) and generate internal invoices. The SIMMARIX solution also allows users to forecast energy or dollar costs for any fiscal period.

Analytical Support - Energy Procurement

SIMMARIX allows organizations to profit from new supply contracts, through supporting short-/ long-term forecasting and rate comparisons. Once contracts are in place, the solution can provide alarms/alerts around contract compliance and for dynamic load control.

Analytical Support - Analysis of Energy Efficiency Programs or Demand Response Programs

Utilizing historical usage patterns and current usage patterns users can evaluate the effectiveness of energy reduction schemes and estimate dollar savings. By analyzing hourly load data, SIMMARIX can provide users with estimates of hourly load impacts on costs or revenues.

Analytical Support - Market Research

SIMMARIX can develop hourly profiles for individual sites or groups of sites. Users see the value of the detailed profile information almost immediately regardless of what it used for: efficiency program planning, energy forecasting, or transmission, distribution, and generation planning.

Analytical Support - Load Profiling and Forecasting

By perform daily, hourly or interval reads on meters monitoring equipment, assembling lines, plant wings, sub leases, tenants or for a selected portion of the distribution system, SIMMARIX can provides users peak load by equipment or system section identifying where users should make adjustments for improperly sized equipment. This type on analytics can also be for future infrastructure planning allowing users to build to maximize assets from a capital investment and energy usage point of view.

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Deregulation - Load & Financial Settlements

SIMMARIX's database manages the data and performs any necessary aggregation or other calculations (includes loss and UFE allocation) to balance load amongst customers. SIMMARIX also provides for financial settlements, including calculation of the difference between the energy usage that was forecasted versus what was actually used by customers. SIMMARIX will then prepare a settlement invoice for each customer and forward electronically.

Deregulation - Settlement Verification

SIMMARIX will recreate settlement statements from the ISO or Load Settlement Agent based on usage data supplied to/by the customer. These results can then be utilized in dispute resolution process. SIMMARIX settles metered or estimated consumption, losses and UFE against the wholesale billing for customer. Settlement is done at the site level and can be aggregated into customer or retailer totals.

Deregulation - Data Transfer & Exchange

SIMMARIX supports a variety of data exchange formats (EDI, XML, etc.) so that meter data may be exchanged easily and cost-effectively with different market participants.

Deregulation - Data Aggregation

SIMMARIX is capable of performing large numbers and volumes of aggregations for wholesale markets. The solution can also allocate losses according to rates or market rules.

Energy Settlement

SIMMARIX is a very scalable, fully automated settlement tool thus enabling clients to reduce the number of resources required to settle energy markets. Since it is web enabled, users have access to the data, standard market reports and customized, user defined reports anywhere they have access to a PC with a browser.

SIMMARIX supports all the industry standard data exchange protocols allowing for automated information flows and easy integration with other systems. SIMMARIX adapts quickly and easily to changing market rules. Before loading data into the SIMMARIX data warehouse, SIMMARIX performs validation checks on all incoming data streams ensuring clean accurate calculation results.

SIMMARIX performs the complex calculations of settlement with efficiency and accuracy. In addition to actual meter reads, SIMMARIX users can use multiple profiling methods (dynamic, proxy day and deemed) for settlement calculations.

Monitoring

SIMMARIX can monitor and analyze interval data from meters associated with a particular piece of equipment, location or substation to ensure load curtailment instructions to effect or to track load switch operations.

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Notifications

SIMMARIX can be configured to notify customers with a variety of alarms and alerts. In an outage situation, users need to identify it, locate it, isolate it and repair it. Via monitoring capabilities in SIMMARIX, users could also see when power is restored.

Power Factor & Power Quality

If customers have solid state metering equipment installed, SIMMARIX will report and analyze the power quality data collected for users. Using SIMMARIX to identify power-quality problems will allow users make the necessary improvements to infrastructure improving efficiency and save on energy.

Rates and Billing – Local Distribution Company (LDC)

LDC's can use SIMMARIX to develop detailed usage pattern information on specific sites or groups of sites to design distribution or transmission rates/tariffs. Utilizing the load profiles, LDC's could then conduct "what if?" analyses of different rate options to ensure they were within their revenue requirements for the different rate classes.

An LDC, allowing access to SIMMARIX by their end-use customers, can reduce the time spent by a customer care representative explaining billing errors or load usage patterns. Another advantage of allowing end-use customer access to their data is that the number of meter data requests to the LDC should be reduced.

Rate and Billing – Energy Service Provider (ESP)

ESP's can use SIMMARIX to develop detailed usage pattern information on specific sites or groups of sites to design retail or wholesale rates/tariffs. Utilizing the load profiles, ESP's could then conduct "what if?" analyses of different rate options to ensure they were within their revenue requirements for the different rate classes. An ESP utilizing the "what if" capabilities of SIMMARIX could determine which of their rates best fits for a potential site or group of sites.

Using detailed usage information and billing determinants, SIMMARIX can calculate and generate an unbundled bill and/or customized bill for ESP's simplest customers all the way up to large commercial and industrial customers using complex and customized rate structures. Bill types and billing periods can be tailored based upon contracts and presented nearly instantaneously over the Internet or transferred directly into a customer information system.

It is possible for an ESP to load meter data for their entire book of business and verify the invoice for transportation charges.

One of the features of the SIMMARIX solution is that it can be easily re-branded in the ESPs own color schemes and logos providing a value add service to strategic accounts. An end-use customer using a user id and password logs in via the ESP's web site to gain access to select features. ESPs have a cost-effective and easy-to-use web system to post and present usage data for commercial and industrial meters for reporting and analysis. This type of re-branded access reduces time spent by ESP customer service representatives resolving billing issues and allows them to better manage strategic accounts.

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Rates and Billing - End-use Customer (EUC)

EUC's utilizing their detailed usage pattern information could conduct "what if?" analyses on different rate options presented to them from various ESPs to determine the best fit. EUCs having detailed information at their fingertips would be well positioned to negotiate with prospective ESPs and ensure they stay within their budget envelope for energy costs.

EUCs using their meter data and billing determinants can generate an in house version of the ESP invoice to verify its correctness. A EUC with this information on their desktop could significantly reduce potential billing dispute periods or perhaps eliminate them completely.

Market Focus

The SIMMARIX software can be used in virtually any market and by most customer types including:

- End-Use Customers (Commercial/Industrial, Single or multiple locations)
- Electric Utilities
- Gas Utilities
- Water Utilities
- Wholesalers
- Aggregators
- Rural Electric Associations
- Municipalities
- System Operators

The SIMMARIX offers a wide range of reports and tools for load analysis and reporting. All reports are delivered via the Internet and are available on a 24 by 7 basis. The services are typically grouped packages but special arrangements can be made to tailor the service package and reports to the customer's specific requirements. All reports are communicated in an easy to understand format so that managers can take the steps necessary to manage the energy and costs.

Energy Related Reports

- Total energy used at each site during a given time period.
- Energy summarized by settlement zones and wire service providers.
- Energy summarized by type of business and/or location.
- Verification of metered information collected by wire owner and/or provided to the ISO and utility retailer

Pricing Related Reports

- Daily summary of energy and estimated wires costs.
- Evaluation of energy usage by location based on user defined parameters.
- Estimated invoice.

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- Kilowatt Hour Cost Report
- Cost Summary Report
- Hourly pool prices

Operational Reports

- Demand Profile (kVA, kVAR, kW)
- Energy Profile Hourly
- Max and Minimum Demand
- Analysis and Evaluation Report
- Load Factor
- Average Energy -Day Of Week Report
- Load Duration
- Daily Comparisons
- Monthly Calendar Display of Daily Data

Other

- Cost effective interval meter data collection, validation and storage.
- Summarization of metered data information.
- Reporting of required data to ISOs and other stakeholders.
- Load profile calculations and reporting.
- Data transfer to customer information systems.
- Calculation of billable amounts.
- Special analysis and reporting

Contact

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