If you still use paper, e-mails and spreadsheets to perform and track routine data collection and logging, then you’re wasting time managing this data, and leaving yourself open to accidents and outages caused by lack of communication and knowledge sharing. Other industries have solutions to address these challenges and now data centers do too.

The Missing Toolset
Every data center has one or more automation systems that are monitoring the status of key facility components and can initiate unplanned activities, typically in the form of an alarm, text message or email. Some data centers have Computerized Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS) that assist in scheduling planned preventative maintenance activities, which are typically larger or more complex. However, there is a category between unplanned and planned covering routine operational tasks. This includes things like:
- Routine inspections and operator rounds
- Manual data collection
- Logbook updates
- Ad hoc information sharing

Solutions for these routine activities are as varied as the number of data centers that implement them. Typically, they are managed through a combination of paper logbooks, emails, spreadsheets, and verbal communication.

Electronic Shift Operations Management
eSOMS for Data Centers simplifies data center operations by providing tools that organize and track routine maintenance operations and data in a single electronic suite. With eSOMS, it is no longer necessary to collect data on paper, transcribe it to spreadsheet, and share and track spreadsheets via email – the tool provides all these capabilities in a simple and elegant format, proven-in-use by other industries for many years. eSOMS has two main modules: Operator Rounds and Narrative Logs.
Operator Rounds
With the eSOMS Operator Rounds module, routine inspections can be handled easily and quickly on any iOS or Android device. Preset rounds are downloaded to the device and all paper data collection and transcribing is eliminated. Functionality includes:
- Barcode/QR scanning to simplify device identification or location confirmation
- Detailed instructions can be provided for complex station inspections
- Automatic data validation and time stamping tells you right away if a problem might exist
- Access to historical data allows for quick comparison against previous values
- Notes can be entered along with the collected data
- Pictures, video or sound clips can be attached
- Once data is uploaded, it can be automatically transferred into your automation or DCIM system, giving you a complete picture of all your facility data, both automatically and manually collected.

Narrative Logs
The eSOMS Narrative Logs module lets you maintain an electronic record of all the activities that take place in your data center. It is your ‘Electronic Log Book’, capturing the events of the day or shift, and giving each event a managed life cycle, so that nothing falls through the crack and everyone has the information they need at all times.

eSOMS Narrative Logs provide a consistent, organized and integrated method to manage day-to-day activities. Its functionality includes:
- Customizable reports and data sharing, so that people see only the information that is relevant to their roles
- Shift turnover reporting, to simplify the facility handover from shift to shift
- Mobile log application, so that logs can be viewed or new entries created on-the-fly from any handheld device
- Integration with the eSOMS Operator Rounds module, so that unusual readings or problems can be automatically entered in the log and tracked.

Ease of deployment
eSOMS for Data Centers can be quickly and easily deployed on the ABB Cloud, or on-premise at your location. Once installed, all maintenance of access rights, equipment data and operator rounds tour definitions can be done by the customer.

eSOMS for Data Centers is deployed throughout the world in military, nuclear power, chemical production and dozens of other critical industries. Now it can be used in your data center too. Contact your local ABB representative for a demo or more information about eSOMS for Data Centers.