

# Make the Business Case with Similix

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## Esri Utility Network

*It's time to start your journey*

**Esri's Utility Network offers tremendous benefits because of the enriched data model, tracing capabilities and the service-based architecture. To support all business processes, some utilities also need the capabilities planned for the coming releases to have full functionality coverage, but you can run Esri ArcGIS 10.X and Utility Network in parallel.**

With the Similix Migration Suite, you can migrate your data to the Utility Network (UN), and run a delta-integration from 10.2.1 to UN until final go-live. When you are ready to go live, the Migration Suite offers migration of versions to minimize business downtime for GIS-users as well as users in systems that relies on GIS data.

The Similix Migration Suite is generic and supports migration of any utility type: water, sewer, electric, gas, cable TV, telco, district heating - you name it.

### Early benefits and risk-free transition

I have met utilities where ArcGIS integrates to 20+ systems. ArcGIS have become the heart of Smart Grid, responsible for delivery of high quality master data to numerous IT and OT systems. ArcGIS have evolved from being a system of records, servicing the Documentation Department in creation of maps, to a highly critical system supporting short and long-term planning, operation and maintenance throughout the utility. ArcGIS also plays a key role in engaging the community, communicating with

customers and authorities and in financial asset management and risk management.

With the Migration Suite you can transfer your integrations one by one, at the pace fitting your organization. This is radically lowering the risk of your project, and you can focus the attention on one group of end-users at the time, thereby ensuring time for training, process improvements and best of all: happy stakeholders.

## Moving to the Utility Network is a great business case

What is your most important challenge, and how can the Utility Network help?

### The World's first complete GIS system

There is a strong consolidation trend in the utility sector. All the mergers and acquisitions of organizations are creating a similar number of projects merging and migrating processes and GIS systems. Take the opportunity to create the future platform for your utility based on the Utility Network and energize your project by focusing on value creation instead of decommissioning.

I have had the responsibility for a large merger of Smallworld, Intergraph and Esri solutions into one common platform in my past, and I do recall the discussion of loved features from each system, that groups of employees couldn't live without. Regardless of which feature I think about, it's present in the Utility Network.

### Optimized upgrade budget

The 10.2.1 version is officially supported by Esri until 2021. You can prolong the support for the Geometric Network until 2024 by upgrading to 10.6.1. There is no upgrade road to the Utility Network – it's a full migration of data, processes and integrations. For large utilities this will most likely be a two-year project. Why not save the money for more Geometric Network upgrades and start the journey to the Utility Network now?

When you have migrated your data to the Utility Network with the Similix Migration Suite, you can run delta integration from 10.X to the Utility Network, enabling you to migrate one interface at the time. You will keep editing your data in 10.X, until you are ready for final go-live. The

exact same code is executed when you migrate and when you run delta integration to ensure transaction safety. At final go-live the Migration Suite supports migration of versions to minimize downtime.

### Timely and correct communication about outages to customers and authorities

I have met many utilities that are challenged identifying which customers are affected by reported or planned outages. At the same time both customer and authority expectations on timely and precise information is increasing. The Utility Network has standard functionalities for tracing.

Imagine a customer calling to report an event. You can use the Failing Equipment standard trace to trace upstream and find the most likely failing equipment. By selecting this equipment, you can run the Affected Customers standard trace, to identify other customers who are affected by the failing equipment. Out of the box from Esri! At Similix we have built a web-enabled Outage Management System on top of the Utility Network, giving an easy access to these and other relevant processes around outage management.

### The end of redundant data maintenance for schematics

The Utility Network has standard functionalities for creation of Diagrams, that will be able to substitute schematic drawings in some utilities. The diagrams are highly configurable including definition of symbols, and depending on your specific use case, you might be able to automate a lot of work.

### Improved tools for Field Crew

GIS is the system at hand for field crew in most utilities. The beauty of the Utility Network is, that it will become available throughout the technology stack, meaning that the above-mentioned tracing and diagrams functionalities will be available on mobile and tablets through Runtime. Imagine a field worker being able to trace on his tablet exactly which customers will be affected by a short outage, that turned out to be the consequence of repair work.

### **Easy control of which users have access to read an update which data**

The request for near-real time GIS data shared internally and externally is ever increasing, but so is also the need to know exactly who has access to certain information, and even secure who has access to read or update the data in a specific field – not to mention regulatory demands. You create specific services for the Utility Network, that has specific access, and then you give users access to relevant services.

### **The Utility Network is CIM ready**

Does your GIS serve as the master data system for ADMS? Then you have probably experienced, that some of the data needed for ADMS is hard to model in ArcGIS 10.2.1 or other versions of the Geometric Network. You probably must create a good part of the data in a CIM integration (Common Information Model IEC 61968+70). The Utility Network has a much richer data model, and you can model a better representation of reality, as well as having a model that is closer to CIM, e.g. the Utility Network has the notion of terminals. The Similix Migration Suite supports the transition to a richer data model by adding objects in the migration process.

Bringing the data model in GIS and ADMS closer to each other as well as closer to reality also supports the collaboration between departments using the same data in different systems. At Similix we are of course getting our CIM Adaptor for ArcGIS ready for UN.

### **Improved performance**

One of the goals for Esri developing the Utility Network was to: "Provide utility customers with the ability to model, edit and analyze complex networks of facility infrastructure using all Esri platform clients in a highly responsive manner". Some of the examples are a new way of caching in ArcGIS Pro and the introduction of branched versioning.

The Utility Network is based on a complete rewrite of the many of the functionalities you know. And yes, you and others in your organization will have to spend some time getting familiar with the Utility Network. It's worth it! My

experience running the standard traces in the Utility Network is a response time below 2 seconds.

### **Improved conflict solving**

In the future conflict solving will be easier with possibilities to automate simple tasks and postpone conflict solving, e.g. to discuss a case with a colleague.

### **Enhance the value of the Utility Network by adding applications**

Do you have 3rd party software on top of ArcGIS 10.2.1 to support your business? Are you planning to have one or more applications on top of the Utility Network? Almost all utilities do! The first Esri partners have made a Utility Network version of their products, and you should expect all to have a roadmap for the journey.

At Similix we think our customers should choose and combine the partner applications giving the best process support for their specific business. You can read all about our first four products at our homepage. The service based architecture is making it easier for customers to go for a best of breed strategy when choosing applications on top of the Utility Network.

The Similix Migration Suite supports the journey to the Utility Network in any case. You can migrate from a plain Esri solution or one with ArcFM on top, and you can migrate to Esri standard Utility Network data models - or models defined by 3rd party vendors and communities. You can migrate any type of utility since our tool is generic. We have solid experience with electric and gas and are looking forward to welcoming our first water/sewer customer.

### **How to get started**

I recommend, that you start by mapping and migrating a subset of your data using the data models provided by Esri for water, electric and gas or others, e.g. [www.utilitynetworkcommunity.com](http://www.utilitynetworkcommunity.com) for electricity. This will give you a look and feel of your own data in the Utility Network and kickstart your learning. The Similix Migration Suite have an intuitive UI, where you can map your data and unfold your data model in case you would like to enrich your data in the migration

process to benefit from the richer underlying Esri data model – you might have heard Esri describe this as advanced migration. The performance of the Migration Suite allows you to run this as an iterative process, where you can map and learn from the visualized result in dialogue with your colleagues.

### **Are your data ready for the Utility Network?**

When you migrate a subset of your data, the Utility Network has standard functionality that automatically creates a list of problems with data, giving a perfect input for a data readiness report, that will again give input for the scope of your migration project. If your utility is a merger of utilities and data models, you can go for migration of more subsets of data, representing the variance.

What is considered high quality data today, might need to be cleaned or enhanced when used in new ways. This is regardless if you build an integration for an ERP or ADMS system and use your GIS data there for the first time, or if you migrate to the Utility Network and start using the many new functionalities.

Read more at [www.similix.dk](http://www.similix.dk)