PRODUCT OF THE WEEK

Racking Up Storage Solutions

Rackmount Solutions' Network Series Adjusts For Flexible Cabling

by Curt Harler

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"RACK 'EM UP!" Whether that call to action comes in a billiard hall or in a data center, the situation demands a tight, well-produced product that will serve immediate needs, as well as the long-term requirements of the game. Rackmount Solutions (972/272-6631; www.rackmountsolutions.net), in Garland, Texas, produces racks of all sizes and sorts queued for the data center market.

According to Deborah Petty, president of Rackmount Solutions, the company produces a complete line of two-post, four-post, and rail-mount racks; shelves; and power strips for the SME data center. It also produces a special large cable cabinet that is outstanding for its flexibility in allowing space on either side of the cabinet for cable pulls.

"Flexibility in cable handling is the key," says Geoffrey Pearlman, network systems analyst at South Oaks Hospital, in Amityville, N.Y. He is working on a campus network upgrade with several buildings. "We had closets and switches all over the place. I wanted to consolidate everything," he says. He had used Rackmount and other manufacturers' products in the past and knew that he wanted racks and cabinets that would allow him to maintain neat cable runs into the boxes.

Special Cable Cabinet

Rackmount's Network Series rack has a welded frame of extruded and die-cast aluminum. It features two sets of universal, square-hole rack rails on an adjustable left-to-right track allowing 19-, 23-, or 24-inch rackmounting of equipment.

What makes it attractive to the SME is that the shelves can slide over either to the right or to the left side of the cabinet, depending on the required configuration in the data center. This allows a sizable alley of vertical space for work room or cable runs. The rack rails move front to back to a depth of 24 inches, for flexibility on racking around the cables. Offsetting the racks from the front or rear to allow for cabling is a matter of sliding the rack rails forward or backward. They are inset a standard 3 inches from the front in a 35- or 41-inch-deep frame, so there are up to 14 inches of space to drop cables down the back of the frame.

Petty says SMEs can order a 28.33-inch-wide rack (external dimension) or a 32.33-inch-wide rack. With a 32-inch width, rack rails set to 19 inches provide 13 inches of empty space to place cables. "This keeps them from pinching, crowding, or being forced into awkward angles," she explains. With those 13 inches of empty space, users can move 19-inch rack rails completely to the left or right or split the empty space in the center and drop cables down both sides of the cabinet. Because the unit is modular, users can pick only the features they need.

Racks

Rackmount offers top-quality, flexible racking solutions. "If you need something

done a little differently, chances are we can do it," says Petty. Either the company has its product readily available, or, for applications that require different heights, depths, widths, and colors, product is made to order. That process typically takes 10 to 14 days.

If an SME decides to set rails at 19, 23, or 24 inches, Rackmount has shelves, keyboard trays, and drawers. "If you decide to enclose the unit, we have fan tops, fan trays, fan panels, etc.," Petty says.

Pearlman was sold on the ability to move the rails around to get space wherever he needed it.

Pearlman likes the extra space, especially on the large rack. "These cabinets are great and make it much easier to work with than your standard rack with no space on the sides for large cable bundles," Pearlman says. "It let us cable 350 drops into one rack really neatly."

In one situation, Pearlman centered the rack, allowing him to bring cable in on both sides. In another, he shifted everything to the left, running all the cables in on one side. "What's nice is that everything is off to the side. You can't see any of it," he says.

For those applications requiring rack rails at 23 or 24 inches, but require a few items racked to 19 inches, the company offers reducer brackets. Cable management can be made to order, or customers can use standard stock cable managers or D-rings.

All of Rackmount Solutions' racks are available in the same six standard colors

as the rest of the company's server cabinet series.

"This rack unit is manufactured to the same strict steel and ISO processes as our standard server rack series," Petty says. This includes the NEBS seismic unit, A/C unit, and 4-Post Server Rack Frame (6-rail). "Everything matches for a neat and tidy appearance in the data room," she adds. The rack unit also has GSA approval.

Government-Approved

Rackmount Solutions has a pair of approved vendor certifications for government agencies. Its #GS-35F-0208R, IT 70-Information Technology, was awarded by the GSA (General Services Administration) in December 2005, and its #GS-28F-0011T, Schedule 71, Part 1-Office Furniture is effective Jan. 1, 2007, until Jan. 9, 2012.

Petty is proud of the fact that all of Rackmount's products, with the exception of a single economy-level cabinet, are made in the United States with American processed steel. "I do like to wave the flag," she says.

The company's NET7319-2430 frame starts at $1,042. The same unit, fully enclosed with perforated front and rear door, solid side panels, and a fan top is $2,153. Discounts are available for quantity orders.

The changing requirements for rack-mounting networking and switching equipment have consistently been focused around the increasing cable management routing provisions and space, as well as adapting to the "racking" requirements of the equipment itself, which has gotten larger and heavier with more unique cable management requirements, Petty says. "The flexibility of the Network Series Rack is specifically designed to address those issues," she adds. ▪

FOUR FEATURES HANDY FOR SMEs

1. Frame-only units (for easy access) are available.

2. Units with side panels are also available, with perforated front and rear doors optional. If security is an issue, these can be enclosed and locked. To gang side-by-side, a user can purchase only one side panel.

3. The unit comes standard with casters, levelers, and 40 pieces of M6 hardware.

4. Standard server cabinet options such as fan tops, sliding shelves, and keyboard trays also are available.

Rugged & Mobile

Glacier's Ridgeline Tablet PC Brings Computing Power To Harsh Environments

ALL OF US KNOW that harsh environments and electronics do not mix. However, many industries are unable to avoid harsh conditions. That's why Glacier Computer developed the Ridgeline Tablet PC. With this rugged tablet computer, construction, utility, and delivery workers can easily retrieve, send, and manage information.

This rugged tablet computer can withstand repeated 3-foot drops to concrete, and

water and humidity extremes at virtually any temperature. The Ridgeline Tablet PC can operate in temperatures ranging from -20 to 60 degrees Celsius. This tablet withstands even greater storage temperatures, ranging from -40 to 70 C.

For workers on the move, the Ridgeline is portable and comes with a choice of a 10.4-inch SVGA or XGA transmissive TFT touchscreen display with a sunlight-

readable option. Numerous hard drive options are available and up to 16GB of Compact Flash memory can be added.

This tablet runs on WinXP Pro or Embedded and can run any application. It uses a VIA Eden 1GHz processor and can be configured with up to 1.25GB of DRAM.

For extra efficiency and functionality while on the go, Glacier includes Bluetooth 2.0 and 802.11a/b/g connectivity. Should your needs require GPS, there is an optional built-in GPS with integrated antenna.

On the front of the device you'll find various application buttons, including 12 numeric keys, one software keyboard button, four programmable function buttons, and a four-way navigation button with integrated Enter button.

Many connectivity ports are available, including two USB 2.0 ports, a VGA output, RJ45 and RJ11 jacks, headphone jack, microphone jack, and a docking connector. This tablet also comes with an internal microphone and stereo speaker.

Glacier Computer Ridgeline Tablet PC

Starts at $3,000

Rugged tablet computer that gives your mobile workforce the flexibility and durability they need

(603) 882-1560

www.glaciercomputer.com

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