

How to Select the Right Rack PDU for Your Facility

Every piece of equipment in your data center requires a specific amount of power to run efficiently. Without the right amount of power your devices won't operate as they should, if at all, putting your entire facility at risk. This is why you need a power distribution unit (PDU), so every part of your data center can operate. Every facility is unique though, so it can be difficult to know which PDU is right for you.

Not sure where to start when it comes to finding your ideal PDU? Follow these steps to learn what your facility needs out of a PDU.

Determine Your Power Requirements

Your PDU needs to be able to deliver the necessary power to all the equipment in your facility. If you have a limited amount of power at your disposal, then all you need to do is identify the amperage, voltage, and receptacle type that your PDU will connect to.

However, if you have an unlimited power source then there are a few steps you need to take. Look at all your equipment's labels or manuals to learn how much power they need to run. Add these power requirements together in kW and include room for future growth. Now that you know how much power your facility needs you can pick a PDU that can effectively distribute that much energy.

Evaluate Reliability and Redundancy

A reliable power distribution system ensures you have a steady and safe way to receive power by using redundancy to provide a backup in case of downtime. To do this you need to invest in a backup PDU connected to a separate power source. This way if something happens to your main unit, you have a backup in place to eliminate costly downtime. Similarly, if a power surge occurs, your PDU needs to have a surge protector or circuit breaker in place to prevent electrical damage. PDUs are an investment, so be sure to budget accordingly to keep your power running through your facility no matter what.

Assess Your Monitoring and Management Needs

While remote monitoring and management are convenient it isn't always needed depending on the facility. If you only need something that will distribute power, a Basic Rack PDU may fit your needs. However, if you need to monitor and control your devices' power consumption or environmental conditions a more complex PDU may work better for your facility.

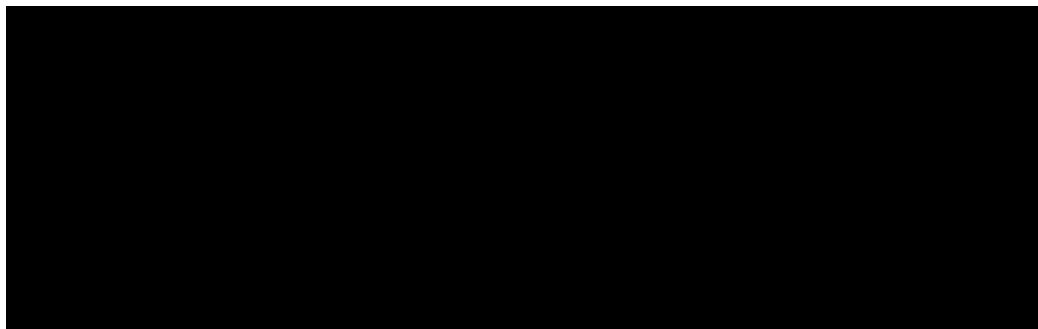
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Verify How Much Available Space You Have

When installing a PDU, you have two main options: rack-mounted and wall-mounted. The type you go with will depend on your power consumption and how much space you have available in your facility. PDUs are typically designed to fit vertically or horizontally either inside or outside the server rack. This means you must measure your available server rack and wall space to ensure a new PDU will fit where you need it to.

***Note:** *Large data centers may require an entire power distribution cabinet which is roughly the same size as a server rack and will therefore require more space.*



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