

Case Study

Minicom improves leading financial company's server room

The Customer

A global financial services company that provides financial planning, insurance, credit cards and other services. It is one of the 200 largest companies in the world.

The Challenge

A server room contained a large number of racks managed by legacy KVM switches. The racks can only be accessed by cumbersome crash carts. The legacy KVM switches use a mass of cables, creating clutter and diminishing airflow, causing overheating. The challenge was to overhaul the crowded server room - eliminate the crash carts and reduce the amount of cabling. In addition the customer primarily uses Dell servers and when Dell changed the diagnostic on their server, it was no longer compatible with most KVM switches.

The Minicom Solution

Minicom installed a [KVM RackManager](#) and [Smart CAT5 switch](#) into each rack. The KVM RackManager with integrated 16 port switch is a slim, rack-mountable, console drawer and occupies just 1U of rack space. A cross platform switch was required as the customer has some servers which are PS/2 compliant and some which are USB. The Smart CAT5 switch, using CAT5 cable to transmit data, drastically reduces the amount of cabling in the rack. It allows the client to control and operate all of the server room racks with a single keyboard, monitor and mouse. The combination of these two products resulted in the elimination of the crash carts and the cable clutter. Minicom's technical support liaised with Dell to ensure that their diagnostic was adjusted to enable the customer to use the switches and servers together. Installation was simple and is on-going as the data center continues to grow.



The Benefits

Operating in a more streamlined work environment with increased access raises productivity considerably. The data center is far less cluttered thanks to the [KVM RackManager](#) and [Smart CAT5 switch](#). As well as reducing clutter, CAT5 cable lessens the danger of overheating associated with traditional KVM cables. This creates a safer work environment.

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Quick Take

Challenge

- Free up overcrowded server room
- Eliminate crash carts

Solution

- [KVM RackManager](#)
- [Smart CAT5 Switch](#)

Benefits

- Streamlined & safer server room
- Increased productivity
- Significantly increased server access



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