Head-to-head UPS comparison: Network closet and server room applications

You've narrowed down your UPS choices to two or three models. Now what? How can you make sure that you're making an apples-to-apples comparison? Are you considering all aspects related to total cost of ownership (TCO)? We've created this quick checklist so you can ask yourself the right questions.

Factor	UPS 1	UPS 2
Voltage Be sure the input and output voltages are the same. For example, a 208V UPS will cost more than a standard 120V UPS.		
Power rating UPSs are typically rated in volt-amperes (VA) and watts. Watts measures real power and is the key rating. For example a UPS rated at 1000 VA / 900 watts provides one third more power than one rated at 1000 VA / 600 watts. Check out this Professor Wattson video for more information.		
Input plug Do both UPSs have the same input plug? Does it match your wall socket? UPSs 1500 VA and below plug right into a standard wall socket. Larger models may require you to hire an electrician to install a new wall socket.		
Output receptacles Does each UPS have the same quantity of output receptacles? The same type? Be sure the UPS has enough output receptacles and that they'll accommodate the power cords of your servers, etc.		
Warranty Are the warranties the same duration? How long does the warranty cover the batteries?		
User interface Do both UPSs utilize the same interface? Do both have an intuitive LCD or basic LEDs?		
Network card If you need/want a network card, does the UPS price include one? Some UPSs include a card while others do not and this can impact the price.		
Software Do both UPSs have equivalent software capabilities? For example, if integration into VMware vCenter is a priority, be sure the UPS software can do it.		
Mounting hardware Do you plan to mount the UPS in a rack enclosure or 2-post rack? If the mounting is not included with the UPS, you'll likely need to purchase hardware separately.		
Rack height If you are evaluating rack mount UPSs, are they the same rack height (U)? For example, going with a 1U UPS over a 2U model may allow you to fit another server in your rack.		
Maintenance bypass Have you considered the price of a maintenance bypass module that will allow you to keep your IT equipment up and running if you ever need to replace the UPS or if the UPS fails?		
Batteries Have you considered the cost of additional battery packs? The cost of replacing the batteries in the UPS?		

If you're looking for more information about network-class UPSs, check out our Professor Wattson video.