

Success Story:
Baldwin Wallace University

Market Served
IT



BALDWIN WALLACE UNIVERSITY

Unavoidable power anomalies schooled by Eaton 5PX UPSs

Location:

Berea, Ohio

Segment:

Higher Education

Challenge:

Routine power anomalies, coupled with the purchase of a new VoIP solution, necessitated a high-quality power protection solution for the university.

Solution:

Eaton® 5PX, Intelligent Power Software, Eaton Network Card-MS

Results:

The 5PX provides the university with unparalleled reliability in a rackmount UPS solution, as well as the management and monitoring capabilities it desired.

We need to have 100 percent uptime for that equipment even when power outages occur. Around here, it's not a question of if we will have power failures, but when.

Daniel Stilla, senior network administrator

Background

Baldwin Wallace University is a private, liberal arts-based, Methodist-affiliated university offering Bachelor's and Master's degrees, certificates and professional education programs. When founded in 1845, the university was one of the first colleges in Ohio to admit students without regard to race or gender. More than a century and a half later, Baldwin Wallace remains committed to leadership and innovation, maintaining a core academic program that is augmented by a host of opportunities for students to explore career options and develop professional skills.

Challenge

Safeguarding the campus' network switches and telecommunications equipment against the area's routine power outages is a duty Baldwin Wallace takes seriously.

"We need to have 100 percent uptime for that equipment even when power outages occur," explains Daniel Stilla, the university's senior network administrator. "Around here, it's not a question of if we will have power failures, but when."

Baldwin Wallace's deployment of a comprehensive Voice-over-IP (VoIP) solution — coupled with the wide variety of telecommunications gear and network switches located throughout campus— necessitated the addition of a power protection solution that could really make the grade.

In addition to exceptional reliability, the university desired a rackmount uninterruptible power system (UPS) with network management and monitoring capabilities, as well as the option to add additional battery runtime if needed.)

EATON

Powering Business Worldwide

Solution

The Eaton 5PX ranked at the top of the class for Baldwin Wallace, incorporating all of the features desired by the university while offering additional benefits such as high efficiency and an impressive three-year warranty.

With two 1000 VA 5PX units already installed, the campus ordered a third and plans for additional purchases. A former APC user, Baldwin Wallace is now looking to offer tenure to the Eaton UPS brand.

"As we have other UPSs die across campus, we will be replacing them all with Eaton," Stilla confirms. "Eaton really gives us a lot of bang for the buck, and we are entrusting these UPSs to protect our most vital equipment."

Indeed, the first 5PX has been successfully safeguarding one of the university's IT buildings, which houses core security and wireless networking devices and telecom equipment. The second unit was deployed in the main telecom closet to provide backup power to the VoIP solution if an outage strikes. The unit keeps equipment online until a building generator kicks in, which Stilla says occurs in stages and usually takes 3 to 5 minutes. "Our voice-over-IP solution requires most of our buildings to have UPS backup," he explains. "We are looking at adding more UPSs across campus."

The ability to remotely monitor and manage its power protection solution was a "necessity," according to Stilla. And the university couldn't be more

pleased with the results, thanks to Eaton's Intelligent Power Software (IPS) Suite. Providing Baldwin Wallace with all of the tools needed to monitor and manage power devices across its network, the innovative software solution — which even works in virtualized environments — combines the most critical applications to ensure system uptime and data integrity, as well as graceful shutdown during an extended power outage.

"The ability to work in a virtualized environment was a very attractive feature," Stilla says.

The university complemented the software with the Eaton Network Card-MS, which allows its UPSs to directly connect to the Ethernet network and the Internet, supporting real-time monitoring and control across the network via a standard Web browser, SNMP-compliant network management system or power management software.

Another benefit that attracted Baldwin Wallace to the 5PX is the ability to add up to four extended battery modules (EBMs), an advantage the university plans to take advantage of in the near future.

"In our administrative IT building, there is no generator," Stilla says. "But the 5PX will power the equipment for 40 minutes if there is an outage. I like that the units are able to grow with us, so if I need more runtime in the future, I can just add an EBM."

Furthermore, Baldwin Wallace's desire for a rackmount UPS was satisfied by the fact that every 5PX includes both tower pedestals and a four-post rail kit for ultimate flexibility. The units' three-year warranty, which is the only in the industry to cover both the UPS and the batteries, also scored an A+ from the university.

"With the APC units, if the battery fails, you're out of luck," Stilla acknowledges. "Being a university, we do have fixed budgets so having that three-year warranty where I don't have to worry about batteries or support for that period is a huge plus for us."

Stilla also awards high marks to the 5PX's 99 percent efficiency rating, as well as the LCD display, which offers a graphical interface providing all critical UPS information in a single screen view.

Adding to the impressive list of features was Eaton's exceptional pre- and post-sales support, Stilla adds.

"They went above and beyond in my opinion," he says, noting that while the university was initially researching various UPS manufacturers, an Eaton salesperson walked decision-makers through a variety of options. "They right-sized our units and made it very easy for us to purchase," Stilla shares. "We didn't have to second-guess the size and whether or not the units met our requirements. This support is something we never would have received from APC."

Reseller

With the Eaton solution in place, Baldwin Wallace is staying ahead of the curve when it comes to continuous uptime and availability. Thanks to the 5PX units and software, the university is now able to:

- Safeguard its critical equipment against power anomalies and frequent blackouts
- Easily monitor and manage the network with Eaton's power management software
- Ensure a safe, orderly shutdown of equipment in the event of a prolonged outage
- Extend runtime as desired with optional EBMs
- Conveniently rackmount the units with the flexibility of the 5PX
- Enjoy peace of mind with a three-year warranty covering both the UPS and batteries

For more information about the 5PX, visit:
Eaton.com/5PX

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