

# Rack and enclosure checklist

**Two-post, four-post, enclosure, perforated doors, hot aisle/cold aisle, airflow chimneys. There are so many terms to describe a rack and its features, but what do they all mean? And which rack is the best fit for your IT environment?**

Racks and enclosures are just one piece of the puzzle, but they lay the foundation for protecting your IT equipment so it lasts for years. The accessories you ultimately choose for your rack or enclosure can also help with heat management, organization and making sure you're covered in the event of an outage.

With so many options to consider, this checklist outlines items to think about when selecting a rack or enclosure. Your responses will help identify any questions you have and aid in determining the best solution for your IT environment.



## Space and environment

- Where do you need to secure equipment? (E.g., is it in a separate room or an open area where many people have access to it?)
- How much open space do you have in this area? (Think in terms of width, depth and height as that will impact your ultimate solution.)
- What set-up do you have in mind? For example, do you want to place multiple racks side-by-side? Or will they be stand-alone?
- Will you need to easily move your rack or enclosure or will it be in a permanent location/layout?
- Are you in a location with significant vibrations (e.g., near an airport) or one that's prone to earthquakes?



## Equipment and cabling

- What equipment will go in the rack(s)?
- Will equipment be kept under lock and key at the rack level?
- How wide, deep and tall (U height) is the equipment going into the rack?
- Do you anticipate adding more equipment in the future?
- How are you connecting the equipment together from a cabling perspective?
- Will you need to run cabling across multiple racks? If so, how do you plan on doing that?
- Will you need access to the rack from the bottom or top for cabling purposes?



## Other considerations

- Will you use rack power distribution units?
- Will you need back-up power for your IT environment – either rackmount or free-standing?
- Do you have a way to remotely monitor the environment and temperature 24/7?
- Do you have power management software to help monitor equipment and migrate virtual machines in the event of an extended power outage?
- How will you keep equipment at an ideal temperature?
- Do you need airflow management accessories to accent what you're already doing?

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