APC by Schneider Electric

Meeting challenges associated with deploying IT equipment in to small spaces.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Type
Open Office Space IT Deployment
Reducing Costs & Saving Space

Location
St Neots, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom

Number of Buildings
One branch office location.

Equipment Installed
18U NetShelter CX

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- **Significant space & energy savings**

- **Rapid & simple deployment**

- **Blends effortlessly into office space**

- **Secure & Soundproofed**

- **Ease of use and maintenance**

- **Transferable around UK premises**

"We compared how much it would have cost versus the alternatives, and the NetShelter CX cabinet was cheaper than the air conditioning alone – before we even started to factor in computer room building and maintenance costs."

Ian Humphreys
ICT Infrastructure Project Manager
Macmillan Cancer Support

Macmillan Cancer Support (www.macmillan.org.uk) is one of the UK's leading charities, with an annual income of over £120 million, and around 60 offices around the country.

Like many charity organisations, Macmillan often relocates an existing office or opens a new office. This happened recently for them when a new location was established in Cambridgeshire, in the UK.

The charity's new office was open plan, and had no space designated as a server or computer room.

Macmillan, like any other business, relies heavily on its connectivity to the outside world to run their busy operations. Telecoms in particular are critical as so much of the charities work is done over the phone.

A solution was needed to be able to locate telco devices, switches, a UPS (Uninterruptible power supply) and other network hardware seamlessly into the existing office environment without disturbing staff.

"As the office was open plan, we had noise problems, and needed to find a cost-effective solution," said Ian Humphreys, ICT Infrastructure Project Manager at Macmillan Cancer Support.

Make the most of your energy

"There is no noticeable heat or noise from the cabinet, and it looks like an attractive piece of furniture. I've had nothing but positive feedback from the staff."

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ICT Infrastructure Project Manager
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Humphreys decided to turn to APC by Schneider Electric for help.

The NetShelter CX, a soundproofed Server Room in a Box solution which is part of Schneider Electrics Solutions for Small IT Spaces, enables the deployment of servers and network hardware directly into the office workspace.

In typical usage, the NetShelter CX can reduce server noise to mere background noise, and when compared to a traditional server room for an equivalent amount of equipment, can cut floor space by 90%, operating costs by 98%, and capital costs by up to 80%.

For Macmillan Cancer Support, Schneider Electric donated a an 18U NetShelter CX acoustic server cabinet. This meant that Macmillan was able to locate its ICT in the main office, thereby getting around the fact that there was no dedicated server room and avoiding having to build one, with all the sunk-costs that come with that.

"Although the NetShelter CX was very kindly donated to us by Schneider Electric, we compared how much it would have cost versus the alternatives. The cabinet was cheaper than buying & fitting the air-conditioning equipment alone, before we even started to factor in computer room building and maintenance costs," said Humphreys.

"Installation was also much cheaper and easier than if we'd had a separate server room, which would have required terminating cables in the server room and then cables to be run from there to the PCs in the office."

"There's no noticeable heat or noise from the cabinet, and it looks like an attractive piece of furniture," said Humphreys.

"I've had nothing but positive feedback from the staff."

Another advantage is simplified maintenance, as Humphreys explained: **"If we have to go there and do any work on the systems, then access is easy, as the NetShelter CX is on wheels – that's a great benefit as other fixed cabinets aren't so straightforward. The build quality and functionality of the cabinet are impressive, and installing our equipment was simple – we just slotted things in."**

The NetShelter CX can also be easily fitted with devices for Remote Management. These allow monitoring and management of IT units in one or a number of sites from a centralised location or on the move, from mobile devices.

"Many of our office leases are running out, and a lot of the new properties coming up that we are looking at don't seem to have server rooms, as they are newer offices that are all open plan," said Humphreys.

"When we need to put any servers or network devices in another office, we will consider Schneider Electric's Solutions for Small IT Spaces first."

For further information go to www.apc.com/netsheltercx
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