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8 ways to remotely manage your colo infrastructure

ACCORDING to 451 Research, almost 50% of enterprises plan on increasing their use of colocation services over the next two years.

With the use of colo data centers on the rise, data center managers must find ways to remotely manage their assets in colo spaces to maintain uptime, increase the efficiency of capacity utilization, and improve the productivity of people. Some of the most beneficial ways to improve remote colo infrastructure management include:

Monitor, report, and trend your power loads

Monitoring power is critical and knowing the exact load for every rack is important to maintaining uptime.

Leverage an enterprise polling engine that can collect all the power data from inlets, outlets, and circuit breakers, retain that data for long periods of time, and transform it into actionable information. Set thresholds and alerts to be the first to know of potential issues before they become real problems.



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Monitor the environment in real-time

Deploying and monitoring environmental sensors allows you to identify hot spots and overcooling, ensure a safe operating environment for IT equipment, reduce energy costs, and improve uptime.

Accurately manage all assets, parts, and spares

Enable a single source of truth by maintaining an accurate inventory of the data center assets across your entire colo deployment including servers, storage, networking equipment, rack PDUs, and patch panels. For more granular asset management, be sure to track all parts and spares like hard drives, memory modules, power supplies, patch cables, and even boxes of screws.

Simplify space and power capacity planning

Leverage business intelligence dashboard charts and visual analytics that your management can understand to show exactly what your current capacity is and when you can expect to run out. Consider a modern Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) solution that can automatically calculate power budget profiles for each device instance based on how they are used in your environment, allowing you to get up to 40% more out of your existing cabinet resources.

Visually document power and data connectivity

Good network documentation practices improve uptime and the speed at which you can deploy equipment. Plus, if there is an issue you can quickly trace cables via your documentation to determine the root cause rather than having to manually trace cables. Poor documentation often leads to mismanagement of resources, ineffective use of capacity, inability to move or install equipment, unsafe operating environments, and increased costs for new cabling and hardware.

Track and manage port capacity

As colo environments grow increasingly complex and dense, it becomes crucial to accurately inventory and track individual

physical port types residing on every device. This helps you make the most informed decisions when planning for new equipment or when maintaining and troubleshooting colo infrastructure.

Measure cable lengths before deploying

Keep your data center free of loose cables, reduce the cost of wasted cable, and save time by not having to visit the data center with a tape measure. With modern data center management software, you can accurately measure cable lengths virtually on your floor map.

Enhance data center security

Protect your colo equipment from unauthorized access to mitigate against physical security threats. Use electronic door locks and a centralized data center security management solution to ensure only authorized personnel and remote hands are opening cabinets. In addition, a real-time audit log shows you exactly who did what and when.

Don't let colo infrastructure management be a challenge. By deploying the right remote management tools and following proven best practices, you can dramatically simplify the management of all your colo deployments.

