



Local Government Data Center



SUMMARY

Project challenges

- Nuisance disconnects from MAC
- Numerous IT outages

Reliable connections

- Secure power connection on both IT device and PDU sides
- Only truly universal locking power cord
- Quick deployment

Universal implementation

- Teams can work in active racks
- Greatly reduced installation costs

ABOUT THE COMPANY

The featured data center processes information for a wide variety of department and agency programs including, but not limited to, centralized payroll, budget, revenue, general accounting, pensions, nursing home claims, food stamps, public assistance, institutional patient billings, caseload activities, unemployment compensation, disability insurance, and criminal justice.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The organization in this profile is the provider of information technology services that support multiple agencies in a state on the eastern side of the United States. The organization specializes in application development and hosting, network engineering, database administration, security operations, and other technology disciplines to service the business operations of dozens of agencies it supports.

The data center itself, at approximately 50,000 sf in size, serves as a large 'colocation' for the state agencies. Amongst the agencies there is a variety of processing and IT equipment requirements, as well as a large number of personnel who have access to the facility and to the racks themselves.

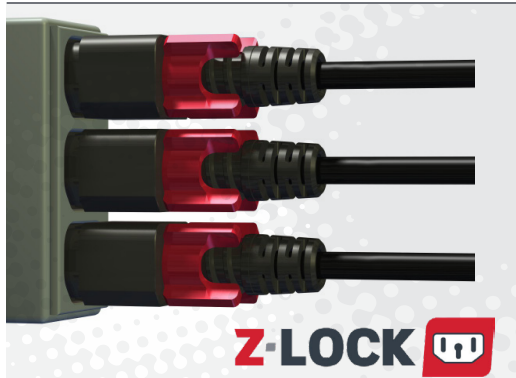
PROJECT CHALLENGE

Additionally, the facility housed a large check printing and sorting operation that took up a large portion of the white space. This operation was open to the rest of the IT floor, which presented a challenge for operations. Since it was a staff-intensive area of the facility, there were a number of personnel in and out of the data center space.

The IT operations group was challenged with an inordinate number of IT outages. These outages were not catastrophic power failures caused by the utility or the data center electrical infrastructure, but rather unplanned outages at the rack and server level.

Over time and after some investigation, it became apparent that the outages took place in racks where move, add, and change projects occurred. More specifically, existing equipment was being accidentally disconnected during the process of new equipment being mounted, wired, and connected to the rack PDU. While a new piece of IT gear was being placed into service, the installer was creating enough movement in the rack that power cords were being unseated.

CASE STUDY



ABOUT THE PRODUCT

Zonit's Z-LOCK is the world's first truly universal IEC locking power cord. Z-LOCK is 100% compatible with any existing infrastructure. It locks into place on both ends of the cord, securing the power path between IT device and rack PDU regardless of brand or manufacturer. Z-LOCK is specifically designed to eliminate accidental, vibration or nuisance disconnects, and secure the power path between all devices.



Bottom line: Z-LOCK has made life easier. We know stuff's not going to get disconnected when people are working in our space."

PROJECT SOLUTION

In evaluating the ongoing problem, the operations team realized that in order to solve the issue, they would need to propose a solution that would solve the operational, security, and physical aspects of the devices powering down.

In 2017, the team took advantage of changes in their printing requirements to relocate the print operation off of the data center floor. In addition to creating more rack space, the project provided the opportunity to better physically secure the space and to begin limiting the number of staff with access. Operationally, it allowed the team to implement more stringent MAC procedures and MOPs.

Even by limiting the number of personnel and improving MAC procedures, there still existed a risk of disconnecting power cords while working in an active rack. To tackle the issue of the physical cord disconnects themselves, it was decided to research power cords that could be secured at the rack PDU and the equipment itself.

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

The operations team researched a number of solutions provided by the manufacturers of their rack PDUs and racks. The solutions ranged from retrofit products like sleeves and retention clips to new power cords with locking ends. The team concluded that retrofit products were only partially effective, and that the cords from large data center manufacturers were proprietary to their other rack solutions; in other words, once you bought that manufacturer's locking cord, you also had to buy their rack PDUs.

Not wanting to replace thousands of PDUs in their facility, the operations team opted for the Zonit Z-LOCK locking power cord. Through testing, the Z-LOCK proved to be the only universal locking cord that worked with a variety of rack PDUs and also all of the IT equipment in the facility.

CONCLUSION

In all, Zonit has shipped over 8,000 locking power cords to the site. For the operations team, implementing locking power cords has meant an end to accidental disconnects and IT outages that used to accompany move, add, and change work at the site. Even when outside contractors or agencies are completing work, there is no concern about work taking place in an active rack. Plus, there is no concern about using different types of rack PDUs or plugging into any equipment that might show up.