

Crawford County Information Technology Services

The County of Crawford lies in northwestern Pennsylvania. The county government serves a population of more than 90,000 in 35 townships, 14 boroughs and two major cities.

Background

Crawford County's goal was to assure continuous operation of government functions by establishing an off site, back-up server room for its IT operation. The county insisted that the business-critical, back-up system be located in a county facility.

Case Summary

Location: Crawford County, Pa.

Emerson Network Power Products/Services:

- Liebert XDF™ Heat Density Enclosure

Critical Needs: Assure continuity of critical government services and records in the event of an IT system failure

Results

- Installed an integrated power and cooling cabinet that has performed flawlessly by providing business continuity support through more than two years of continuous operation.
- Eliminated high density heat to ensure continuous IT equipment operation.
- Established a back-up server and support system without modifying a space not originally designed for IT equipment.



The Situation

In terms of the continuity of its IT services, Crawford County, Pa., was living somewhat on the edge, and the county's Information Technology Director, Tim Kelley, knew it. "Everything in our computer environment was in a single location. If that building went down, we didn't have the ability to recover everything, or even keep going," he says. "And, a government likes to roll on, to some degree, even if something happens to our servers."

The answer seemed simple enough: establish an off-site, failsafe server that could take over if any part of the system failed. The challenge was not so much technology as one of space. Kelley explains, "We were required to locate the back-up system only in a facility that the county already owned." The only facility that had the space we needed was one of our facilities in Saegertown. And, it just barely qualified.

"In the open spaces in that facility, there was no place for a small data center," Kelley adds. "We didn't need a lot of room, just enough for a couple servers, a UPS and storage, all of which could be appropriately cooled. We needed a small footprint cabinet that would house the unit without significant modifications to a space not designed for IT equipment; modifying facilities is normally not a good thing."

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The Solution

Kelley turned to IntegraONE, of Allentown, Pa., for a solution. IntegraONE is a Liebert Network Solutions Partner. When Kelley was shown the Liebert XDF enclosure, he knew he had his answer. "Our number one priority was minimizing the number of modifications we would have to do to the room where we located the servers," Kelley explains. "Once I saw the Liebert XDF, I knew it would simply fit the bill to perfection."

The Liebert XDF used by Crawford County is a self-contained, air-cooled cabinet that eliminated the need to run water pipes for cooling. The cabinet was located in an area of the facility with some auto-venting capability, so the only accommodation that had to be made was draining away condensation, which was a negligible concern. The Liebert XDF delivers up to 14 kW of cooling and exhausts the heat from the electronic equipment through a condenser fan at the top.

The Results

The back-up system, which includes two servers, a switch and a UPS housed in the Liebert XDF cabinet, has performed as projected, providing the system continuity needed for Crawford County's critical IT operation. Its current power load is 1 kW, leaving plenty of room for future capacity. "It has delivered reliable support for us for more than two years," Kelley says.

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