World-Class Pharmaceutical Provider Gets a Dose of CPI's RMR® Industrial Enclosures to Protect Equipment in Distribution Warehouses

Headquartered in Valley Forge, Pa., AmerisourceBergen is one of the world's largest distributors of pharmaceuticals to retail pharmacies, specialty physician group purchasing organizations (GPOs) and hospitals. To support such a vital supply chain, the company manages an extensive IT infrastructure that continues to expand into environments outside the traditional office building and data center.

Check-Up: Supply Chain Requires New IT Infrastructure

AmerisourceBergen operates 26 United States pharmaceutical distribution centers, four U.S. specialty distribution centers and two Canadian distribution centers. With such a vast logistics system, the IT staff frequently faced several challenges in the distribution centers, or warehouses. The most significant being the environment in which the IT equipment—servers, storage devices and network switches—was being housed in.

Because of the nature of work conducted in the distribution centers, there was dust, dirt and debris getting into the cabinets, which could potentially compromise the equipment. The company needed a tough, durable solution to protect its valuable IT equipment, and the network it supports.

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>
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CPI's RMR® Modular Enclosure is engineered to protect equipment with cutting-edge sealing technology and certified ingress protection ratings.

"One of the issues we had is that the cabinets we used in the past weren't sealed cabinets. We'd open up a cabinet to inspect the IT gear and do break-fix activity, and it'd be covered with dust and debris that had been there for a very long time," stated Joe Hoskins, Director of Data Center Management for AmerisourceBergen.

Furthermore, the previous cabinets in AmerisourceBergen's distribution centers were not the right size. With equipment and network switches getting larger, the cabinets were no longer properly housing the equipment or allowing room for cable management. This posed several issues, including exposing the equipment to the dusty warehouse environment.

RMR protects equipment from dust and light spray, making it an ideal solution when placing networking equipment in a warehouse or manufacturing environment.

"Cabinet width is standard, but the depth is different. We would go to do network refreshes in some of the cabinets in the warehouses, and the switch was deeper. So, we couldn't close the doors, and there wasn't adequate cable management," Hoskins explained.

Diagnosis: IT Infrastructure Needs a Boost

As a longtime customer of Chatsworth Products (CPI), AmerisourceBergen turned to its trusted IT infrastructure expert to help resolve these challenges.

Hoskins and Mike Tanner of Datacom Sales & Associates, Inc., a CPI sales partner, met with CPI's engineers and product managers at the Research, Development & Training (RD&T) Center in Georgetown, Texas, to design a solution that would solve AmerisourceBergen's issues, and meet all of its requirements.

"Being at the RD&T Center was eye opening, not only for the state-of-the-art facility itself, but also to see what CPI is doing locally with manufacturing power strips and cabinets. Also, the show room with all the different products, gave us an idea of the extent of the company's expertise. The engineering customization capability was really appealing to us," Hoskins said.

"It was at that point I realized CPI could do whatever we needed them to do," he continued.

Remedy: RMR Industrial Enclosures + Reliable Power and Cable Management

Considering the type of equipment AmerisourceBergen was housing, as well as the harsh distribution center environment, CPI recommended its RMR Modular Enclosure. The RMR (pronounced "armor") Modular Enclosure is an industrial enclosure engineered to protect equipment with cutting-edge seal technology and certified NEMA Type 12 and IP 55 ingress protection ratings.

"There's dust and debris in our warehouses. The cabinets we were using were not adequate for the IT gear we were deploying or for the cable management it required, so we looked at design documentation, and the RMR cabinets seemed like the best fit for our needs," Hoskins stated.

Additionally, because the equipment is stored in warehouses, it required extra protection due to a special fire suppression system. In the event of a fire, sprinklers will go off. AmerisourceBergen no longer has to worry about damaging its equipment because RMR Enclosures protect against light water splashes.

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The IT equipment in the RMR Enclosures had specific thermal requirements, so each enclosure included Filter Fans to help cool equipment while keeping dust, dirt and debris out.

AmerisourceBergen also deployed eConnect® Monitored Power Distribution Units (PDUs) with the RMR Enclosures. eConnect PDUs are designed to withstand the high heat loads of any environment. In addition, they provide continuous, automated monitoring of each PDU and individual outlet, providing measurement at the equipment rack level.

"We took advantage of the CPI PDUs. They meet our power requirements, and we made sure the compatibility between the Filter Fans and the PDU was good," replied Hoskins.

AmerisourceBergen also implemented CPI Cable Management. In standard cabinets, horizontal cable managers are generally used, but AmerisourceBergen took a different approach.

"We wanted to go more toward a model that we utilized in our data center, which is vertical cable management with horizontal cable manager at the very top of the cabinet to keep everything very nice, neat and consistent," said Hoskins.

Prognosis: Positive Outcome Drives Company Forward

Now, the vital equipment in AmerisourceBergen's distribution centers are protected against the harsh environment. In addition to protecting against dust, dirt and debris, the RMR Enclosures and accessories are properly storing, cooling, and powering the company's IT equipment, providing an efficient IT protection system.

AmerisourceBergen has seven to nine RMR Modular Enclosures in each warehouse location. To provide consistency at each site and to simplify ordering, CPI created a custom part number for the company, including accessories. Now, when AmerisourceBergen orders an RMR Modular Enclosure, it arrives properly configured with accessories installed, which saves valuable installation time.

"We worked with the team to essentially mock up a cabinet so that when it comes off the truck, you simply roll it into place, and plug up your power. The power is in it, fans are in it and cable managers are in the positions that we need," Hoskins said.

"[CPI has] two-week lead times for data center cabinets, and that's really good. That was a big thing for me looking at product manufacturing—the lead times," he concluded.

With CPI's RMR Modular Enclosures and accessories in place, AmerisourceBergen is better prepared to address the dynamic changes in the healthcare industry with reliable delivery and on-time response to enhance customer care.

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About AmerisourceBergen

AmerisourceBergen is driving innovative partnerships with global manufacturers, providers and pharmacies to improve product access and efficiency throughout the healthcare supply chain. As part of the largest global generics purchasing organization, the leading specialty pharmaceutical services provider and the partner with more community and health system pharmacy relationships than any other—we're well positioned to help you capitalize on the dynamic changes in healthcare. From product commercialization and distribution to pharmacy, provider and manufacturer solutions, we're working with you every day to enhance patient care.

About Chatsworth Products

At Chatsworth Products (CPI), it is our mission to address today's critical IT infrastructure needs with products and services that protect your ever-growing investment in information and communication technology. We act as your business partner and are uniquely prepared to respond to your specific requirements with global availability and rapid product customization that will give you a competitive advantage. At CPI, our passion works for you. With over two decades of engineering innovative IT physical layer solutions for the Fortune 500 and multinational corporations, CPI can respond to your business requirements with unequalled application expertise, customer service and technical support, as well as a global network of industry-leading distributors. Headquartered in the United States, CPI operates from multiple sites worldwide, including offices in Mexico, Canada, China, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. CPI's manufacturing facilities are located in the United States, Asia and Europe.

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