



# MANHEIM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## THE TOTAL SITE SOLUTION



### The Situation

Manheim Central School District's "data center" was located in a janitorial closet comprised of a few racks and an AC unit that did not have the appropriate air capacity. The front of the closet had a doorway filled with insulation that surrounded a portable air conditioner used to help with the heat load.

To catch up with the growing rate of technology and provide the students with a state of the art learning facility Chris Gantz, Director of Technology, knew that the data center needed to expand.

The District was in the process of building a new school and Chris took that opportunity to propose a new data center space to the school board. The board took a look at the hot, cramped existing data center and did see the need for a technology upgrade. The board approved a 20 x 30 foot data center in the new building.

### The Solution

The budgeting for the new school began in 2003; however the school was not set to be complete until 2007. Technology changes at a rapid pace; in order to come up with a budget that would still be accurate in 4 years Gantz priced the current enterprise class products to allow money in the budget to buy something up to date and comparable in the future through PEPPM and COSTARS.

To receive that pricing Chris contacted Nick, his ePlus representative. ePlus is a reseller representing a variety of products for data center solutions. Manheim Central had been working with Nick from ePlus for several years. Their relationship in the data center grew with the new middle school building and implementing Cisco VoIP in the school. That led to their conversations on power and cooling solutions.

On the recommendation of ePlus as well as his electrical contractor, Chris decided to investigate the Liebert line of products. ePlus then involved Al from DVL, the local Liebert representative. On working with DVL, Nick says "From the very beginning Al did a great job making sure that the customer was educated on the solutions as they compared to other companies offerings."

Chris had built a close relationship with the contractors helping to create a seamless working environment and keep the design process open. Constantly being on site also helped Chris in the construction of the data center, while the designs originally specified a roof top unit, Chris realized that would not be sufficient and worked with the contractors to make the change. He decided that a 15 ton Liebert unit



BEFORE

*"From the beginning, DVL did a great job making sure the customer was educated on the solutions as they compared to other companies offerings."*

*-Nick DArchangelo, Public Sector Team Leader, ePlus Technology*



AFTER

would be the best choice to cool the new data center.

To Power the Data Center Chris consulted with other school districts in the area to learn about their experiences. After those discussions Chris chose a Liebert 80 KVA UPS. What sold the UPS were the uptime, battery life, and overall quality.

Manheim purchased 7 Knurr racks. They were impressed to find that the racks were so lightweight that they could be maneuvered by one person. Knurr racks are easy to assemble, light weight and the perforated doors allow for maximum air flow, ideal for their 62 servers.

### The Results

As students, faculty and parents realized the reliability of the network they used it much more frequently, thus making it a mission critical data center. Manheim Central now has state-of-the-art classrooms meeting the expectations of today's students and making for a technology rich work environment.

Manheim's facilities department has remote access to view their building automation system which is vital. The IT department is able to run the data center from a remote location.

Thanks to the partnership between Manheim Central School District, ePlus and DVL, Manheim Central now runs an effective and efficient network that meets the expectations of both internal and external customers both now and in the future.



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## Manheim Central School District Manheim, PA

- The school district is made up of the Borough of Manheim and the Township of Penn and Rapho.
- There are approximately 3,000 students in MCSD.
- MCSD is located in the northwestern portion of Lancaster County.
- The school district encompasses approximately 78.2 miles of scenic and productive agricultural lands being increasingly converted to residential use.
- MCSD lies approximately seven miles north of the City of Lancaster and eighty miles west of the City of Philadelphia.
- The Manheim Central School District is a proud member of the Manheim Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



[www.manheimcentral.org](http://www.manheimcentral.org)

## Background

The Manheim Central School District is a School District of the Third Class, organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The governing body of the School District is a board of nine school directors who are each elected for a four-year term. The daily operation and management of the School District is carried out by the administrative staff of the School District, headed by the Superintendent of Schools who is appointed by the Board of School Directors.



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