An "innovative"
SOLUTION

SUCCESSFUL SOLUTIONS

In the pioneering spirit of the Wright Brothers, Wright State University strives to be Ohio's most innovative university. We are committed to achieving learning outcomes through innovative, high quality programs for all students; to conducting scholarly research and creative endeavors; and to engaging in significant community service. Located near Dayton, Wright State is an exciting community of more than 17,000 students, offering more than 100 undergraduate degrees and nearly 50 Ph.D., master's and professional degrees (www.wright.edu, 2012).
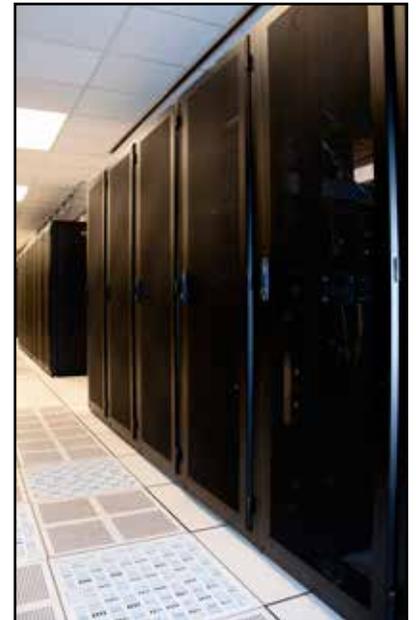
Since the original plan and layout of Wright State University's data center were deployed in the early 1990s, Great Lakes enclosures have been used. As newer technology has been introduced into the data center, evolving generations of Great Lakes enclosures have also been deployed to support ongoing equipment upgrades.

WSU originally chose to use Great Lakes enclosures based on its catalog and part numbers; IT professionals were easily able to find an enclosure that would support their equipment. Great Lakes customer service representatives helped WSU finalize a cabinet configuration based on their needs. The GL840-32 Series Enclosure was the first cabinet introduced into the data center.

As the enrollment of students at WSU increased during the first few years of the new 21st century, more servers and storage space were needed to support the additional data. The GL840ES-2942 was a first generation ES Server enclosure introduced into the data center. Over the years, newer ES enclosures were added to the data center. Several rows of the GL840ES-3042, the latest ES Server Enclosure, are currently deployed in the data center in a hot aisle/cold aisle configuration.

A variety of equipment is used throughout the data center, including Brocade switches, Foundry Network core switches, fiber patch panels, and servers. Enclosures in the data center are dedicated to each of these applications; the flexibility of the ES enclosure is able to accommodate the cable management, cooling, and power needs of the different equipment. The 30" width allows large amounts of cable bundles to be installed without interfering with the EIA pattern or "crushing" wires together. The extra width also allows room for intelligent PDUs to be mounted alongside the mounting rails. The enclosures also provide an extra 6" of space in the rear for mounting large PDUs and cable management accessories.

Tracking most of WSUs orders is also easy. When the first generation ES was released, Great Lakes placed serial numbers in all enclosures as a way to identify not only the enclosure and the customer, but the exact configuration of the cabinet, including accessories and special instructions. When WSU needs an accessory, they can simply provide their serial number and customer service reps are able to see what was specifically ordered. In some cases, when WSU calls, they are likely to be speaking to the same customer service rep that placed their original order!

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While new enclosures continue to populate the data center, original Great Lakes enclosures are still in use alongside the newest ES enclosures. Wright State has found that Great Lakes is able to provide accessories and parts for any of its enclosures, old and new. Great Lakes operates the manufacturing facility where enclosures and accessories are manufactured; older accessories are easily able to be produced and shipped to WSU when needed. At Great Lakes there is no part that is truly discontinued!

Since 1985, Great Lakes has provided shipment on all standard product within 24-48 hours of receipt of order. We choose dedicated carriers to ensure product is delivered safely and received on time. Wright State has received these services for nearly 20 years, a contributing factor in their choice to remain loyal to Great Lakes.

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