

Cracking Climate Problems

Solving Temperature & Humidity Issues Is Key To Preserving Both Business & Equipment

by Christian Perry

Top Problem: Addressing Hot Spots

When confronted with rising temperatures, a common solution data center personnel use is to simply throw more cooling at the entire environment. However, the entire room may not need more cooling, particularly if a single rack or spot in the room is the source of the problem. Instead of boosting total cooling—and in turn creating far higher energy costs—spot cooling can be a better solution.

"[Portable units provide] the capability of adding spot cooling without tremendously increasing the total cooling capacity or air conditioning being provided," explains John Doran, senior manager of the commercial products group at MovinCool (www.movin cool.com). "[These units] are air conditioners that you can roll into a location, simply plug it in, and duct the cold air toward the hot spot. And then you have an exhaust duct you need to vent out of the area."

In addition to targeting hot spots, portable units can also address emergency heat situations. Although these units are generally considered temporary solutions, Doran says that customers often discover that they can permanently solve their spot-cooling demands.

"For example, if they have properly sized cooling equipment for their data center but they have a particular rack or spot in the room that for some reason isn't getting enough ventilation or airflow, [spot cooling] quite often is the best solution to providing ventilation and airflow just to that spot without having to reconfigure the whole system," he says.