Proper Cable Management
by Joe Halstead

Before:
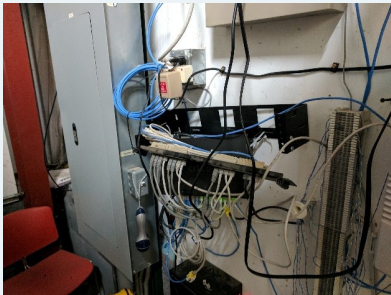
After:

At *CCS Technologies,* we believe network cable management is essential to a functional network environment and is key to ongoing efficiencies. Improper cabling can lead to heat retention, hardware failure, and maintenance headaches. Investing in proper planning and organization can pay for itself over and over again down the road.

Even simple network upgrades and troubleshooting network issues can become extremely time consuming and costly when the network environment is tangled and unlabeled.

A wall cabinet or network rack can help organize, provide storage and cooling for routers, patch panels, switches and a wide variety of networking equipment. It's necessary to do a thorough evaluation of the type of equipment that is needed before making an informed decision. In some cases you may require a server rack and a networking cabinet.

It's important to note that improperly housing heat generating equipment is dangerous and could cause damage to your equipment, or worse, it could become a fire hazard.

Key points to proper Cable Management:

- *Labeling cables can seem cumbersome, but it pays dividends in the long run. The key to proper labeling is making sure you label __both__ ends of the network cable.*

- *Don't buy cheap. Most cable, patch panels and ends are relatively inexpensive. When it comes to networking, most of the cost is in the labor. Buying the correct, name brand product the first time will save money in the long run.*

- *Take the time to terminate. We can't stress this enough! Practice proper termination at all costs. If a connection is lost at any moment (unless you have some type of outage: power, Internet, etc.), we recommend redoing that termination.*

- *Avoid sharp bends in cables. Cables look flexible, but they do require proper care and handling. A sharp bend can compromise cable integrity by twisting the cables.*

- *Cable length should be as short as possible. In certain situations, custom length cables can be the best solution, so you get the exact cable length needed. There are maximum lengths you can use.*

- *We believe Velcro ties have advantages over standard plastic ties. Velcro ties are easy to add, remove and are completely reusable.*
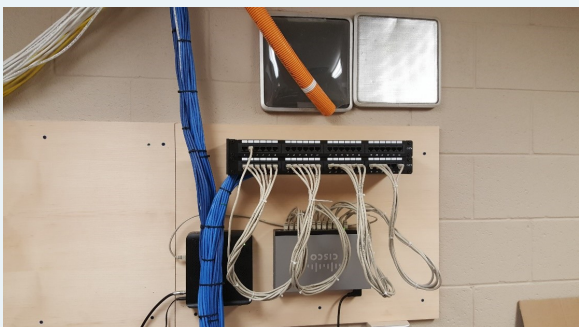
If you need help with setting up any size network installation, *CCS Technologies* can help. Confused about which racks and cables will work for your application? Simply call to talk to one of our consultants for advice or a quote.

"Relax...we're on IT"

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