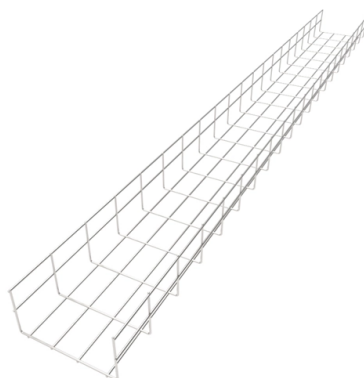


What types of network server racks are available



Overview

Types of Server Rack This post provides a detailed introduction to network cabinets, their types, features, and Data Center Server Rack Guide (2026): Types.

Key Takeaways

The most common types of network server racks are open-frame racks, enclosed cabinets, wall-mount racks, and high-density AI racks.¹ Open-Frame Racks

Open-frame racks are skeletal structures without doors or side panels, providing easy access to equipment and unrestricted airflow. They are ideal for environments where security is not a primary concern, such as labs, network operations centers, or cable-intensive setups. Open-frame racks come in 2-post and 4-post configurations: 2-post racks support lightweight equipment like switches and patch panels, while 4-post racks offer greater stability for heavier servers and storage arrays. They are cost-effective for low-to-medium density deployments but lack controlled airflow and physical security .

2. Enclosed Cabinets (Server Rack Cabinets)



Enclosed cabinets, also called cabinet racks, are the standard choice for modern data centers and enterprise server rooms. They feature locking front and rear doors, side panels, and perforated panels to balance airflow and security. These racks provide environmental protection against dust, moisture, and physical tampering, and allow for hot/cold aisle containment to improve cooling efficiency. Enclosed cabinets are suitable for high-density deployments and can integrate PDUs, UPS systems, cable management, and monitoring sensors .

3. Wall-Mount Racks

Wall-mount racks are compact racks designed to be mounted on walls, saving floor space. They are ideal for small network setups, branch offices, or locations with limited space. These racks typically support lighter equipment and provide basic security and ventilation, making them suitable for smaller-scale deployments .

4. High-Density AI Racks

High-density AI racks are designed for modern AI workloads and hyperscale deployments, where power and cooling requirements are significantly higher than traditional racks. These racks can handle 40 kW to over 100 kW per rack, supporting dense server configurations and specialized cooling solutions. They are increasingly used in enterprise-scale AI infrastructure and data centers with high computational demands .

Key Considerations

When selecting a server rack, consider:

- Rack height (U), width, and depth to match equipment dimensions.
- Weight capacity for heavy servers or storage arrays.
- Airflow and cooling design to prevent hotspots.
- Power integration with PDUs, UPS, or ATS.
- Cable management for organized and maintainable wiring.
- Security and environmental protection for sensitive equipment . Choosing the right type of rack ensures efficient space utilization, reliable cooling, and secure operation of network and server equipment.

Article Content

Data Center Server Rack Guide (2026): Types, Design, Airflow, Power

Learn everything about data center server racks—definitions, rack types, airflow design, power integration, cable

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