



Case Study

Mitthögskolan Härnösand / Mid Sweden University

Learning a simpler way to network management

“The use of Avocent’s XP4040 switching and LongView remote management system is delivering real benefits to the University as it is now much easier to manage our IT systems, which is saving us a lot of time and effort. In fact, the only reason we ever need to go into the server room these days is to change the tapes. I would certainly recommend the Avocent solution” .

Anders Hallberg,
Mitthögskolan Härnösand

Tackling a hot problem

Mitthögskolan Härnösand, or Mid Sweden University, is a multi-campus network University with centres in the towns of Härnösand, Sundsvall, Örnsköldsvik and Östersund in central Sweden. Anders Hallberg, is responsible for the management of the IT systems for three of the University’s main departments, as well as the University Library. “The departments that I look after cater for around 4,000 students, but the Library can also be used by the 38,000 people living in the area around the University. To support their needs, we are heavily reliant upon our IT systems, which run everything from our e-mail to the Library applications.”

The University faced a serious problem due to the lack of space in which to safely house its network servers. “Our servers were spread around in about four different rooms. Not only was this extremely noisy, but the rooms also had no cooling systems or Uninterruptible Power Supply, so in the summer we had a big problem of over-heating. Temperatures were reaching 30 degrees centigrade, making it almost unbearable to work in, and there was a real risk that the servers would go down, or even catch fire.”

The University realised that it needed a dedicated space for its servers, with the necessary cooling systems and power supplies, and decided to transfer all of the systems into a new building with a properly prepared server room.

A room with a long view

To undertake the work the University chose to work with Coromatic Datasäkerhet, the leading provider of secure data centres in Sweden. As part of the preparation for the new server room, Coromatic Datasäkerhet proposed that the University implement Avocent’s XP4040, an advanced and versatile multi-user, multi-platform KVM switch system, and Avocent’s LongView remote management system enabling the quick and simple implementation of remote monitoring facilities up to 200 metres away from the location of an organisation’s servers.



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Short cooling down period

The preparation of the new server room took just three months to complete.

“We now have just two consoles in the server room and one in our office, some 200 metres away. It means that we can control all of the IT systems remotely from the office, which is excellent as it is not very nice to be shut away in the server room for too long, even though it is now a lot cooler.”