Problem

Managing a modern retail organization is a delicate operation that requires skill and close attention, from maximizing the efficiency within the supply chain to optimizing human resources and training costs while providing customers with an excellent tailored experience.

Constant training and the rapid availability of customer data to process sales, returns and other customer service tasks are vital to store operations and, while many companies have moved significant amounts of data to the public or private cloud, many tasks are more efficiently managed when local IT resources are available to minimize latency and ensure data availability during unforeseen network or data center failures.

The management of these systems is often expensive as many disparate hardware platforms are maintained across the branches leading to higher costs in maintaining equipment and preventing outages. The training across multiple types of IT equipment for support staff and the needed availability of local contractors to provide emergency coverage in case in-band management is not possible can quickly escalate IT support costs.

In addition, when an outage does occur or connectivity is lost, IT has to deploy technical resources to personally travel to the site and ensure a quick recovery from the outage - often at the cost of thousands of dollars in both wages and lost branch productivity.
Solution

Many of today’s business applications require low latency connections, such as point of sale (POS) systems or video communications, to their users in order to function efficiently. Yet, while this infrastructure functions at its best being deployed close to the user, it is vital for remote IT network support to be able to efficiently manage it.

The SmartCabinet™ enables IT to quickly and easily deploy and provision new infrastructure in a standardized and secure manner. The SmartCabinet™ allows virtually all IT maintenance and configuration tasks to be conducted remotely, eliminating travel expense, significantly improving Mean Time To Repair (MTTR) in an outage situation and providing seamless business continuity at the branch level.

Included in the SmartCabinet™ are Avocent® Remote Presence capabilities which provide IT with remote BIOS-level and vMedia access to install, maintain and troubleshoot applications or operating systems remotely. In case of a server crash, IT admins can power cycle servers remotely, quickly assess and troubleshoot without having to travel to the site.

By standardizing on the SmartCabinet™ unified infrastructure and eliminating the guesswork in what equipment is deployed, IT can reduce the inventory of spare UPS batteries and other serviceable items or, with Vertiv’s Remote Monitoring, monitor the UPS battery health and dispatch service techs to provide assistance or replace batteries as needed.

Deployment Time Savings

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