

Success Story:
Central Catholic High School

Market Served
K-12



Uptime at private school is now by the books with Eaton

Location:

Pittsburgh, Penn.

Segment:

Data Center

Solution:

Eaton® 93E, 9355, Intelligent Power Manager, Service

Problem:

Unreliable power was plaguing the high school's ability to deliver continuous uptime to students and staff

Results:

The Eaton 93E and 9355 units have earned an A+ at the private school, keeping all systems operational and available

"The great thing about the Eaton solution is once it's installed and running, you don't even have to think about it. Having dealt with other brands of UPSs in the past, I can tell you that hasn't always been the case."

Kevin Sweeney, IT director

Background

Central Catholic High School is a private college preparatory school for 9th through 12th grade boys. The school strives to provide a challenging, relevant, and diverse program of studies and extracurricular activities in an environment that fosters a life of faith and learning.

Challenge

Supporting an IT environment used daily by some 870 students, 85 teachers and 20 staff members requires Central Catholic High School to maintain a highly available network.

"Any downtime significantly impacts how teachers are able to teach and how students are able to work and learn," emphasizes Kevin Sweeney, the school's director of information technology.

Because all students are required to use iPads for multiple purposes, they depend on seamless wireless throughout the school day. "If students can't get their work done, it has a big impact," Sweeney says.

Five years ago, sporadic power outages largely fueled by unpredictable weather conditions prompted the school to seek a high-quality power protection solution. Central Catholic required a robust uninterruptible power system (UPS) capable of safeguarding the campus' complete network environment, which includes six physical servers, 35 virtual servers, a dozen switches, and several other appliances

Solution

After researching different UPS brands, Central Catholic determined that the Eaton 9355 was at the top of the class. Since its 2011 deployment, the unit has delivered unprecedented performance and protection for the school, leading to a subsequent purchase in 2014 of a second 9355, which was paired with the original model.

Then, earlier this year, Central Catholic found itself in need of a third UPS to ensure that vital operations remain up and running within a new building on campus. "We have been very happy with the reliability of the 9355 units, and I love how we can piggyback and make them act as one," Sweeney says. "We have a great relationship with Eaton so we wanted to continue that."



Powering Business Worldwide

However, with the 9355 no longer manufactured, Central Catholic opted to deploy its replacement, the Eaton 93E. Offering the most efficient power quality solution in space, power and cost, the Eaton 93E delivers up to 98 percent efficiency within a small physical footprint. The power-potent UPS is tasked with protecting Central Catholic's network center, which is comprised of switches, security cameras, card readers, the school's telephone system, and a variety of wireless and networking gear.

Sweeney reveals that the unit's bolstered efficiency was immediately apparent. "It's in an unconditioned room where the temperature could really impact equipment, but it runs very cool and quiet."

Furthermore, with internal batteries up to 60 kVA, the 93E UPS boasts an all-in-one solution that reduces the complexity of installation and startup while maximizing runtime. "I really like the design and it was very easy to install," Sweeney confirms. "We also liked the compact footprint because initially, we planned to put the unit into a networking room where space would have been a definite concern."

Indeed, the 93E is smaller than any comparable competitor by up to 35 percent, preserving valuable floor space. The unit's sleek front panel display is another feature valued by Central Catholic, as well as its network capabilities. "I can manage devices remotely," Sweeney says. "I get an alert on my cell phone if there's an outage and based on that, I can jump into action."

Furthermore, the 93E enables Central Catholic to grow into the UPS, a welcome advantage considering the school's plans to ultimately add more servers and possibly a SAN. "We definitely wanted to be able to keep those new systems running as we increase the load," Sweeney says.

Meanwhile, the original pair of 9355 UPSs has continued to earn high marks. After Central Catholic's main building lost power on repeated occasions due to prolonged outages, the school opted to invest in a generator. "Now we rely on the 9355 units to give us the ride through until it kicks in," Sweeney reports. "They keep things running. For me, the biggest thing is to keep the systems up until the generator is on. And if it doesn't kick in, we need that backup time to bring down the virtual servers gracefully."

That process will soon happen effortlessly, thanks to Central Catholic's plan to deploy Eaton's Intelligent Power® Manager (IPM) software. IPM features all of the tools to monitor and manage power devices across the network even in virtualized environments, combining the most critical applications to ensure system uptime and data integrity. Central Catholic will not only gain power monitoring and management, but also graceful shutdown during an extended power outage and extensive notification capabilities.

"Our plan is to get that running within the next two months," Sweeney reports.

Central Catholic also relies on an Eaton service plan, which includes regularly scheduled preventive maintenance visits, to keep its power protection solution performing optimally at all times.

"The great thing about the Eaton solution is that once it's installed and running, you don't even have to think about it," Sweeney enthuses. "Having dealt with other brands of UPSs in the past, I can tell you that hasn't always been the case."

Results

Thanks to the trio of Eaton UPSs delivering an unparalleled level of uptime, Central Catholic is enjoying ultimate peace of mind. "These units give us one less thing to worry about," Sweeney emphasizes.

With the Eaton solution in place, the school is now able to:

- Safeguard its servers, switches, security and phone systems, and other critical devices against power problems
- Maintain an active teaching and learning environment with reliable network access at all times
- Ensure ride-through to its generator during an extended outage—or deliver sufficient battery backup to complete a graceful shutdown if the generator fails to kick in
- Save operating costs through the unit's high efficiency rating
- Preserve valuable floor space with the 93E's compact footprint
- Ensure the ongoing optimal health of all three UPSs with an Eaton service plan

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