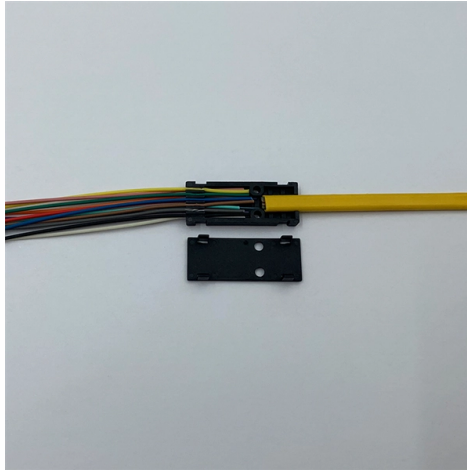


Layout and Application of Cold Aisle Cabinets



Overview

Cold-aisle containment (CAC) is one of the most impactful architectural decisions made during new data center construction.

Key Takeaways

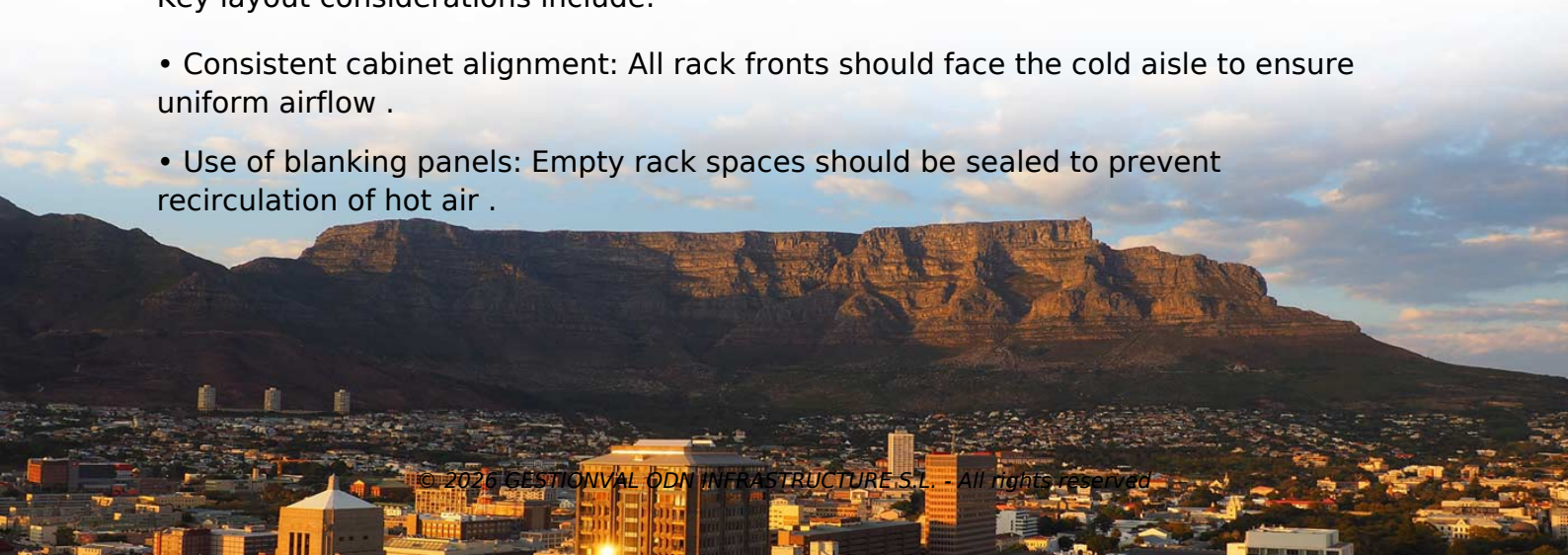
Cold aisle cabinets are arranged with fronts facing a dedicated cold aisle, enclosed to prevent hot and cold air mixing, optimizing cooling efficiency and equipment reliability.

Cold Aisle Layout

In a data center, server racks are arranged in rows with their fronts facing each other, forming a corridor known as the cold aisle. Cold air is supplied into this aisle, typically from a raised floor plenum or overhead distribution, and servers draw this air through their front intakes. The hot air is expelled from the rear into the adjacent hot aisle, maintaining a clear separation between cold supply and hot exhaust.

Key layout considerations include:

- Consistent cabinet alignment: All rack fronts should face the cold aisle to ensure uniform airflow.
- Use of blanking panels: Empty rack spaces should be sealed to prevent recirculation of hot air.



- Cable management and sealing: Brush grommets and sealed openings reduce air leaks and maintain pressure integrity .

- Defined hot air return paths: Hot aisles should have clear return paths to the cooling units, either via ceiling plenums or rear aisles .

Cold Aisle Containment Systems

Cold aisle containment (CAC) encloses the cold aisle with panels, doors, and roof structures, ensuring that only cooled air reaches server inlets . These systems can be custom-engineered to fit specific data hall dimensions, with options for sliding or hinged doors, roof panels, and gasketed seals . Containment improves cooling efficiency, reduces energy consumption, and prevents hotspots, which enhances equipment reliability and extends server lifespan .

Modular and Scalable Applications

Modern cold aisle containment systems are modular, allowing for flexible deployment and future expansion . Components can be assembled on-site, supporting various configurations and enabling scalable cooling solutions as data center demands evolve . Typical features include:

- Adjustable aisle width and height to match cabinet dimensions
- Integration with raised floor systems for direct cold air delivery
- Dual mechanical or sliding doors for safety and accessibility
- Modular frames for quick installation and reconfiguration

Benefits of Cold Aisle Cabinets

- Energy efficiency: Focused cold air delivery reduces wasted cooling and can lower operating costs by 20-50% .
- Enhanced reliability: Consistent temperatures prevent thermal stress and reduce the risk of server overheating .
- Higher density support: Proper airflow management allows for increased rack density without additional cooling infrastructure .
- Scalability and flexibility: Modular containment systems can adapt to changing layouts and future expansions .

In summary, cold aisle cabinets, when properly laid out and contained, optimize airflow, reduce energy consumption, and improve the reliability and lifespan of IT equipment. Effective implementation requires careful alignment, sealing, and integration with the data center's cooling infrastructure, with modular containment systems providing flexibility for evolving operational needs .

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While either hot aisle or cold aisle containment systems can be installed and are both capable of increasing efficiency and cooling

Aisle Containment

Open Aisle Containment Traditional open aisle data centres use perimeter PAC (precision air conditioning) or CRAC (computer room

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Arranging racks into a hot aisle/cold aisle configuration (discussed at right) is a cooling best practice that has been implemented to

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CAE Lighting has supported aisle-separated layouts with high-CRI, low-glare lighting like the SeamLine Batten, which

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Consider the hot aisle/cold aisle layout is a design for server racks. This configuration is beneficial as it will conserve

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Contained cold aisle The aisle containment solution is often deployed in high thermal demand environments where cold air is

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What is aisle containment, and why is it important? Containment Solutions DIY: Contain-IT Flex The Contain-IT FLEX system is

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