

# Cambridge Health Alliance Implements Managed Power Strategy

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*Seth Sladek  
Data Center Manager  
Cambridge Health Alliance*

"Cambridge Health Alliance (the Alliance) is a nationally recognized, award-winning health care system serving the residents of Cambridge, Somerville and Boston's Metro-North region. Comprised of The Cambridge Hospital, Somerville Hospital, Whidden Memorial Hospital, the Cambridge Public Health Department, plus over 20 primary care clinic sites, we are the sole public health hospital system in Massachusetts. The Alliance is a unique model that integrates public health, clinical care, training and research. In 2001, we provided care for 13,000 inpatient admissions, over 500,000 outpatient visits and more than 75,000 emergency room visits.

"I am responsible for our data center systems and for any server-based system in our company. We run a mix of Unix and Windows servers, and we manage our core healthcare applications which house critical clinical and billing information. Healthcare today is fast-paced and information-intensive. Our systems must be available 24x7 to deliver critical patient care information quickly to the doctors and nurses in our network.



## **Lower Cost, Superior Design**

"One of my challenges in the data center was the replacement of a 12-year-old 3-phase Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) that was no longer supported by the vendor. We could no longer expand as we had run out of breaker positions. The uptime of our systems was at risk. We had a few smaller UPSs in some of our racks, but nothing was integrated. We needed to upgrade existing data center systems and to add new servers, but we didn't have the luxury of being able to claim more space. Our data center was already operating at full capacity.

"A reseller we often work with, Manchester Equipment, presented us with APC's new InfraStruXure™ solution. At first we were attracted by the price and the simplicity of the architecture. The InfraStruXure solution was \$10,000 less than a traditional solution and it offered many more features. Upon closer inspection, it became quite apparent that InfraStruXure could accommodate our data center requirements in several important ways. We decided to purchase the InfraStruXure.

## **Simplified Power Management**

"The design of the InfraStruXure architecture changes the way data center managers have to think about power provisioning. Prior to InfraStruXure, we had to concern ourselves with rules

within electrical codes. We needed to know how much power was consumed by separate components in diverse locations. With the InfraStruXure, however, we have a self contained Power Distribution Unit (PDU), UPS, rack, environmental monitoring unit and cabling scheme all manageable to the plug level via a Web interface. This helps us to avoid a significant amount of extra work and worry.

“InfraStruXure Manager allows for the easy monitoring of the amperages being used for all the components. My task of power managing and monitoring is now vastly simplified. To accomplish the same thing with a traditional system would cost you twice the price, take twice the time, and produce twice the installation headache.

#### **Easier Installation Means Low-Stress**

“Installing the InfraStruXure is also much easier than installing a traditional 3-phase system. The electrician simply provides the power cable and the ground. Previously we had to deal with sketches, schematics, construction drawings and many organizational meetings. What used to consume a couple of weeks now only takes a few hours to address.

“If we had chosen a traditional system, we would have had to upgrade an existing PDU and migrate all of our systems off the 12-year-old 50 kVA UPS. Then we’d have to begin construction for accommodation of the new UPS, hardwiring the PDU and cable whips under the floor. With InfraStruXure I avoided all of that. I wheeled it in with all the components self-contained in racks, and plugged it in.

“I’m utilizing very little floor space compared to the traditional solution’s ‘multi-refrigerator’ size. The smaller footprint gives me enough room so that I don’t have to remove my old UPS until I’m ready to complete the migration. Removing the old system at my convenience means a low stress transition, and I minimize the impact of the migration on the user. Once the old system is gone, I’m able to reclaim all of that extra space.

#### **Big Benefit: Reduced Cost of Service Contracts**

“Our InfraStruXure now protects the servers in our data center, and soon, we will also protect our Storage Area Network (SAN). I anticipate our cost savings will multiply moving forward because InfraStruXure is easy and cost-effective to maintain. We can service it ourselves. All we need to do is slide power modules and battery modules in and out without having to take down the system. With our traditional system, we would have to change batteries every 5 years, which is expensive, inconvenient and stressful. We used to have to put the system on bypass, risking a failure in the circuits. Now I save on service and I have peace of mind.

“InfraStruXure responds to today’s business environment. It makes it easier for the data center manager to move fast and to be much more flexible with his power architecture - all at a lower cost.”