REMOTE MONITORING: BEYOND VIRUS PROTECTION

Is has become almost automatic to protect your data center by backing up your servers, installing firewalls and virus protection, and keeping the protection up-to-date.

But what about more tangible threats? Do you have hot spots in your racks? If the cooling system shuts down, how will you know when temperatures climb out of control? Are you alerted to humidity changes or water leaks that threaten your equipment? Planning for the unexpected is a critical task because there are more systems performing mission critical functions than ever before. These systems are often deployed without the proper environmental infrastructure to support them. Equipment density is increasing constantly, which is creating more stress on ventilation and power.

What's an environmental monitoring system?

Environmental monitoring products enable you to actively monitor the conditions in your rack, server room, data center, or anywhere else you need to protect critical assets. Conditions monitored include extreme temperatures, humidity, power spikes and surges, water leaks, smoke, and chemical materials. With proper environmental monitoring, you're alerted to any conditions that could have an adverse effect on your mission-critical equipment. These products can also alert you to potential damage from human error, hacking, or prying fingers.

Environmental monitors consist of three main elements: a base unit, probes or sensors, and network connectivity and integration. The base unites may contain one or more built-in sensors, as well as ports for hooking up external probes. Additionally, they include an Ethernet port have software for remote configuration and graphing. This software may also work with existing network management software, such as SNMP systems.

Features

Measurement: The environmental monitoring appliance displays the values measured by the attached probes, e.g. temperature, humidity, airflow, status of dry contact, door, motion detector, and other sensors.

Data collecting and graphing: The measurements are periodically stored in the internal memory or external storage media and displayed as graphs.

Alerting: When the measured value exceeds the predefined threshold, it triggers an alert: a blinking LED on the front panel, an audible alarm, SNMP trap, e-mail, text message, etc. The environmental monitoring appliance can also active an external alarm system like a siren or strobe light.

Benefits of environmental monitoring:

Reduced downtime – When things go wrong, you're the first to know. Minimize downtime by being alerted about conditions that cause damage to servers and other network devices.

Increased profits – They help you cut replacement equipment costs and redistribute your workforce more effectively.

Increased employee satisfaction – With built-in notification features like e-mail, SMS, and SNMP traps, a remote monitoring system enables employees to better manage their work.

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