Cold Aisle Containment

Cold aisle containment systems (CACs) isolate the cooled supply air from the CRAC units within direct proximity of the air intake of critical equipment. In addition, sealing the cold aisle prevents hot server exhaust air from coming in contact with the server intake. This combination effect allows for a highly controllable and consistent air temperature for critical equipment. This increased control allows the data center manager to accurately choose the temperature supplied to the servers.

Annual Cooling Costs: $350,000
10 Degree Increase in Set Point = 30% Savings
Annual Savings = $105,000

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Cold aisle containment is generally easier to implement in retrofit sites than hot aisle containment. As long as there is either underfloor or overhead supply air, it is possible to contain the aisle. One common approach is using horizontal ceiling panels across the tops of the cabinets. Clear panels are used to allow for high light transmission. Melt away panels are commonly used to allow panels to fall prior to fire suppression release.

With huge savings like this, it is easy to see why containment has become a best practice in data centers. To maximize results it is important to also seal in and under the server cabinets to prevent exhaust air from getting to the server intake. Low cost items such as blanking panels and under-cabinet panels are essential accessories to ensure your containment yields the results you expect.

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