



Sysco Food Services

Sysco Corporation is the largest marketer and distributor of foodservice products in North America, with a distribution network that extends throughout the United States and Canada. The company operates 138 distribution facilities, serving more than 370,000 customers. Sysco Food Services of Central Pennsylvania, LLC is one of the distribution facilities of Sysco Corporation.



THE CHALLENGE

With such a large distribution network, much of Sysco Food's day-to-day action occurs in its warehouses. While computers play a critical role in managing the tons of product shipped each day, the harsh warehouse environment—including dust, temperature extremes, and high foot traffic—takes its toll on computer equipment. The openness of the warehouse also creates security concerns, both for the safety of the equipment and the data it stores.

LOADING UP WITH CLEARCUBE

Sysco Food Services of Central Pennsylvania knew that it needed a better setup in its warehouse than the terminal devices it was using. "Our warehouse employees could not access any PC programs, including email," says the company's vice president of information services.

The company installed ClearCube PCs in its operations area, which encompasses its warehouse and transportation. ClearCube's innovative Blade PCs deliver highly managed, Intel-based PC functionality by removing the PC from the user's desktop and placing it in a centralized environment. Users keep their desktop peripherals (monitor, keyboard, mouse, printers, etc.) and enjoy the high performance level of a standard PC, while the PC itself resides in a secure datacenter.

SHAPING UP AND SHIPPING OUT

Increased security over technology and data assets played a large role in Sysco Food Services' choice of the ClearCube architecture. "The ClearCube PCs can't be accidentally knocked over or dropped like a regular PC tower/desktop unit could," says the VP of Information Services. "There is also a less likely chance that the equipment will be stolen."

Describing the warehouse environment with multiple temperature zones, the VP says, "with ClearCube, we can give PCs to all of our employees without having to worry about the dirt and/or temperature issues that could affect a regular PC."

With many non-employees in the Sysco warehouse at any given time, ClearCube also solves the issue of compromised data integrity. "The Clear Cube PCs in the warehouse do not have CD-ROM drives or floppy drives attached, so we don't have to worry that someone will try to load or offload anything to/from our network," explains the VP.

The centralized location of the ClearCube Blades makes management of technology assets much easier than before, says the company's VP of information services. The space-saving nature of the ClearCube PC is an added benefit, giving employees more room at their desks and workstations.

"If we have a problem with one of the units, it is very easy to swap it out in the rack, and we can handle it from the computer room without having to go to the warehouse. We also need less technical support because we don't have to fix problems caused by 'unauthorized' software being loaded on the PCs."

VP, Information Services
Sysco Food Services of
Central Pennsylvania

Key Benefits:

- Increased protection against PC misuse and harsh warehouse conditions
- Easy management of technology assets; reduced IT labor time and costs
- Unprecedented control over computing and data assets
- High performance PC provides full functionality for employees