

From the field - Part 4

New Telegärtner building: With AIM well prepared for the future

Modern IT networks have to be efficient, flexible and cost-effective – and so they have to rely on a documentation which is up-to-date. Tracking changes in real-time, managing unused capacities, scheduling work foresightfully and controlling connections to discover any unscheduled events and react accordingly – automated infrastructure management (AIM) offers a lot of benefits for efficient and economic network operation. The cabling infrastructure of Telegärtner's new building is well prepared for the migration towards AIM.

It happens so often: A new employee needs a connection to the IT network, a new WLAN access point is installed, a printer is moved ... which results in quick re-patching, software installation and configuration of a new network device. But people sometimes simply forget to update the appropriate documentation. Far too often, documentation means an Excel spread-sheet or the network administrator's memory. This might work with small networks, but in large ones or in companies with a lot of subsidiaries, such a „living“ documentation has a high potential for errors.

An AIM solution enables the administrator to plan and schedule

patches at his convenience. The people who are responsible for carrying out the work can be reminded early enough, and should the work not be finished in due time, a reminder can be sent. No patch job is forgotten, and when it's done, the documentation gets updated in real time.

Some AIM systems are literally overloaded with features that are rarely used – and many of them are not used at all. The vast number of different functions can quickly make an AIM software confusing and expensive. A practical solution therefore should concentrate on the essentials and must not need more time and effort than it saves.



The features of Telegärtner's AIM system Owl are based on decades of experience in IT networks. Just to give an example: Based on the proven RFID technology, Owl reliably detects both ends of a patch cord, even if the haven't been plugged-in one after the other. The transponder chip on the plug can store additional information including individual, customer-specific data. Experience also shows itself in details: The RFID antennas of the patch panels have built-in temperature and humidity sensors, so the customers don't have to buy extra sensors. The ports of switches or routers can easily be integrated into the AIM system using sensor patch cords, eliminating the need for a cross-connect with intelligent patch panels, which saves space and money.

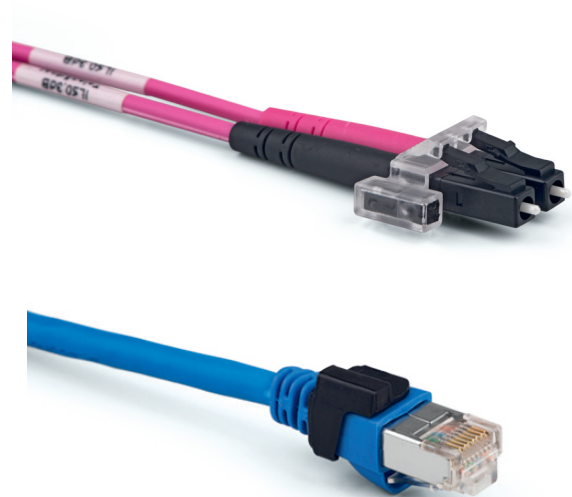
Despite all the benefits an AIM system offers, the user also has to keep an eye on the operating efficiency. Many Telegärtner copper and fibre patch panels can be retrofitted in a live network without any service interruption. The admin can also keep the existing patch cords



Owl's intelligent patch panels are based on Telegärtner's proven standard components. Many Telegärtner panels can be retrofitted without service interruption.

as they too can be retrofitted with Owl RFID transponders. This is investment protection at its best. The retrofitting can be done step by step, based on the individual needs of the customer. Owl even offers an open software interface for easy integration into an existing network management software.

All of the patch panels in Telegärtner's new building were installed with RFID antennas. Migrating to a future AIM system is very easy. The patch panels just have to be connected to a Display Rack Device (an electronic device that collects the data from the panels and sends it to the management software). Then the RFID transponders are clicked onto the patch cord, the software is installed and configured on the server – that's it!



Owl patch cords are also based on standard products. Many Telegärtner cords can be retrofitted with RFID transponders in the running network.

We look forward to present your project too

The „From the field“ article series presents current implementations and practical applications of the extensive range of Telegärtner product solutions. Users, designers and installers are welcome to present their own projects as well. Just send us a short email to marketing@telegaertner.com. We will take it from there.