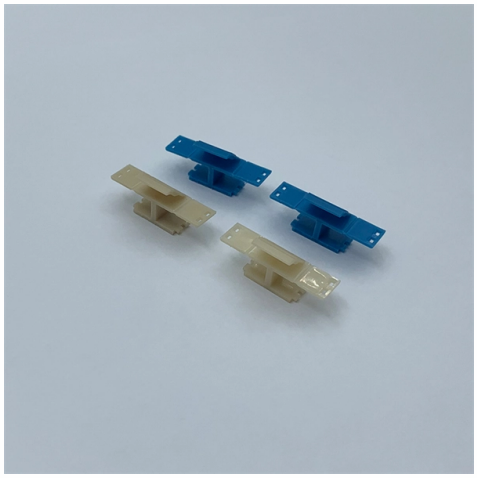
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Cable trays in the computer room



Overview

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Key Takeaways

Cable trays in a computer room are installed by careful planning, selecting the right tray type, mounting securely, and ensuring proper cable routing for airflow, maintenance, and future expansion.Planning the Installation

Before any physical installation, survey the computer room to understand equipment placement, existing cabling, and potential future expansions. Map out the cable tray routes, considering clearance from equipment, ceiling height, and access for maintenance. Decide on the tray height and support locations to ensure stability and safety, leaving room for airflow and easy cable access .

Selecting Tray Types and Materials

Choose the appropriate cable tray type based on load, airflow, and environment:

• Ladder trays: Ideal for heavy cables and good ventilation.

• Perforated trays: Suitable for lighter loads and long spans.

• Trough or solid-bottom trays: Help reduce electrical noise and protect cables.

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• Wire mesh trays: Flexible and lightweight for dynamic layouts . Materials commonly used include galvanized steel, stainless steel, aluminum, or fiberglass, depending on fire safety, corrosion resistance, and environmental conditions .
Mounting and Supports

Secure the trays using brackets, clamps, or hangers attached to walls, ceilings, or raised floors. Supports are typically spaced 1.5 to 3 meters apart, depending on tray type and cable load. Ensure trays are level, straight, and properly aligned, using spirit levels and measuring tools .

Laying Cables

Once trays are mounted, route cables carefully, avoiding sharp bends and overcrowding. Maintain separation between power and data cables to reduce interference. Use cable ties or Velcro straps to organize bundles, and leave extra length for future modifications .

Grounding, Labeling, and Inspection

All trays should be properly grounded to prevent electrical hazards. Label trays and cable bundles clearly for easy identification. Conduct a final inspection to ensure trays are secure, cables are organized, and installation complies with standards such as IEC 61537 and NEC Article 392 .

Special Considerations for Server Rooms
• Airflow management: Avoid blocking hot aisle/cold aisle paths to maintain cooling efficiency.

• Scalability: Reserve capacity for future cable additions.

• Dynamic environment: Design trays to allow easy addition or rerouting of cables without downtime . By following these steps, cable trays in a computer room can be installed efficiently, safely, and in a way that supports both current operations and future growth.

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