



CASE STUDY/SUCCESS STORY

TU DORTMUND UNIVERSITY

Case Study TU Dortmund University

Client: Technische Universität Dortmund, IT und Medien Centrum (ITMC) www.itmc.tu-dortmund.de

Location: Dortmund, Germany

Business type: Education, Research & Development

Network infrastructure: Network based on fiber cabling

Type of project: Network cabling management

Information kindly provided by: Christian Kober, ITMC - Networks



The Client

TU Dortmund University has been researching and teaching at the global intersection between man, nature, and technology since its establishment in 1968. With 22,000 students in 16 faculties as well as 3000 employees – 300 of them professors.

Approaching the size of a small city with a number of departments and committees, the "UniverCity" combines academic tradition with demands from the state-of-the-art working environment, integrating companies from innovative industries.

Cabling Structure

TU Dortmund University has a entirely structured cabling system with about

45 buildings that are exclusively networked with Singlemode or Multimode fiber cables. Each building contains one or more rooms with a number of patch panels and another distinct patch panel with connections to the backbone network, not to mention the local floor distributors that network each building. At a rough estimate, the university has 30 different types of fiber patch panels with a total of 500 installed patch panels.

The Challenge

To avoid costly mistakes, the compatibility of cable elements was critical for TU Dortmund University. PatchManager had to be able to recognize whether a Singlemode or a Multimode cable was required for the patch connection. The

case was clear for an extended functionality!

The Lead Up

The physical compatibility of cables and ports is specified via the connector on the cable being compatible with the port. This does not address the cases where the characteristics of the cable itself also determines compatibility. For example, it should not be possible to connect a Multimode cable to a Singlemode cable. At the request of TU Dortmund University, PatchManager was thus extended to be able to additionally determine cable compatibilities based on the characteristics of the cable itself.



The Approach

Step by step, PatchManager was fine tuned to the specific requirements and needs of TU Dortmund University during the testing and pre-sales phase. The extended functionality now allows the user to specify in the cable-element template which cable element types and connections are compatible with each other. For example, with the extended functionality, it is possible to specify that a Multimode cable element is compatible with a Multimode cable element. It is then clear that connections to a Singlemode cable element are not possible. When a cable is connected to a port, PatchManager only presents the possibility to connect cables whose cable elements are of a type that are compatible with the next cable in the connection.

The Results

PatchManager was implemented in phases – first inspecting the building panels on-site and collecting data, then documenting the fixed laid glass fiber cables, and finally recording the in-house networking. Thus far, PatchManager has lived up to the requirements of the specific infrastructure and the client's expectations. TU Dortmund University confirmed that its staff now has a tool that is easy to use and allows the concise and complete tracking of the network. With enhanced overviews of the infrastructure, it is now possible to follow the entire path of a network cable from the beginning to the end – in one single click!

- > **Visual layout and standardized tracking**
PatchManager provided a complete tracking of the cabling that a mixture of Excel, Access, and Visio could not.
- > **Support**
PatchManager's support and development team responded with a solution to the client problem and incorporated an adjusted customer-inspired feature.
- > **Reliability**
PatchManager delivered on its promises.
- > **Scalability**
PatchManager allowed the TU Dortmund to migrate the data during their phased implementation.
- > **Customized functionality**
The customized functionality allowed the TU Dortmund to take into account specific capabilities of their cabling infrastructure.

Find out for yourself how PatchManager can ease your network management by requesting a trial version through our website: <http://patchmanager.com>



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