

Charlie Hofner

Warehouse Network Modernization & Zero-Downtime Resiliency Upgrade

HVAC Parts & Motors Distributor – Earth City, MO

March 10 – June 16, 2025

Sole On-Site Engineer (remote support from NY teammate)

Replaced all end-of-life Cisco infrastructure across two active distribution warehouses, added 24/7 managed detection & response, decommissioned a legacy PBX, cleaned a decade-old rat's-nest cable plant, and delivered the most resilient warehouse network the sites had ever seen — all with zero production impact.

Challenge → Execution → Business Impact

Challenge Execution Business Impact

- 10+ year-old EOL 2960X switches
- Single points of failure in IDFs
- Rat's-nest cabling
- No 24/7 security monitoring
- Legacy plywood-mounted PBX • 8 weeks planning + triple port audits
- Bench pre-config + Friday-night pre-rack
- Thursday midday (secondary warehouse)
- Friday after hours, 2 main warehouse IDF cabinets, switches and UPS units
- Saturday 8 am–4 pm core cutover (Sunday buffer unused)
- Added Arctic Wolf AWN202 MDR sensors
- Cleaned & re-dressed all cabling with proper lengths + Velcro • Zero operational downtime
- Eliminated all single points of failure
- 30–50% spare capacity for growth
- Instant 24/7 SOC coverage
- Thousands saved vs. competitor quotes
- Cleanest, best-documented racks in company history

Technologies

Cisco Catalyst 9200L (StackWise), Palo Alto PA-820, Arctic Wolf AWN202, Aruba 605 APs, APC 1500 VA UPS

Detailed write-up & photos:

<https://github.com/CharlieHofner/warehouse-network-refresh>