of its corporate corpus, a ghost from a long gone past that still haunted the place. If you asked the company why they were using custom built racks they'd tell you that this is what they've always done, it was how they worked and the racks were designed for them. They'd would also tell you that racks was irrelevant to the project at hand which was all about automation.

However, dig a little bit more and we come to reason why the servers needed modification. It turns out that standard servers are designed to fit standard racks. They didn't fit the custom built racks that the company had so lovingly built. Hence additional plates needed to be added, holes drilled into the servers — this was the modification that was required. Let us be clear, on the table was a proposal to invest in robotics in order to *customise* standard servers in order that they fit into *custom* built racks which the company was buying. Does the proposal still make sense? Is it a good investment? Are there alternatives? Do I hear you shout *"use standard racks?"*

Now the question is whether we should just use standard racks? This obviously moves racks towards the commodity (which is where they should be) and the modification part disappears though we still have mounting, cabling and power. It seems a lot better though (see figure 91).

Figure 91 — Using standard racks