

HOW TO SELECT THE RIGHT RACK SHELF

FOR YOUR NETWORK EQUIPMENT

There are different types of network equipment rack shelves in the market. They come in different sizes and features for various applications. To narrow down the options and save you time, we outlined the main differences between the common rack shelves and paired them with specific applications.

One Size Does Not Fit All

Before you start to search, create a list to determine your need:



TYPE

Are you going to install the rack shelf on a 2-post, 4-post rack, or a cabinet?



DIMENSIONS

What are the dimensions of the device(s) you are going to place on the rack shelf?



WEIGHT LIMIT

How much does your device weigh?



ACCESSIBILITY

Do you need frequent access to your device?



4 Common Rack Shelves:

2-Post Rack Shelf (Cantilever Rack Shelf)

[Cantilever rack shelves](#) are the most common type of rack shelf and are primarily designed for 2-post racks but may also be used on a 4-post rack or cabinet. The standard models or 1U and 2U hold from 22 to 55 lbs. For your larger, heavier devices, we recommend using a center-mount cantilever.



For your larger, heavier devices, we recommend using a center-mount cantilever. These center-weighted shelves come in two pieces, one mounting from the front of the rack and the other from the rear. Depending on which center-mount cantilever you select, you'll get a [38-inch-deep shelf that holds 132 lbs.](#) or a [20-inch deep shelf that holds 110 lbs.](#)



HOLDS 32 LBS.



HOLDS 110 LBS.

Overall, cantilever rack shelves are:

- Easy to install
- More compact
- Less expensive

4-Post Rack Shelf

[4-post Rack Shelves](#) are designed to be installed on all four mounting rails of 4-post racks or cabinets. With four attachment points, this rack shelf combines flexible features with rock-solid strength. Compared to 2-post rack shelves, they offer a higher weight capacity, between 99 lbs. to 242 lbs. depending on the model.

NavePoint's 4-post rack shelves come in 10" to 12" shelf options and various adjustable depths to fit a range of different rail depths [14 to 16 inches](#), [17-20 inches](#), [22-24 inches](#), [26-29 inches](#), and [30-33 inches](#).

The rack shelf should be deep and wide enough for your equipment while allowing room for cable bed radius and routing.





Cabinet Shelves

NavePoint [cabinet shelves](#) that are specifically sized to match NavePoint's popular cabinet categories: [Professional Series](#), [Performance Series](#), and [Swing-Gate Series](#). These cabinet shelves come in [fixed](#) and [sliding](#) options with 9-inch adjustable mounting rails.



Server Rack Rails

Adjustable [server rack rails](#) mount horizontally on the front and back of a rack. The rails form secure ledges to hold your devices without having to mount your devices directly with screws to the vertical rack rails. These server rails are most suitable for holding large and wide equipment up to 110lbs and are more space efficient compared to rack shelves because of the thinner structure.

NavePoint offers two server rack rail options with adjustable width ranging from 16 inches to 33.25 inch to provide application flexibility.

- [Standard rail](#) that is 2.5" width
- [Full-depth rail](#) that is 2.75" width





More Options...

Fixed vs. Sliding Rack Shelves

NavePoint's 4-Post rack shelves come in [fixed](#) and [sliding](#) adjustable mounting depths. Fixed rack shelves generally come with higher weight capacity and offer a great value. Sliding rack shelves are mostly used for mounting computer accessories such as monitors and keyboards and offer convenient access and cable management. When selecting an option, consider the weight, dimensions and access frequency of your equipment.



FIXED



SLIDING

Vented vs. Non-Vented

Most rack shelves come in [vented](#) (a.k.a. slotted) and [non-vented](#) designs. The vented rack shelves provide more airflow, and the slots can be used to secure equipment with cable ties. Non-vented rack shelves have no holes giving the setup a cleaner look. Ultimately, the selection comes down to preference.



VENTED



NON-VENTED

Steel vs. Aluminum

Steel is by far the most common material for rack shelves in the market. Compared to aluminum shelves, steel shelves are typically stronger, less expensive, and more scratch resistant. Steel rack shelves are ideal for heavy equipment. NavePoint rack shelves are made of superior-grade steel quality to provide a maximum equipment support.



Pair the Right Rack Shelf with Your Application

Application	SKU	Recommended Shelf
Desktop PCs & Tower Servers	00404163	1U Vented Sliding 4-Post Adjustable 26"-29" Deep
Uninterruptible Power Supplies	00404164	1U Vented Sliding 4-Post Adjustable 30"-33" Deep
Large Switches	00404164	1U Vented Sliding 4-Post Adjustable 30"-33" Deep
Standard Switches	00400810	1U Vented Cantilever Shelf 8" Deep with Lip
Patch Panels	00406236	2U Cantilever Shelf 14" Deep
Mouse Keyboard Laptop	00404162	1U Vented Sliding 4-Post Adjustable 22"-24" Deep
Amplifiers	00401887	1U Vented 4-Post Shelf 24" Deep
Stereo Receivers	00401887	1U Vented 4-Post Shelf 24" Deep

NavePoint offers a broad selection of rack shelves to support various applications. All our products come with free, same-day shipping. If you can't find what you're looking for or have product questions, our U.S based team is here to help. Contact us at 1-866-312-5401 or [email us](#).