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Uninterruptable Power Supplies

An uninterruptable power supply (UPS), or battery backup, provides instantaneous protection from input power disruptions. In a typical office environment, UPSs can range from the very small (about 300va or enough for a small desktop) to the very large (5000va or more).

How It Works

In the most common types of battery backups, the UPS works by receiving input power from a typical wall outlet and uses it to charge the batteries while simultaneously supplying power for the devices plugged into it. When the power goes out, the batteries immediately take over and supply power long enough for emergency power to kick in or for the user to shut down the computer. The higher the UPS power rating, the longer the dependent devices will last. And speaking of ratings...

How They're Rated

Battery backup systems are rated using volt-amperes - abbreviated as volt-amps or VAs - a measure of electrical power similar to Watts. You will often find both listed on a UPS with the value for Watts being about 70% lower than that of volt-amps. The total power required by the devices you wish to protect should not exceed, and actually should be far lower, than the total power rating of the UPS, allowing the UPS to function longer while running on batteries.

Why You Need One

Obviously a UPS prevents unexpected shutdowns in the event of a power outage, allowing users to save their open files and turn off their PC properly. But perhaps more importantly, a UPS absorbs the naturally occurring fluctuations of AC current as well as the very unnatural shocks of brownouts and power spikes. When the batteries take these shocks instead of your PC it can extend the life of your electronics and help reduce the cost of electricity.

Final Thoughts

Desktop machines should have at least a rating of 400VA in order to provide enough time to shut down the PC. Servers, telephone systems, network devices and other office equipment all require special evaluation to determine the best UPS for each. For more information, please contact us – you can visit <http://www.avrem.com/contact/> to find out how.