

Converting Tower Chassis to Network Rack

Article Overview

Tower servers can be converted to rack-mounted servers using manufacturer-specific conversion kits, universal rails, or rackmount cases, depending on the server model and rack type.

Manufacturer Conversion Kits

Many server manufacturers, such as Dell and HPE, offer tower-to-rack conversion kits designed to fit their specific tower models into standard 19-inch racks. These kits typically include:

- Rack rails or brackets compatible with square or round-hole racks
 - Screws, thumbscrews, and locking mechanisms
 - Instructions for removing tower-specific components like feet, bezel, and access panels
- For example, HPE ProLiant servers provide a kit that requires powering down the server, removing the front bezel and feet, disengaging locking brackets, and aligning the chassis with the rack rails before securing it with thumbscrews. Dell's RapidRails and VersaRails kits allow installation in most industry-standard racks, with RapidRails being tool-free for square-hole racks and VersaRails compatible with both square and round-hole racks.

Universal Rails and Shelves

If a manufacturer-specific kit is unavailable, universal rails or rack shelves can be used:

- Universal rails: Provide basic support but may lack sliding mechanisms, which can make maintenance more difficult and put stress on the server chassis.
- Rack shelves: Offer a stable platform for servers without pre-drilled mounting holes. Sliding shelves are more expensive but allow easier access for servicing. Check your server for keyhole slots or mounting holes on the top and bottom, which can simplify rail attachment. If these are absent, a shelf or third-party rail solution is necessary.

Converting Desktop PCs

For desktop PCs or non-server towers, the recommended approach is to transfer components into a rackmount case. Rackmount cases come in standard heights (1U...

Article Content

May 01, 2026

Can I move 1U hardware into a tower chassis?

The easy answer: Yes you can migrate the hardware to a tower PC. But the difficulty is pretty much as the answer below has pointed out. Those 1U rack server are meant to be away from you, locked

Oct 13, 2025

How to Convert a Dell PowerEdge T610 Tower to a Rack Mount

A Dell-certified Technician from Velocity Tech Solutions will show you step-by-step how to convert a Dell PowerEdge T610 tower to a rackmount server.

Sep 06, 2025

Convert Desktop PC to Rack Mount: A Comprehensive

This comprehensive guide walks you through every step of the process—from understanding the basics of rack mount systems to selecting the

Oct 22, 2025

Tower to Rack and Rack to Tower System Conversion Guide

Converting a Tower System to a Rack System This chapter explains how to convert your zx6000/rx2600 tower system to a rack system. For information on installing your system in a rack enclosure, read

Jun 25, 2026

Converting the system from tower mode to rack mode, Updating BIOS ...

Install the rack ears by performing the following steps: a. Align the three screw holes on the rack ears with the screw holes on the top and the bottom of system.

Jul 09, 2026

Migrating tower servers to a rack sytem

I'll look to convert the windows server and the Linux server that are tower like servers to a rack style chassis. I'm guessing that 2U chassis for each one is ok. I'm aware that istar usa and

Apr 14, 2026

Converting a Mid Tower ATX Case into a Rack-Mountable Chassis?

So my question is, has anyone here attempted to rack mount a standard tower case before? I'd love to hear about your experiences, any challenges you faced, and how you tackled them.

Apr 19, 2026

Rack to Tower Server Mounting

Rack-to-Tower Conversion Kit There are some situations where a traditional rack mounted server needs to be set up like a tower server.

Feb 26, 2026

Best options to convert my tower / future DAS to a rack?

It's typical to place small items such as switches and modems on rack shelves. • I'd like to add more SAS drives to my system, but in a rack. Here is where a server chassis starts to make sense: even

Jun 04, 2026

ThinkSystem 4U Tower-to-Rack Conversion Kit Installation ...

The ThinkSystem 4U Tower-to-Rack Conversion Kit (hereafter called the Tower-to-Rack Conversion Kit) enables you to convert a ThinkSystem server from tower model to rack model.

Jul 10, 2026

Convert tower servers to rack mounted

We have a number of p-series tower models and were wondering whether they could be mounted in a rack. Is this conversion possible?

Apr 17, 2026

How to Convert Your Desktop PC to a Rackmount

Transforming a conventional desktop PC into a rackmount case helps save on the area occupied while improving the system's cooling

Apr 11, 2026

Installing a tower server into a server rack

Whether if you have a desktop or tower server, there are easy solutions to turn them into rack mountable equipment with little effort.

Dec 09, 2025

PowerEdge T620 conversion kit from rack mount to tower

It has always been the case that parts are officially available for converting a tower to a rack server, as one may occasionally need the extra expandability of a tower chassis over the

Feb 09, 2026

HPE ProLiant Server Tower to Rack Conversion Kits

HPE ProLiant Server Tower to Rack Conversion Kits: Access product support documents and manuals, software, download drivers by operating environment, and view product support videos.

Mar 02, 2026

Looking for a guide for converting a VRTX Tower model to Rack model

Hello, I am looking for a detailed guide for the conversion of a VRTX tower model to the rack model. we have the conversion kit, but there is no guide for the conversion. I found something in

Aug 19, 2025

Convert Dell Poweredge T560 to Rack Mode.

To convert your system from the tower mode to the rack mode, you require the tower to rack conversion kit, which contains the following: Rack ears (left and right) with three screws each

Jan 02, 2026

Converting a Mid Tower ATX Case into a Rack-Mountable Chassis?

In the meantime, I've acquired a small rack (12U 600mm deep) that sits beside my desk, housing some basic gear (UPS, basic network equipments etc.). Feeling a bit sad seeing my PC components

Feb 07, 2026

RackSolutions 1U-2U Universal Rack-to-Tower Conversion Kit

This Universal Rack-to-Tower Conversion Kit from RackSolutions allows any 1U to 2U server to be mounted on its side in a "tower" like configuration.

May 25, 2026

Is it possible to turn a regular case into a rack-mount

If the case is less than 19 inches tall you can turn it on its side and out it on a shelf designed to mount in a server rack bit thats realistically about as good as you

Jul 23, 2026

From Laptop to Rack Mount Server · avojak | blog

From Laptop to Rack Mount Server I converted my old laptop into a rack-mountable server! Wed, Nov 25, 2020 8 min read #hardware #homelab Naturally, you're probably thinking

Nov 23, 2025

Tower-to-Rack Conversion Guide

The system Rack Installation Guide provides instructions for trained service technicians installing one or more systems in an open-frame relay rack or in a rack cabinet.

Aug 22, 2025

Tower-to-Rack Conversion Guide

Installing the Rack Ears Align the rack ear screw holes with the screw holes on the right side of the system chassis. See Figure 1-2. Install the three screws using a #2 Phillips screwdriver. Repeat for

Jan 10, 2026

Converting tower server to rack server : r/homelab

Hi guys, I've got a Poweredge T20 tower server that is currently running my PfSense installation. About a year ago I moved to a rack solution and haven't looked back, however this tower is just sitting on

Apr 29, 2026

Tower-to-Rack Conversion Guide

The tower-to-rack kit includes the following items (see Figure 1-1): One rack front plate One rack bezel, complete with keylock and keys Two rack ears with rack handles and thumbscrews Thirty-four M3 x

Sep 16, 2025

IBM 4U Tower-to-Rack Conversion Kit: Installation Instructions

The IBM® 4U Tower-to-Rack Conversion Kit contains the parts that you need to convert a 4U server that is 62.5 cm (24.6 inch) deep from a tower model to a rack model.

Jun 24, 2026

From Laptop to Rack Mount Server : r/homelab

Hi everyone! I recently finished converting an old Lenovo W540 laptop into a rack-mountable server. This involved extracting the motherboard and mounting it inside an empty 1U chassis. I used several

Nov 20, 2025

How To Make Computers Into A Server Rack

Learn how to transform your computers into a server rack and optimize your network efficiency with our step-by-step guide.

Contact Us

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