

Re: BackUPS vs. SmartUPS

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From: Jonathan (jonathanNOFISH_at_sprintmail.com)

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In the old days, the BackUPS only gave simple signalling. IIRC, it would raise/lower one of the RS-232 serial signals to indicate power failure/restoration. That was all it was capable of. I don't know what they've added to the USB variants, however.

The SmartUPS models were more intelligent. They would report things like the input line voltage and temperature. Plus you could signal the UPS to shut off, do self-tests, and other things. I'm using one of the older serial SmartUPS models here at home and I really like it.

If you want to save some dough, find someone tossing out their UPSes and snatch them up. It seems that everyone forgets that lead-acid batteries only last a few years. So when the batteries go, they toss the whole UPS, thinking its broken. Grab the bad UPS, find yourself a battery store or a burglar alarm supply store and replace the batteries. Then, be a good citizen and drop off the bad batteries at your city/county local recycling drop-off so they don't end up in the landfills.

I got a small BackUPS 520 a few years ago that way; replacement batteries cost me all of \$22 at a hamfest.

good luck...

"Rob Knop" <rknop@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:q3zektcp07c.fsf@antonio.tmnwh.net...

>

> *I want to get a UPS for several Linux systems. I need to be able to use
> signaling so that the machines will cleanly shut down in the event of a
> power outing. I will use apcupsd to do this.*

>

> *I'm looking at both the BackUPS (USB versions-- the RS and the Pro) and
> the SmartUPS from APC. The SmartUPS seems to cost a factor of two more
> than the BackUPS (for a given power rating), but from apcupsd I can't
> tell what the difference is.*

>

> **Is* there any practical difference between the BackUPS and SmartUPS if
> you're using apcupsd? If so, what is it?*

>

> *Thanks,*

comp.os.linux.hardware: Re: BackUPS vs. SmartUPS

>
> *-Rob*
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> --
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