

OBTAIN How-To: Defining Rack Types

With the release of OBTAIN 1.25.3 the Rack Types dialogue has been given an overhaul. These changes have been made in hopes that it will allow users to define Rack Types more easily and with greater accuracy.

How to Use Rack Types:

1) Create a New Rack Type:

- From the main OBTAIN window, click Assets > Racks.
- On the top toolbar, of the Racks window, click Rack Types.
- Click the New Rack Type button.
- Select the proper Manufacturer from the drop-down list.
- Input the name of the Rack Type.
- Click the OK button.

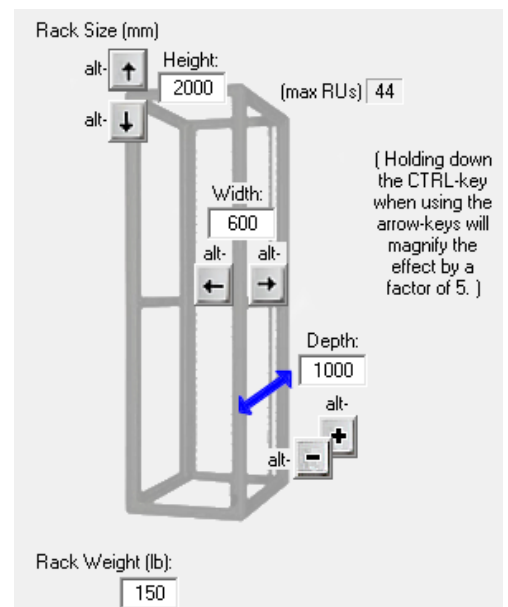
2) Modify the Dimensions of a Rack Type:

- There are two ways to modify the basic dimensions (Height, Width and Depth) of a Rack Type. On the Rack Type tab, you can either use the corresponding arrow keys to increase or decrease the values or you can manually input a value into the text boxes and update the Rack Type (see Figure 1).

3) Modify the Mounting Areas of a Rack Type:

After defining the proper dimensions for the Rack Type you then have to define how the Mounting Areas are configured. By default, when you make a new Rack Type it is created with a single Main Mounting Area that has a total of 42 RUs. You can change the Rack Types Mounting Areas under the Rack Configuration box.

- First, if the Rack Type you are creating has more than one Main Mounting Area then click the drop-down list next to “Number of Main Mounting Areas” and select the proper value. When you select a value greater than one you will see the Rack Type change in the right-side window and will notice that a second Main Mounting Area is now available on the Rack Type.
- Next, click the drop-down list next to “Number of RUs per Main Area”. This option allows you to change the total number of RUs that the Main Mounting Areas have.
- The next few options all deal with Rack Types that have Side-Mounting Areas – the Rack Type has vertical mounting areas on the side(s) of the Rack in which Assets may be mounted.



(Figure 1)

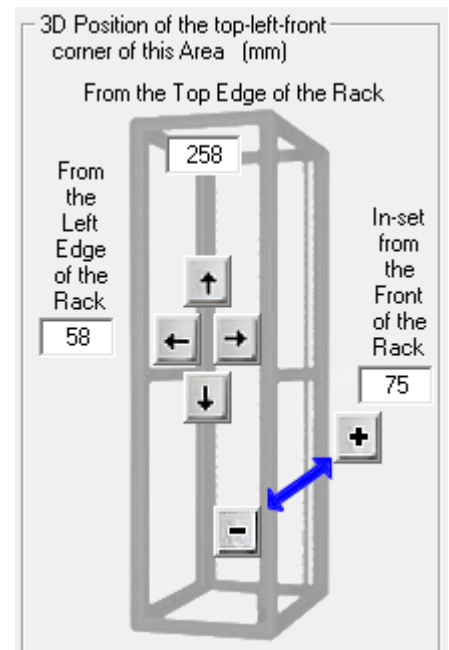
- d. Under “Has Side-Mount Areas” there are three checkboxes. These checkboxes, when checked, will add Side-Mount Areas to the Rack Type. The options to choose from are “Add Side-Mounts to the left of the Main Mounting Area”, “Add Side-Mounts to the right of the Main Mounting Area” and “Add Side-Mounts in between the Main Mounting Areas” (if the Rack Type has more than one Main Mounting Area).
- e. Next, click the drop-down list next to “Number of Side-Mount Areas per Column” to define how many Side-Mount Areas there are for each vertical column that you’ve added.
- f. Finally, click the drop-down list next to “Number of RUs per Side-Mount Area” to define the size, in RUs, of all the Side-Mounting Areas.

(Figure 2)

4) Modify Specific Mounting Areas in the Rack Type:

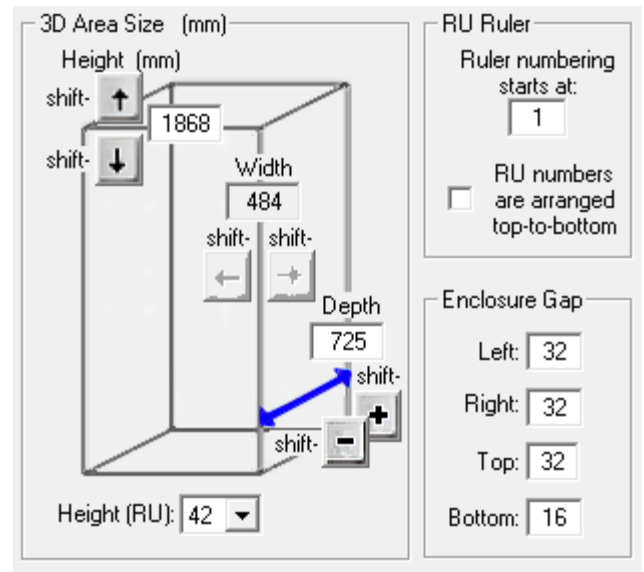
Click the drop-down list next to “Rack 3D Areas” in the top right of the Rack Window. This will bring down a list of all of the 3D Areas currently defined for the Rack Type. By default, a new Rack Type will have Equipment Mounting “A” and two Power Strip Mounting Areas. When you select any Mounting Area from this list you will automatically be switched over to the 3D Area tab for modifying that Mounting Area.

- a. In the top left corner of the Mounting Area tab-page there is a “3D Position” box. This box allows you to define where the Mounting Area physically resides in the Rack, relative to the Rack’s Height, Width and Depth. Similar to modifying the dimension of a Rack Type, the physical position of a Mounting Area can be changed either by using the corresponding arrow buttons, or by manually inputting values into the text boxes. You are able to modify how the Mounting Area is positioned vertically, and horizontally, as well as how deep (towards the rear) into the Rack the 3D Area is located (see Figure 3).
- b. In the bottom left corner of the Mounting Area tab there is a “3D Area Size” box. This box allows you to define dimensions specifically for the Mounting Area that you are currently viewing. Similar to defining the dimensions of the Rack Type itself, you can define the Height, Width and Depth of the Mounting Area.



(Figure 3)

- c. Additionally, if the Mounting Area you are currently modifying is a Main Mounting Area, for equipment mounting, then there will be a few additional options available. Similar to the Rack Types tab-page you are able to define the total number of RUs for the Main Mounting Area. Additionally, in the “RU Ruler” box you are able to define the starting RU value for the Rack Type. You are also able to choose whether the RU values are arranged from bottom-to-top or top-to-bottom. Finally, in the “Enclosure Gap” box you are able to define extra space around the Main Mounting Area. When inputting “Enclosure Gap” values you will see a light grey box appear around the Main Mounting Area – the grey area allows a gap to view inside the Rack.



(Figure 4)

- d. Finally, in the top middle of the Mounting Area tab you are able to assign the Mounting Area a specific Area ID – i.e. your name for the Mounting Area. By default, Mounting Areas are created with a single letter name based on the order they were created – i.e. the first Mounting Area is called “A”, the second is called “B” and so forth. However, Power Strip Mounting Areas are named slightly differently. When a Power Strip Mounting Area is created it will be given a numerical value along with its position in the Rack, i.e. “Back-Left-1”, “Back-Left-2” and so forth.

5) Additional Rack Type Options:

- Copying a Rack Type:**
In the top middle of the Rack Types window there is a Copy Type button. If you click this button an exact copy of your current Rack Type will be made.
- Adding Additional Power Mounting Areas:**
If the Rack Type you are creating needs more Power Strip Mounting Areas then you are able to add more. In the top right corner of the Rack Types window there is an Add Power Areas button. Each time you click this button, 2 Power Strip Mounting Areas will be added to the Rack Type.
- Viewing the Rack Type:**
In the top right corner of the Rack Types window there is a drop-down list. This list allows you to choose view-angle will be used to draw the 2D view of the Rack Type. You can choose from Front, Back, Left side, and Right side views. When you select a view you will be shown the Rack Type from that view in 2D.
- 3D Rack Type Display:**
One of the main features of the new Rack Types window is the addition of the three-dimensional Rack Type display. While working with a Rack Type, you will see a 3D wire-frame display of the Rack Type in the middle of the window. This 3D model is interactable and can be used to get a much clearer understanding of how the Rack Type is defined. For a more thorough explanation of the new 3D display please visit our Knowledge Base and view the Rack 3D Display video “video to be released soon”.