

The Focus of KVM Practical Usage



KVM Convenience Notebook: Page 2

A clue is found in "How to Use an Extender!"

**How can you consolidate control
the cluster of PC consoles?**

[A clue is found in "How to Use an Extender!" How can you consolidate control the cluster of PC consoles?]

Q



Question

I am in charge of managing monitoring systems for our production lines besides my normal work. Our factory has 4 production lines located at intervals of several ten meters. One monitoring PC is installed in each line and each PC has one set of a keyboard, monitor and mouse. When I need to operate them, I move to the factory 100m away from our office room.

Since it 's a hassle for me to move around the large factory, I want to operate the monitoring PCs from my office where I usually work at and want to remain the present circumstance to operate them at site. Moreover, by taking this opportunity, I want to clear the circumference of the PCs for monitoring the production lines. What can I do? (Mr. M, at Chiba)

A



Answer

The key point of this is "extending the PC consoles to the remote place," and "consolidating a set of a keyboard, monitor and mouse for multiple computers." Readers who have already read my first column may figure out what products allow him to actualize his requests.

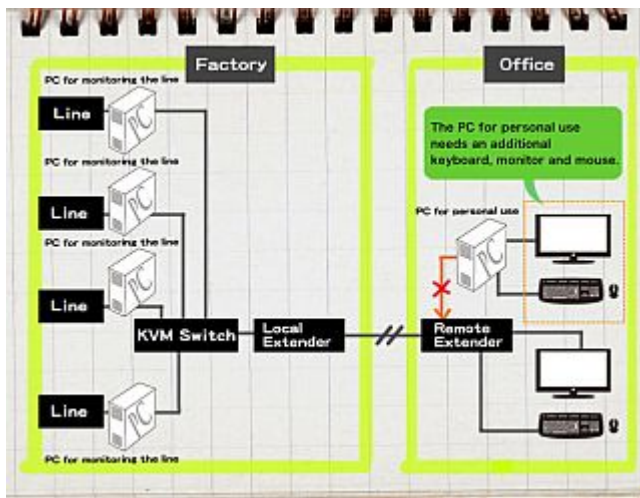
Yes. Extenders are available for "extending a console," and KVM switches are available for "consolidating consoles." It is as I introduced you last time.

In this time, however, the distance between each production line is some ten meters and he doesn't want to install anything other than what he needs around the PCs for monitoring the line. So, it will not be suitable for him to setup KVM switches near the PC and extend the console.

Then, how can he control multiple PCs at the factory's production lines far from his office? In order to manage it ideally, it needs to change your point of view and this combination.

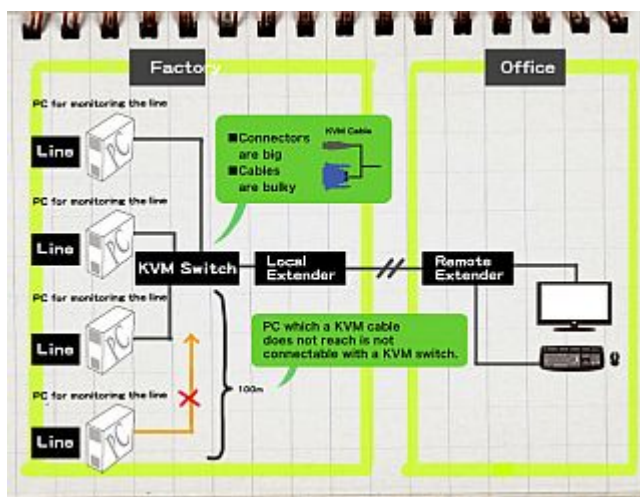
■ Task

1. If you extend a console by a KVM switch, another console is needed for a PC for personal use.



This installation enables you to extend a console to the office. But you must prepare an additional keyboard, monitor and mouse to be connected to your PC in the office since there are no remote extender units available to connect the PC. It will make your space, cost and labor (moving between your working places) wasteful.

2. If your KVM cable is not enough long, you cannot consolidate consoles. Wiring may make a trouble.



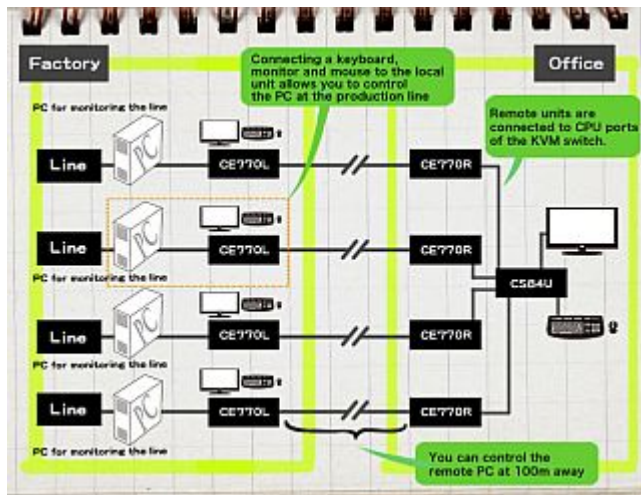
Although a KVM switch allows you to consolidate consoles, it allows you to extend them only 20m away because you have to use a KVM cable to connect the KVM switch and a PC and the maximum cable length is limited to around 20m. Depending on your circumstance, you may be unable to consolidate consoles because of the insufficient cable length. Besides, since the KVM cable is thick and its connectors are big, there is a possibility that trouble may occur in wiring.

★ Solution

"Installing an Extender to the PC allows you to setup your system located more than 100m away from the KVM switch."

In this situation, I'd like to recommend you the way to extend the distance between KVM switches and PCs and to control remote PCs in the factory by using the extender. Last time I introduced you the method of extending a console side by using the extender. The extender can also be connected to KVM ports of the KVM switch. This way allows you to consolidate and switch to control the cluster of the PCs by the KVM switch located in a remote place.

(Example) Connecting 2-port KVM switch "CS84U" to USB KVM extender "CE770."



The benefit of this installation is saving you the trouble of moving around the production lines like before because you can control remote PCs installed in the lines of the factory from your office. As using an extender enables you to extend the distance 100m away, you can consolidate consoles by this combination and you don't have to move around even though PCs are set in the several floors.

Furthermore, like the last time, if a console can be connected to the local unit of the extender, you can control PCs in the factory's production lines after installation. You don't have to change your past managing way at all.

Then, since you can change each distance between a PC and the KVM switch by ports, you can share your console between the extended PCs by the extender and your directly connected PCs by a KVM cable. It will greatly increase the efficiency of your work and space.

Now let's see a specific example.

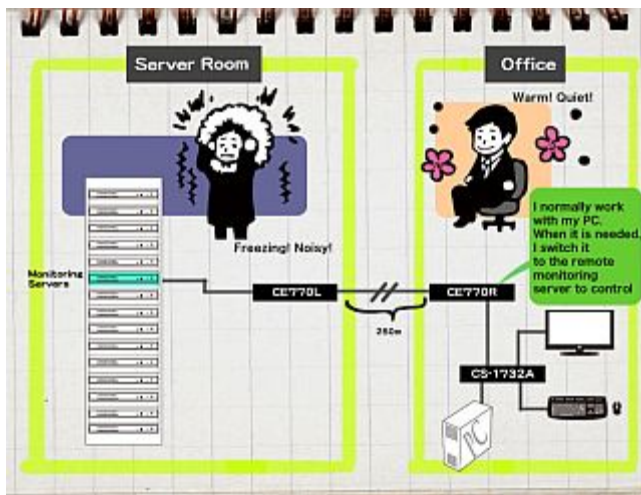
■ Example of applications

1. Switching and controlling my PC and remote servers in a server room from our office.

[Problem]

I usually work at our office, and I sometime control monitoring devices in the server room. I have to go in and out of the server room up to 10 times per day in order to operate these devices. It is a burden for me to go in and out so often because I also have my main operation.

[Example] Connecting 2-port KVM switch "CS1732A" to KVM extender "CE770"



[Installation Result]

The PC in the office was connected to the KVM switch directly and the monitoring servers in the server room were connected to it through the KVM extender.

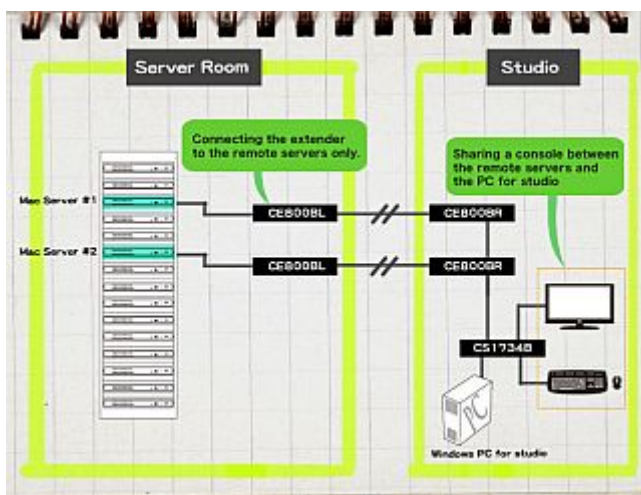
I don't have to go to the server rooms because I can control the monitoring devices by switching when I need.

2. Extending the Mac server console installed in a server room and operating it from a comfortable place

[Problem]

There is one Windows PC in a broadcaster studio. There are two Mac servers in a server room. I feel reluctant to enter the server room because I have to do a lot of things before entering. I also worry about a security of our server room. On the other hand, if the servers were installed in our studio, there was no space available to install and noise from the servers' fan could be more annoying to me.

[Example] Connecting 4-port KVM switch "CS1734B" to KVM extender "CE800B."



[Installation Result]

While I stay in the studio, I can operate three computers of my PC for studio and servers in the server room by switching. As I don't have to go to the server room to operate, my burden is decreased and the security of the server room is improved. The problem of space shortage is resolved and I am not bothered by the noise in there. It became very comfortable for me to work.

★ Advice from director



You should connect the extender to KVM ports of a KVM switch! It enables you to consolidate the cluster of PC consoles!

In addition to it, more important key is that “you must use high quality LAN cables to extend.”

When you use the extender, its video quality is depending on the quality of the LAN cables. In this situation, we recommend you to use Cat. 5e cables. ATEN provides LAN cables for our extenders as per our customers' request, and they are very effective for “distortion” and “ghost” comparing with standard UTP cables. Please try to use our LAN cables with our service to lend you our devices!

