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Q: Smart 16/16e - What specifically does "dual input" versus "single input" mean?

A:

These refer to the input power configuration of the shelf. Single input shelves provide one physical power input interface to the shelf from an external supply. This single input power provides common sourced power to both power supply slots on the front of the shelf.

For the Dual Input shelves there are two separate physical power inputs that provide power to the shelf. Each power input provides power to only one power supply slot in the front of the shelf.

For both types of power inputs (single or dual), providing two shelf power supplies provides greater reliability in allowing the network to remain up in the case of a single power supply failure.