

Dell™ Systems

Tower-to-Rack Conversion Guide

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Tower-to-Rack Conversion Guide

Notes, Notices, and Cautions



NOTE: A NOTE indicates important information that helps you make better use of your computer.



NOTICE: A NOTICE indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.



CAUTION: A CAUTION indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.

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CAUTION: Safety Instructions


Use the following safety guidelines to help ensure your own personal safety and to help protect your system and working environment from potential damage. For complete safety and regulatory information, see the *Product Information Guide* that shipped with your system. Warranty information might be included in this document or as a separate document.


SAFETY: Rack Mounting of Systems

Observe the following precautions for rack stability and safety. Also refer to the rack installation documentation accompanying the system and the rack for specific caution statements and procedures.


Systems are considered to be components in a rack. Thus, "component" refers to any system as well as to various peripherals or supporting hardware.

 **CAUTION: Before installing systems in a rack, install front and side stabilizers on stand-alone racks or the front stabilizer on racks joined to other racks. Failure to install stabilizers accordingly before installing systems in a rack could cause the rack to tip over, potentially resulting in bodily injury under certain circumstances. Therefore, always install the stabilizer(s) before installing components in the rack.**

 **CAUTION: After installing system/components in a rack, never pull more than one component out of the rack on its slide assemblies at one time. The weight of more than one extended component could cause the rack to tip over and may result in serious injury.**

 **NOTE:** Your system is safety-certified as a free-standing unit and as a component for use in a Dell rack cabinet using the customer rack kit. The installation of your system and rack kit in any other rack cabinet has not been approved by any safety agencies. It is your responsibility to ensure that the final combination of system and rack complies with all applicable safety standards and local electric code requirements. Dell disclaims all liability and warranties in connection with such combinations.

- System rack kits are intended to be installed in a rack by trained service technicians. If you install the kit in any other rack, be sure that the rack meets the specifications of a Dell rack.

 **CAUTION: Do not move racks by yourself. Due to the height and weight of the rack, a minimum of two people should accomplish this task.**


- Before working on the rack, make sure that the stabilizers are secured to the rack, extended to the floor, and that the full weight of the rack rests on the floor. Install front and side stabilizers on a single rack or front stabilizers for joined multiple racks before working on the rack.
- Always load the rack from the bottom up, and load the heaviest item in the rack first.
- Make sure that the rack is level and stable before extending a component from the rack.
- Use caution when pressing the component rail release latches and sliding a component into or out of a rack; the slide rails can pinch your fingers.
- Do not overload the AC supply branch circuit that provides power to the rack. The total rack load should not exceed 80 percent of the branch circuit rating.
- Ensure that proper airflow is provided to components in the rack.
- Do not step on or stand on any component when servicing other components in a rack.

General Installation Instructions

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. The RapidRails™ rack kit can be installed without tools in manufacturer's rack cabinets that have square holes; the VersaRails™ rack kit can be installed in most industry-standard rack cabinets that have square or round holes. The procedures for installing both RapidRails and VersaRails rack kits are similar. One rack kit is required for each system installed in the rack.

 **CAUTION: Do not install rack kit components designed for another system. Use only the rack kit for your system. Using the rack kit for another system may result in damage to the system and personal injury.**


The RapidRails rack kit can be installed in most industry-standard rack cabinets.

 **NOTICE:** The VersaRails rack kit is intended to be installed by trained service technicians in a rack that meets the specifications of American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/Electronic Industries Association (EIA) standard ANSI/EIA-310-D-92, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 297, and Deutsche Industrie Norm (DIN) 41494. One rack kit is required for each system that is installed in a rack.

Before You Begin


Before you begin installing your system in the rack, carefully read "CAUTION: Safety Instructions" on page 5, as well as the safety instructions found in your *Product Information Guide* for additional information.

 **CAUTION: When installing multiple systems in a rack, complete all of the procedures for the current system before attempting to install the next system.**


 **CAUTION: Rack cabinets can be extremely heavy and move easily on the casters. The cabinet has no brakes. Use extreme caution while moving the rack cabinet. Retract the leveling feet when relocating the rack cabinet. Avoid long or steep inclines or ramps where loss of cabinet control may occur. Extend the leveling feet for support and to prevent the cabinet from rolling.**


Important Safety Information

Observe the safety precautions in the *Rack Installation Guide* when installing your system in the rack.

 **CAUTION: You must strictly follow the procedures in this document to protect yourself as well as others who may be involved. Your system may be very large and heavy, and proper preparation and planning are important to prevent injury to yourself and to others. This becomes increasingly important when systems are installed high up in the rack.**

Rack Stabilizer Feet

 **CAUTION:** Before installing systems in a rack, install front and side stabilizers on stand-alone racks or the front stabilizer on racks joined to other racks. Failure to install stabilizers accordingly before installing systems in a rack could cause the rack to tip over, potentially resulting in bodily injury under certain circumstances. Therefore, always install the stabilizer(s) before installing components in the rack.

 **CAUTION:** After installing system/components in a rack, never pull more than one component out of the rack on its slide assemblies at one time. The weight of more than one extended component could cause the rack to tip over and may result in serious injury.

The stabilizer feet help prevent the rack from tipping over when a system or other component is pulled out of the rack with the slide assemblies fully extended. See the documentation provided with the rack cabinet for instructions on installing and anchoring the stabilizer feet.

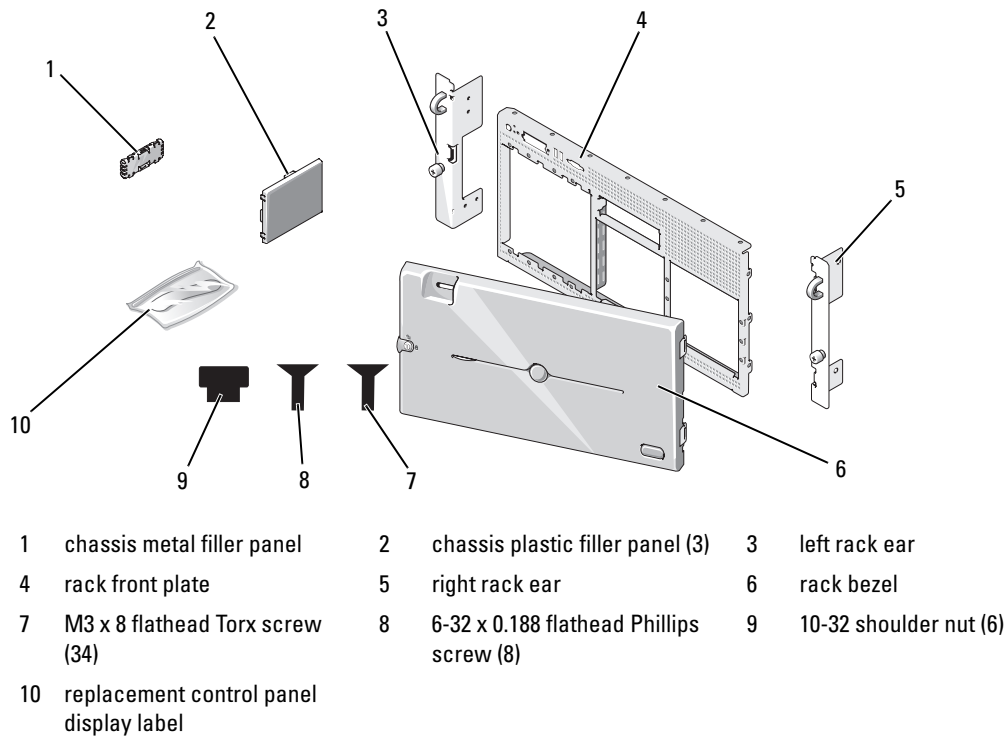
Installing the Tower-to-Rack Kit

Tower-to-Rack Kit Contents

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 8 black flathead T10 Torx screws
- Eight 6-32 x 0.188 black flathead Phillips screws
- Six 10-32 shoulder nuts
- One chassis metal filler panel
- Three chassis plastic filler panels
- Replacement label for the control panel display

Figure 1-1. Tower-To-Rack Kit Contents



Recommended Tools and Supplies

- #2 Phillips screwdriver
- 3/8-inch or 10-mm nut driver
- T-10 Torx driver (for removing and installing the front panels)

Conversion Tasks

Installing a rack kit involves performing the following tasks:

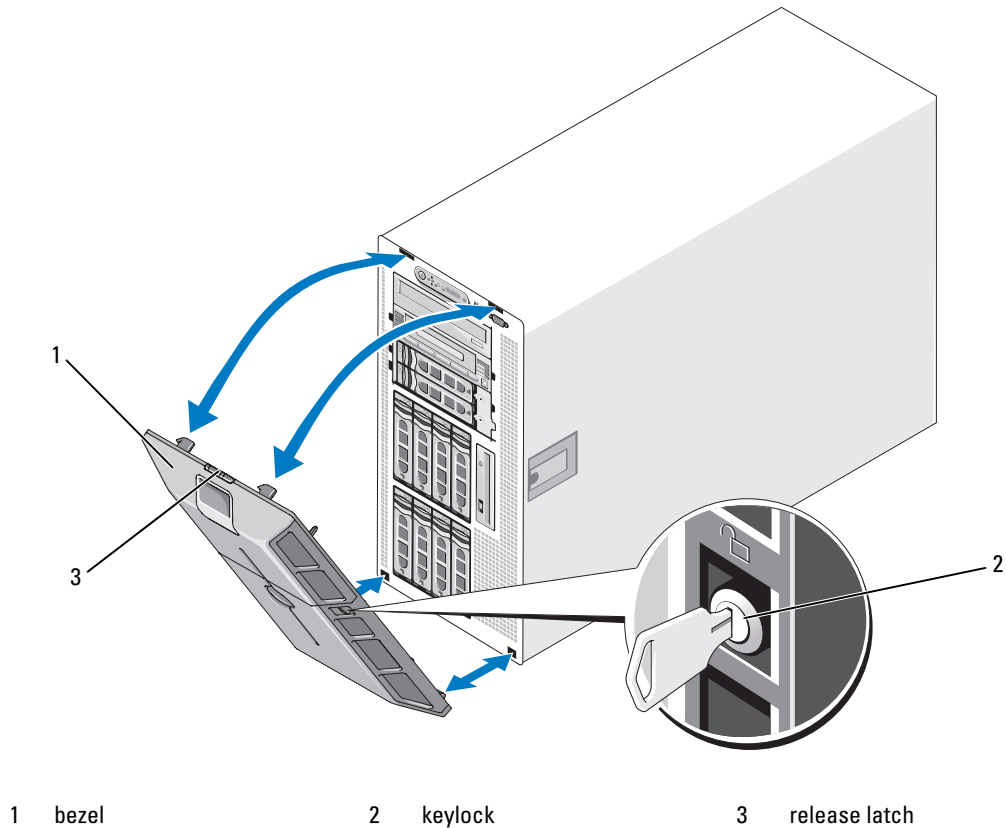
- Removing the bezel
- Removing the cover, chassis panels, and stabilizer feet
- Removing the optional 1x2 flex bay bracket
- Removing the control panel assembly
- Removing the tower front plate
- Installing the rack front plate and rack ears
- Installing the control panel assembly and metal filler panel

- Installing the optional 1x2 flex bay bracket
- Installing the shoulder nuts and plastic filler panels
- Removing the rack doors
- Installing the system in the rack
- Installing the cable-management arm
- Routing the system cables
- Installing the rack bezel
- Installing the rack doors

Removing the Bezel

- 1** Unlock the keylock at the right side of the bezel. See Figure 1-2.
- 2** While grasping the bezel, push the release latch on top of the bezel to the right.
- 3** Rotate the top of the bezel away from the front panel.
- 4** Unhook the bottom of the bezel and pull the bezel away from the system. See Figure 1-2.

Figure 1-2. Removing the Tower Bezel



Preparing the System for Conversion

- 1 Turn off the system and attached peripherals, and disconnect the system from the electrical outlet and peripherals.
- 2 Note the order of the hard drives in your system and remove all hard drive carriers and drive blanks from the drive bays.
- 3 If present, remove the filler panels from the peripheral bay.



NOTE: It is not necessary to remove any devices installed in the peripheral bay.


- 4 If present, unlock and remove the Kensington cable lock on the back of the system chassis.



CAUTION: The system may weigh up to 45 kilograms (100 pounds) when fully loaded. To prevent personal injury, do not attempt to move the system by yourself.

- 5 Place the system on its side on a flat, level work surface and orient the system so that the feet hang over the edge of the table.

Removing the System Cover

 **CAUTION:** Any installation that requires removal of the system cover is intended solely to be performed by trained service technicians. See your *Product Information Guide* for complete information about safety precautions, working inside the computer and protecting against electrostatic discharge.

- 1 To remove the system cover, turn the latch release lock on the cover latch to the unlocked position.
- 2 Lift up on the latch on top of the system. See Figure 1-3.
- 3 Grasp the cover on both sides and carefully lift the cover away from the system.


Removing the Stabilizer Feet

- 1 Underneath the stabilizer foot, locate the two push points on the locking tabs that secure the foot to the system chassis. See Figure 1-3.
- 2 Push the tabs down and toward the front of the system to disengage the tabs from the chassis slot and slide the foot forward to remove it from the chassis cutouts. See Figure 1-3.
- 3 Repeat for the other foot.

Removing the Top Chassis Panel

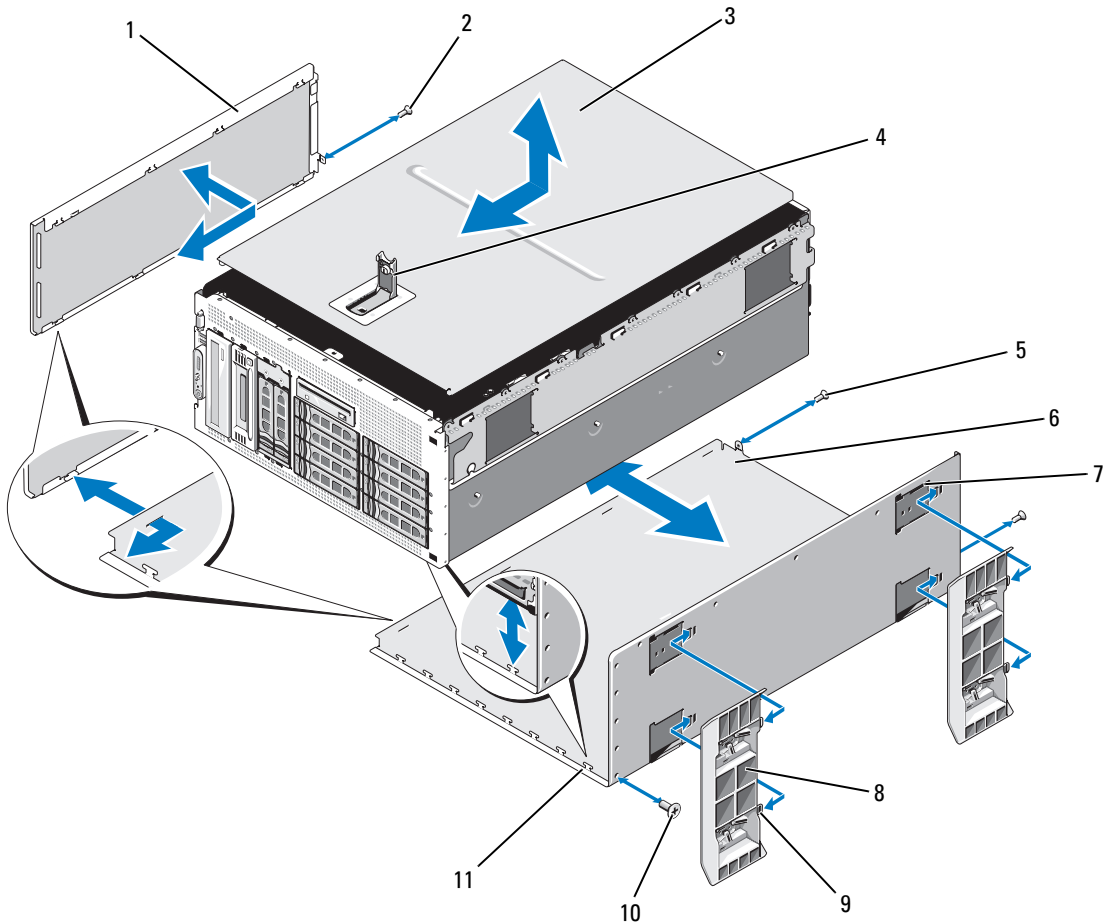
- 1 Using a #2 Phillips screwdriver, remove the screw at the back of the system that secures the top panel to the system chassis. See Figure 1-3.
- 2 Slide the top panel toward the back of the system until the panel hooks clear the chassis slots and pull the panel clear of the system.

Removing the Bottom Chassis Panel

 **CAUTION:** The system may weigh up to 45 kilograms (100 pounds) when fully loaded. To prevent personal injury, do not attempt to move the system by yourself.

- 1 Place the system with the right (open) side down on a flat, level work surface.
- 2 Using a #2 Phillips screwdriver, remove the four hex screws from the back of the system that secure the bottom panel to the chassis. See Figure 1-3.
- 3 Using a T10 Torx driver, remove the 11 flathead Torx screws from the bottom of the system that secure the bottom panel to the system chassis. See Figure 1-3.
- 4 Slide the bottom panel toward the rear of the system until the panel hooks clear the chassis slots and pull the panel clear of the system. See Figure 1-3.

Figure 1-3. Removing the Tower Components



- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|---------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | top panel | 2 | hex screw (top panel) | 3 | cover |
| 4 | cover latch and release lock | 5 | hex screw (4) | 6 | bottom panel |
| 7 | chassis slot for stabilizer foot (4) | 8 | tower stabilizer foot (2) | 9 | stabilizer foot locking tab (2 per panel) |
| 10 | M3 x 8 flathead T10 Torx screw (11) | 11 | panel hook | | |

Removing the Optional 1x2 Flex Bay Bracket

If your system has the optional 1x2 flex bay, use the following procedure to remove the 1x2 flex bay bracket:

- 1 With the system cover removed, push the spring latch on top of the peripheral bay to the right to release the flex bay bracket (see Figure 1-8 for latch location) and push on the back of the flex bay bracket to extend the bracket partially out of the chassis.
- 2 Note the order of SAS cable connections on the flex bay backplane and disconnect the SAS cables.
- 3 Disconnect the power cable from the flex bay backplane.
- 4 Remove the 1x2 flex bay bracket from the chassis bay.

Removing the Control Panel Assembly



NOTE: The control panel assembly's display module and the I/O board are the same for both the tower and rack systems. When converting your tower system to a rack system, you must remove the display module and the I/O board of the control panel assembly and reinstall the assembly in the rack orientation.


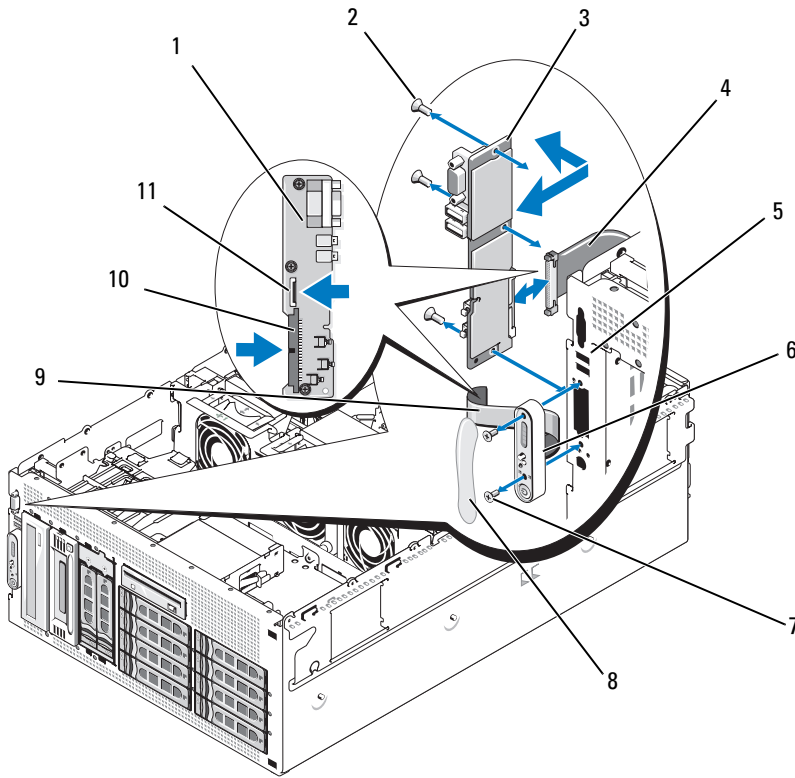
- 1 Disconnect the display module cable from the control panel board. See Figure 1-4.
 - a Carefully pull up on the locking ring on top of the connector until the cable loosens.
 - b Remove the cable.
- 2 Using the T10 Torx driver, remove the three M3 Torx panhead screws that secure the control panel board to the system chassis and remove the board. See Figure 1-4.
- 3 Disconnect the control panel cable from the back of the control panel. See Figure 1-4.
 - a  **NOTICE:** Do not pull on the cable to unseat the connector. Doing so can damage the cable.
 - b Squeeze the metal tabs on the ends of the cable connector.
 - c Gently work the connector out of the socket.
- 4 Remove the display module:
 - a Insert the end of a paper clip into the hole on the right side of the display module and gently pry the label off. Discard the label.
 - b Using a T10 Torx driver, remove the two M3 x 12 T10 Torx panhead screws that secure the panel to the system front panel. See Figure 1-4.
 - c Remove the display module from the front panel cutout.

Figure 1-4. Removing the Control Panel Assembly

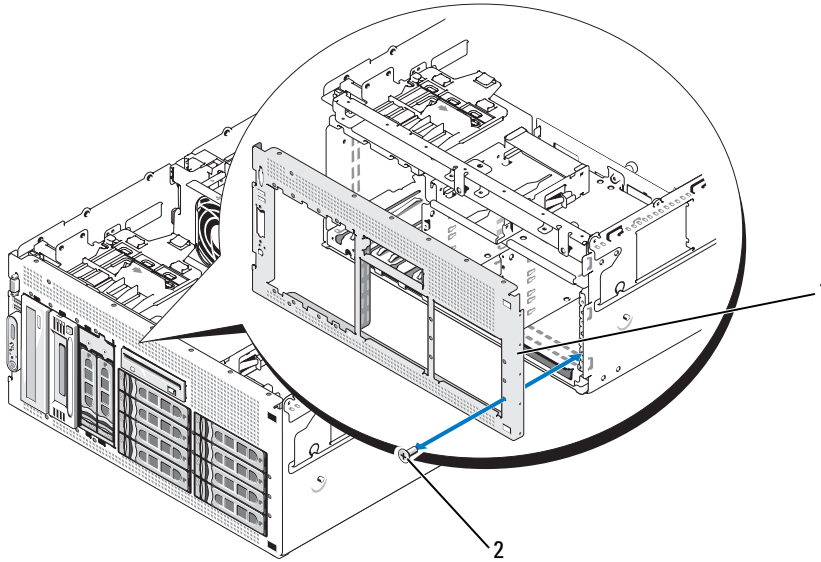


- | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | control panel board (top view) | 2 | M3 x 5 T10 Torx panhead screw (3) | 3 | control panel board (bottom view) |
| 4 | control panel cable | 5 | tower chassis cutouts | 6 | display module |
| 7 | M3 x 12 T10 Torx panhead screw (2) | 8 | display module label | 9 | display module cable |
| 10 | control panel cable connector | 11 | display module cable connector | | |

Removing the Tower Front Plate

Using a T-10 Torx driver, remove the 29 screws that secure the tower front plate to the system chassis. See Figure 1-5.

Figure 1-5. Removing the Tower Front Plate



1 tower front plate

2 M3 x 8 T10 Torx flathead screw
(29)

Installing the Rack Front Plate

1 Using a T-10 Torx driver, install the 34 screws (that came in your kit) to secure the rack front panel to the system chassis. See Figure 1-6.

➡ **NOTICE:** Do not over-tighten the screws.

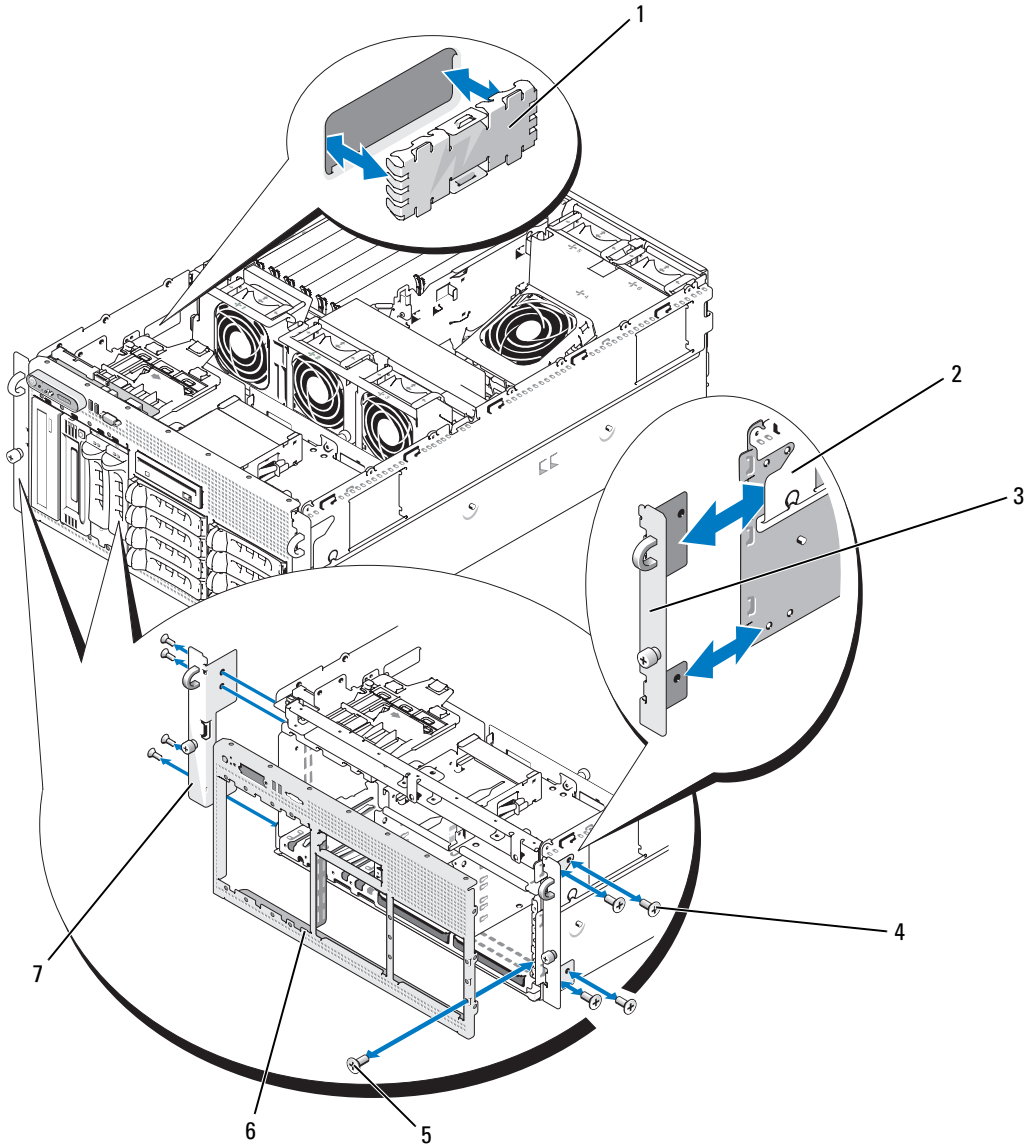
2 Attach the rack ear pieces to the system chassis.

- a Align the flanges of the right rack ear piece against the right side of the system chassis with the upper flange of the piece inserted between the double walls on the chassis. See Figure 1-6.
- b Align the flanges with the screw holes and secure the ear piece with four 6-32 flathead Phillips screws. See Figure 1-6.

➡ **NOTICE:** Do not over-tighten the screws.

- c Repeat for the left rack ear piece.


Figure 1-6. Installing the Rack Front Plate and Rack Ears




- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | metal filler panel | 2 | chassis double wall | 3 | right rack ear |
| 4 | 6-32 Phillips flathead screw (8) | 5 | M3 x 8 T10 Torx flathead screw (34) | 6 | rack front plate |
| 7 | left rack ear | | | | |

Installing the Control Panel Assembly

- 1 Install the control panel assembly.
 - a Insert the display module into the front panel cutout and secure with the two M3 x 12 T10 Torx panhead screws.

 **NOTICE:** Do not over-tighten the screws.

- b Locate the replacement label for the front of the display, remove the liner from the adhesive backing on the label, and apply the label to the front of the display module.
- c Install the control panel board in the system chassis directly behind the display module and secure with the three M3 x 5 T10 Torx panhead screws. See Figure 1-7.

 **NOTICE:** Do not over-tighten the screws.

- d Reroute the control panel interface cable back into the interior of the system chassis, and connect the control panel interface cable to the control panel board. See Figure 1-7.
- e Connect the display module cable to the connector on the control panel board. See Figure 1-7. Ensure that the cable is fully seated before you press the locking ring into position.

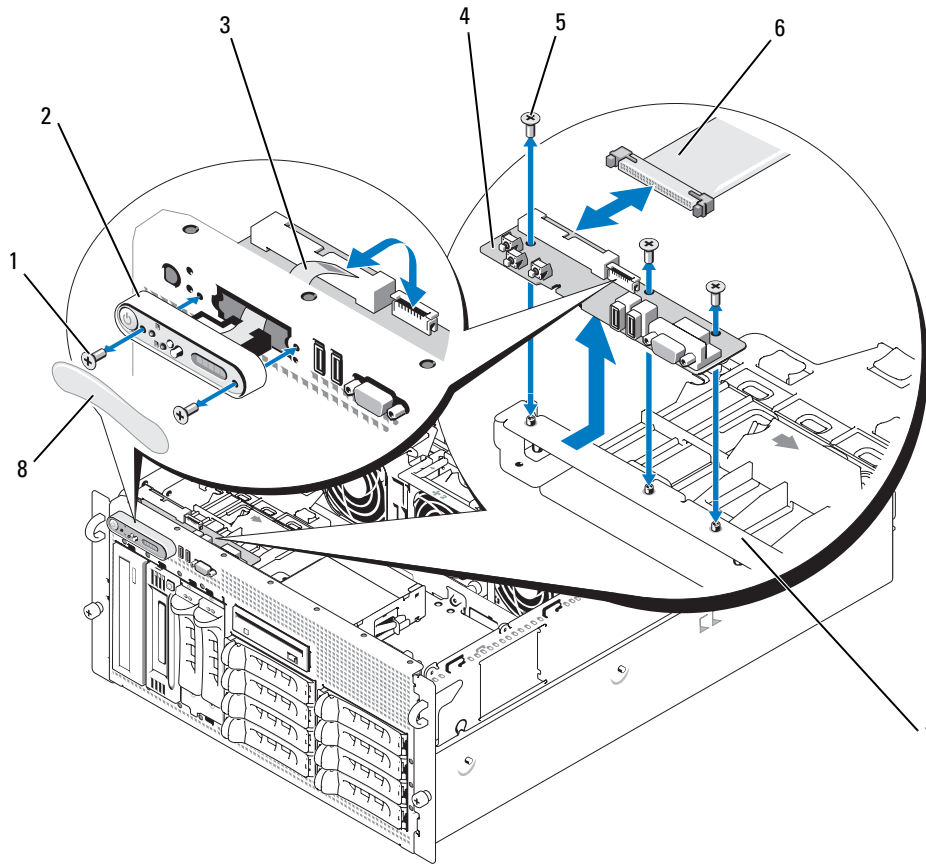
- 2 Install the metal filler panel into the chassis cutout where the control panel cable formerly routed. See Figure 1-6.

- 3 Reinstall the hard-drive carriers, drive blanks, and filler panels into their respective drive bays.




NOTE: Ensure that the hard drives, any optical drives, and devices are reinstalled into the same positions from which they were removed. The devices should be labeled appropriately.

Figure 1-7. Installing the Control Panel Assembly



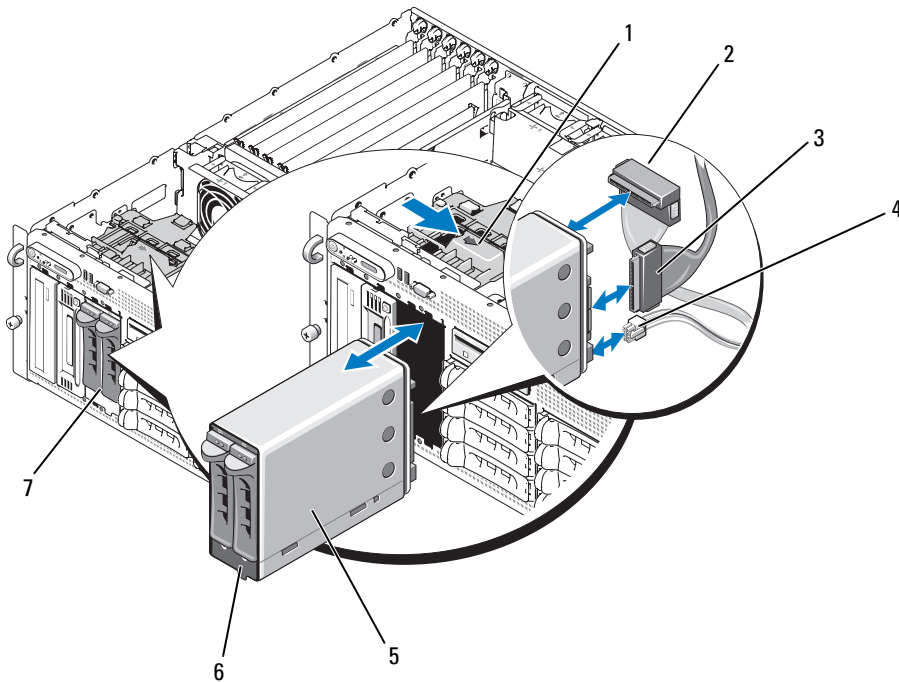
- | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | M3 x 12 T10 Torx panhead screw (2) | 2 | display module | 3 | display module cable |
| 4 | control panel board | 5 | M3 x 5 T10 Torx panhead screw (3) | 6 | control panel cable |
| 7 | system chassis | 8 | display module label | | |

Installing the Optional 1x2 Flex Bay Bracket

 **NOTE:** The rack front panel is keyed so that the 1x2 flex bay bracket installs in the opposite orientation as the tower front panel.

- 1 Insert the 1x2 flex bay bracket three-quarters of the way into the peripheral bay.
- 2 Reconnect the power cable to the flex bay backplane. See Figure 1-8.
- 3 Reconnect the SAS cables to the connectors on the flex bay backplane. See Figure 1-8.
- 4 Push the flex bay bracket the rest of the way into the peripheral bay until the spring latch on top of the peripheral bay engages.

Figure 1-8. Installing the Optional 1x2 Flex Bay Bracket




- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | peripheral bay spring latch | 2 | SAS cable (SAS_B_IN connector) | 3 | SAS cable (SAS_B_OUT connector) |
| 4 | power connector | 5 | 1x2 flex bay drive bracket | 6 | slot key |
| 7 | flex bay | | | | |

Installing the System Cover

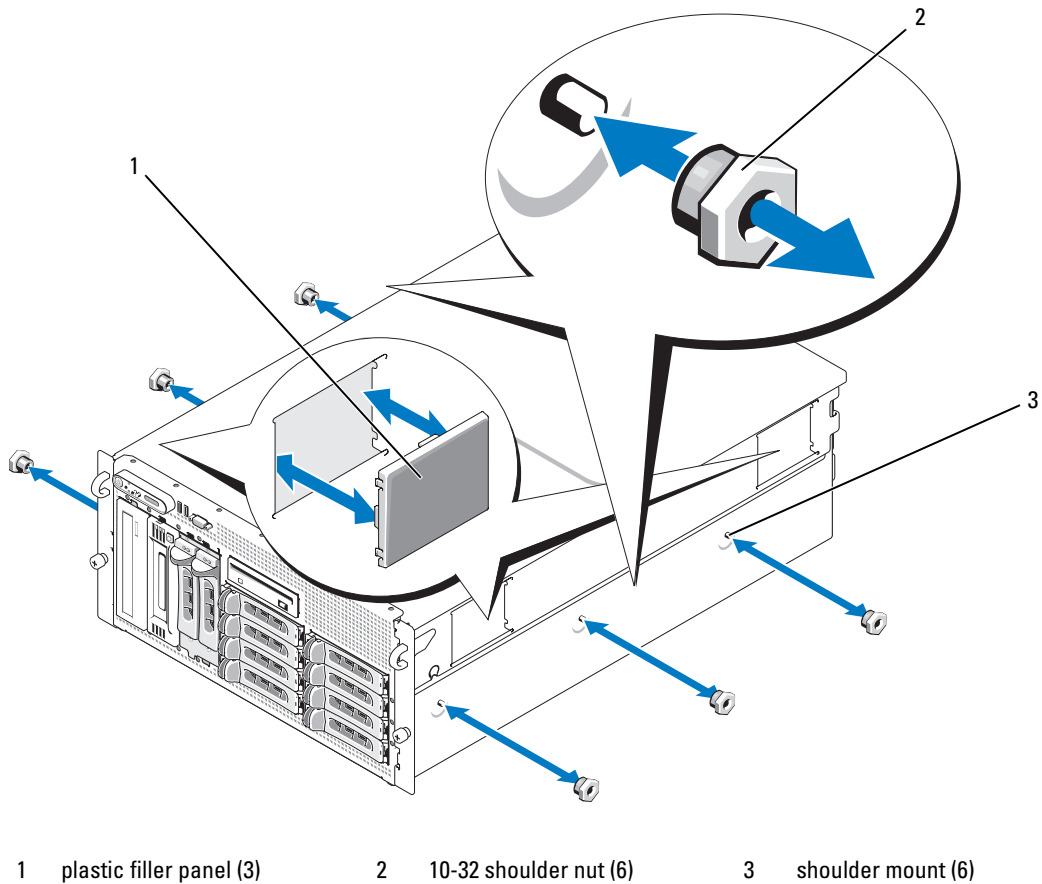
- 1 Lift up on the cover latch. See Figure 1-3.
- 2 Place the cover on top of the system and offset the cover slightly back so that it clears the chassis hooks and lays flat on the system chassis.
- 3 Push the latch down to lever the cover into the closed position.
- 4 Turn the latch release lock clockwise to the locked position.
- 5 Replace the Kensington cable lock on the back of the chassis.

Installing the Shoulder Nuts and Plastic Filler Panels

- 1 Using a 3/8-inch or 10-mm nut driver, attach the 10-32 shoulder nuts included in the kit to the shoulder mounts on each side of the system See Figure 1-9.
 **NOTE:** Tighten the shoulder nuts so that the bottom of the nut is tight against the system chassis.
- 2 Install the plastic filler panels into each of the three chassis cutouts on the left and right exterior chassis walls. See Figure 1-9.

The system is ready to install in the rack.

Figure 1-9. Installing the Shoulder Nuts



Removing the Rack Doors

You must remove the doors from the rack cabinet to provide access to the interior of the rack and to prevent damage to the doors while installing the system in the rack cabinet.

See the documentation provided with the rack for instructions on removing rack doors.

Installing the System in a Rack

If you are installing the system in a rack cabinet, see the procedures contained in the system *Rack Installation Guide*.

Installing the Cable-Management Arm

See the procedures contained in the system *Rack Installation Guide*.

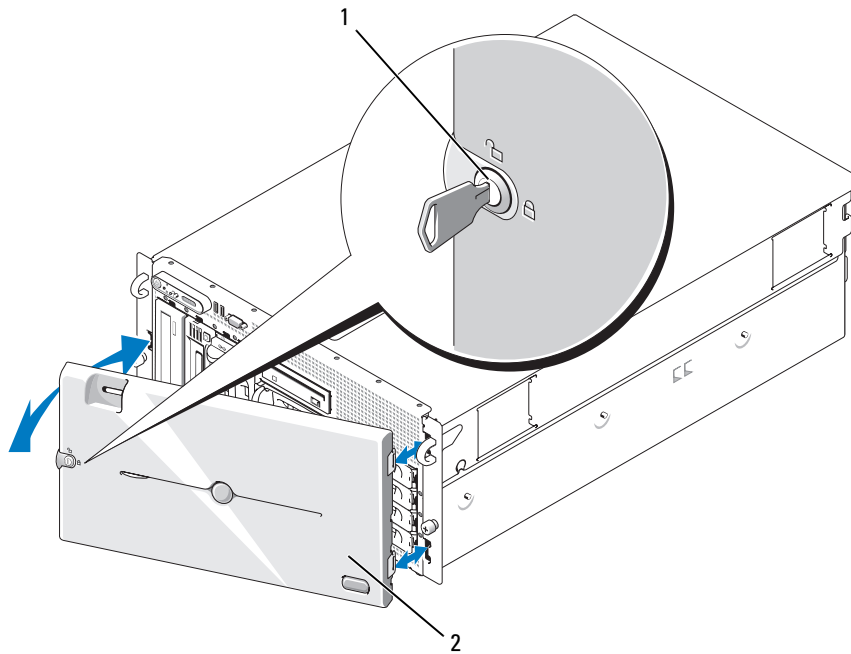
Routing Cables

See the procedures contained in the system *Rack Installation Guide*.

Installing the Rack Bezel

To install the bezel, hook the right end of the bezel onto the chassis, then fit the free end of the bezel onto the system. Secure the bezel with the keylock. See Figure 1-10.

Figure 1-10. Installing the Rack Bezel



1 keylock

2 rack bezel

Installing the Rack Doors

See the documentation provided with the rack for instructions on installing rack doors.



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