CoreSite

Is it Time to Outsource Your Data Center Operations?

16 QUESTIONS AND SIMPLE-TO-USE GUIDE FOR PREPARING TO WORK WITH A THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER PARTNER

Managing the flow of data and IT infrastructure in on-premises enterprise data centers is more time-consuming and expensive than most businesses can afford. That's why many organizations are handing over their data center operations to third-party data center solutions providers to free vital IT resources for higher-value initiatives and programs.

They'll be able to choose locations that strategically benefit their business by being closer to their customers and applications, which reduces latency by an average of 44%[1], improves app performance and makes customers happy.

But how will you know if the time's right for you to make the move? Here are the 4 most important considerations and the 16 questions to ask yourself when evaluating your current and future data center needs.

Cost-effectiveness

Colocating in an outsourced data center lets your business buy into prime real estate and the physical infrastructure you need to succeed without the long-term expenses or commitment.

☐ I'm looking for flexible cabinet and cage colocation options

☐ We need high-density deployments with affordable power and cooling

☐ Our team would benefit from remote hands services for convenient support without unnecessary travel to and from the data center

☐ I want more flexible and transparent contract structures that adapt with the changing demands of your business?

Readiness Score: ___ /4

Network and Data Security

Figuring out how to protect highly sensitive data, customer information and mission-critical networks is always in the back of your mind. But dealing with a range of constantly changing data governance standards like HIPAA, PCI and SOC II is your real nightmare

☐ I want a data center with extensive physical security like mantraps, fencing, biometric scanners and more

☐ A data center with completed compliance certificates for FISMA, PCI DSS, ISO and NIST 800-53 is a must-have

☐ I'd like a data center that doesn't rely on third-party contractors and provides extensive security training for its whole staff

☐ I need a data center that goes the extra mile to protect against damage from extreme weather, power loss, and fire or water

Readiness Score: ___ /4

Performance and Reliability

Customer-facing and internal systems alike are sensitive to latency and require faster, more reliable connectivity. Outsourcing your data center operations can help sustainably improve network performance and eliminate latency that affects everything from video streaming quality to desktop applications.

- [ ] I want a data center with a 100% uptime SLA and a proven history of resilience
- [ ] I need the flexibility to colocate physically closer to my business and customers to cut down on latency
- [ ] I have to have a failover site with direct inter-site connectivity for my disaster recovery plans

Readiness Score: ___ /3

Growth and Scalability

You're planning to introduce new products or services and enter new markets, but building out the physical infrastructure for the amount of compute and storage you'll need is going to be tough to manage.

- [ ] We're hopping on the multi-cloud strategy train because of the workload flexibility and on-demand storage and compute
- [ ] I want simple, direct and secure private connections to my favorite cloud providers
- [ ] We need a data center with locations close to the cloud providers' availability zones for lower latency and higher performance
- [ ] I need a data center partner that can introduce us to providers that can help rebuild our WAN architecture and reduce our network footprint
- [ ] I'd like a data center partner that has managed services, or have partnerships with move and migration service providers that can help evaluate and transition workloads

Readiness Score: ___ /5

Total Readiness Score: ___ /16

Outsourcing your data center is a big decision and unique to your organization. We hope this checklist provides some helpful guidelines and considerations as you evaluate the best strategy for your business.

Future-proof your business with CoreSite

You know that your business tomorrow won't look like your business today. Digital transformation is a top priority for enterprises across industries and sectors if they want to remain competitive and relevant.

To accomplish that, you'll need access to a whole IT ecosystem — clouds, network and IT service providers — that will help you stay ahead of evolving business demands and market trends. CoreSite is the single data center provider to meet all your business needs, now and in the future.

Download *"The IT Executive's Guide to Outsourcing Data Center Operations"* to learn more about using a data center partner to improve your business agility, efficiency, and profitability.

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