



SIX IMPORTANT
CONSIDERATIONS
WHEN CHOOSING A
COLOCATION
PROVIDER

WWW.WORKSPACE-TECHNOLOGY.COM



Not everyone can, or wants to own their own data centre. Maybe you are looking for a Disaster Recovery solution, off-site back-up or to create a Private Cloud for your business.

Rack Colocation space can deliver optimum energy efficiency, resilience, security and flexibility for your data however; What should you consider when choosing a Colocation Provider?



**KEY CONSIDERATIONS
BEFORE MAKING YOUR
CHOICE.....**

EXPERT DATA CENTRE CAPABILITIES.....



You should consider your selection of a colocation partner in the context of how your entire IT infrastructure impacts your business.

- Just because a colocation data centre looks modern, it must still provide the networking and other underlying infrastructure that meets your needs.
- You should ensure that the data centre is well designed by experienced data centre professionals and not simply the result of a 'DIY' exercise or via ad-hoc organic growth.
- Colocation providers should be able to demonstrate minimum levels of expertise and capabilities within data centre design and infrastructure management.
- Partnering with a provider who offers a flexible approach and wide choice of different rack options, whilst allowing you to select their preferred carrier without financial penalty, ensures that you do not have to make compromises.

PROXIMITY OF COLOCATION FACILITY.....



The data centre's proximity to your company's offices is normally the top requirement for companies sourcing colocation services. However the advantages go well beyond providing easy access for your staff.

- Closer proximity can help improve the performance of your IT data. If you are sending large volumes of data from your primary site to your colocation environment, distance matters.
- Minimising latency delays is important for application performance, a data centre that is local helps reduce data replication issues.
- Chatty applications, i.e. those that perform a number of small transactions or wait for server acknowledgment, any latency issues become amplified and can severely impact performance.
- Selecting a regional colocation data centre can help reduce the effect these latencies have on your applications.

CONNECTIVITY OPTIONS.....



Colocation is more complex than simply 'racking and stacking' your computer equipment in a data centre and providing a network connection. Your colocation provider should support carrier diversity, ensuring that they can offer advanced networking capabilities so you can meet your application performance and uptime requirements.

- A colocation provider should have good access to fibre services from alternative carriers and be located close to core backbone services to help with reduced latency.
- Does the data centre have access to an 'Open Access' network which provides any carrier with circuits across a diverse network connecting the building to key Internet Exchange Points and interconnect with other networks crucial to your business? Do they have direct access to global IP based MPLS network?
- Your provider should offer remote international peering to enable hassle-free access to recognised International Internet Exchanges.
- Flexible bandwidth packages should be on offer with SLA assurances and 24/7 monitoring.

SECURITY & COMPLIANCE.....



Security of both your data and of the facility which contains the data is of paramount importance. With the rise in data breaches and cyber attacks choosing a secure colocation facility is critical.

- Physical security measures should be implemented within the colocation data centre, with technologies such as; biometric scanners, card readers and IPCCV surveillance should be deployed to help improve security and to prevent unauthorised access.
- The installation of local cameras and rack access ID kits should be installed to provide the ability to remotely monitor and control access to your colocation area.
- Look for providers that can enhance your security with services like DDoS protection, network security and threat detection.
- Ensure that your provider is compliant with regulatory requirements for your industry and keep up-to-date with changes. Any company providing eCommerce needs to meet PCI security standards.

SUPPORT RESOURCE AVAILABILITY.....



Providers that simply provide space and an electrical connection may seem, at first glance, to provide a lower cost structure, but will often require you to pay for services that other providers include within their standard offer.

- Ensure you examine the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO). Providers should provide power and cooling, address security, facility management and to be able to deliver these services with a Service Level Agreement (SLA).
- Having onsite support will provide a quick response for emergency reboots or other issues when your staff are not onsite to help prevent minor incidents from escalating.
- Look for a provider with modular growth plans, this will deliver the flexibility you need to grow your environment as you expand.
- Providers that offer a range of services to help you move in are preferable. Being able to offer 'racking and stacking' or cabling, can make your migration go smoothly and reduce implementation time.
- A provider with a portal that supports trouble ticketing and reporting can help you better manage your environment.
- Providers with expertise in design will help you to reduce power consumption by offering ways to move to configurations driven by green IT principles.
- Given that staff will be spending a large amount of time at the data centre, look for a provider that offers good welfare facilities and meeting rooms where staff can work and make calls.

POWER & COOLING CAPABILITIES.....



Power is a critical data centre element, therefore ensure that a provider can offer Tier II uptime for power and redundant power systems. Colocation facilities that can offer N+1 systems with concurrently maintainable power resources will help eliminate downtime.

- The colocation facility should not only deliver the power you need today, but also has the capacity to deploy additional power to meet future demands.
- Your provider should offer transparency and detail in its billing. Providers that offer billing options for your power, based upon distribution of power circuits or metered power, can help reduce your costs depending on your configuration and power requirements.
- As server power demands increase it is important that the data centre has efficient cooling systems and the provider continues to invest in new cooling technologies to protect your hardware. Ensure that the facility meets ASHRAE recommended targets for temperature and humidity.
- Consider how environmentally friendly the facility is, check your providers green credentials.

With the availability and performance of your business applications depending on your colocation partner, it is essential that you make sure that you select one that can help meet your goals. Colocation is a long term commitment, the cost and business disruption that comes from moving installations makes the right selection critical.

Workspace Technology has been designing, building and managing data centre infrastructure for both corporate and public sector clients since 2004. We have an exceptional track record of delivering award-winning services through the delivery of high performance energy efficient data centre environments.

Our DC One facility is located in Sutton Coldfield, just 12 miles from central Birmingham and 15 minutes from the M6 and M42 motorways, in the heart of the West Midlands. Providing premium colocation rack space that delivers optimum energy efficiency, resilience, security, flexibility whilst offering;

- Modern facility designed, built and maintained by Workspace Technology
- World-class data centre infrastructure by APC Schneider Electric
- 24/7/365 access
- Secured and Monitored
- On-site car parking
- Range of connectivity options
- Welfare facilities

It doesn't matter what your business does, if you require dedicated, secure and flexible rack space then Workspace Technology's DC One facility is the solution.

**DELIVERING THE SOLUTIONS
YOU NEED TODAY AND THE
VISION TO HELP GET YOU
WHERE YOU NEED TO BE IN
FUTURE...**

Interested in finding out more?

Our friendly team are on hand to take your call on 0121 354 4894 or send us an email at sales@workspace-technology.com



Workspace Technology Limited

Unit 10, Reddicap Trading Estate
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 7BU