

5 TIPS

for Colocating Your Servers



Growing out of your server room?
Looking to protect your IT infrastructure?

If colocation is an option for your midsize company, consider these tips.



FAIL-SAFE INTERNET

Choose a colocation center with many carrier options.

The success of your colocation center depends on the quality of your Internet access. You need reliable access to run VPN tunnels, mail gateways, DNS servers, and more. So be sure that you do not have a single point of failure. To keep your data center running with minimal outages, consider:

- Redundant firewalls
- Edge routers
- Internet access from many carriers



VIRTUALIZATION

Virtualize as many servers as possible.

Most vendors offer a virtual machine (VM) option for their physical appliances. With each virtualized server, you reduce the need for hardware, power, and cooling. This lowers costs. Virtualization shortens setup time as well. You also simplify administration and planning by standardizing on a hypervisor (such as VMware or Microsoft), which lets many servers share one hardware host.



SCALABILITY

Buy something you can grow into, not just what works today.

Think about where your network will be in five years, and plan for it. Will you need 10 Gbps, 40 Gbps, or 100 Gbps? Based on likely growth, how many servers will you need? Pick a network strategy that is scalable. Look at a solution as a whole, and be sure that it can support your growth without a complete rebuild.



REDUNDANCY

Plan for network redundancy (in core switches, firewalls, and Internet connections).

The server room, whether in-house or at a colocation center, is vital to your business. Make sure it's reliable by building redundancy into your network. To keep your network running:

- Use firewalls in Active/Active or Active/Passive mode.
- Build your core network with two or more switches in Active/Active mode.
- Prevent single points of failure with many Internet connections.



STANDARDIZATION

Choose one server make and model.

Don't mix and match when buying server hardware. Standardize on a make and, if possible, a model. This makes growth easier to manage, simplifies technical support, and cuts training and support costs.

Case Studies

City of Hayward uses unified fabric technology to simplify network infrastructure and management.

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Italian manufacturer assures data center availability and improves scalability by 80 percent.

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German hospital improves network availability achieving 80 percent faster server provisioning.

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it's what we make possible.

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