

THE ULTIMATE CHECKLIST FOR BANKS CHOOSING A DATA CENTER

Are you asking yourself all the right questions?

Banks are racing to meet the high expectations of today's consumer. In fact, many have already fallen behind on digital transformation. If they don't catch up, they'll lose business.

It's no wonder the industry is investing more in technology than ever before. And yet, banking technology professionals often feel confined by their IT stack, rather than feeling empowered to move forward with what works best for their businesses.

That's where data centers come in. Housing the industry's most critical and sensitive systems, the best data centers can reduce banks' infrastructure and networking costs while creating a platform for future growth.

Here's a checklist of questions banks should ask themselves when looking for colocation vendors ready to deliver on consumer expectations—without disrupting their experiences:

INTERCONNECTION

Connecting to your service providers within the same data center can significantly reduce networking costs (sometimes, enough to off-set the cost of leasing space in the data center) while increasing application and workload performance an average of 44% vs. connecting over the public internet.

CLOUD

- Does the data center offer private, dedicated connectivity to the cloud provider(s) we want?
 - AWS Direct Connect
 - Microsoft Azure ExpressRoute
 - Google Cloud Dedicated Interconnect
 - Oracle Cloud
 - IBM Cloud Direct Link
 - Alibaba Cloud
- Is the cloud provider actually native inside the data center, or is a third-party SDN provider servicing the connectivity?
- Do they offer one-to-many cloud connectivity through a cloud exchange platform? If so, do they own and operate the platform, or is it done through a third-party SDN provider?
- Do they offer managed services, or have partnerships with move and migration service providers that can help evaluate and transition workloads?

NETWORK

- What network providers do they have natively within the facility?
- Do they provide access to multiple Tier 1, national and global networks?
- Can the data center introduce us to providers that can help rebuild our WAN architecture and reduce our network footprint?
- Does the data center provider offer connectivity between their sites (if evaluating multiple locations)?

LOCATION

- Is the data center located in a core metro hub close to our business and/or end users ("the edge")?
- Does the provider offer data centers in other markets in the event we require future expansion or disaster recovery?
- What is the round-trip latency between the data center and our major points-of-interest?
- If we are building a hybrid cloud solution with a major provider such as AWS or Microsoft, how close is the data center to their availability zones or regions?

SECURITY

Breaches of security and cyber-attacks are a growing threat to businesses and data everywhere. And for banks, which are already heavily regulated and must remain compliant, a data or security breach could cost millions and tarnish the company.

- Does the data center outsource security and/or operations to a third party, or is it managed by full-time employees who are accountable for breaches and/or downtime?
- Has the data center received these third-party compliance and certification audits?
 - FISMA compliance
 - PCI DSS compliance
 - ISO certification
 - NIST 800-53 attestation
- What is the training process for security staff?
- Are they equipped to minimize risk of interrupted operations by protecting assets from extreme weather, power loss, equipment damage, and fire or water damage?
- Does the data center have these physical security measures:
 - Manned entrance
 - Mantrap doors
 - Biometric and ID scanners
 - Camera monitoring
 - Perimeter fencing

RELIABILITY

A key characteristic of leaders in the banking industry is the ability to stay on budget and align with stakeholders, while still implementing current technology that contributes to their institutions. Costly tech crashes, poor service and inconsistencies destroy budgets.

- Does the data center provider offer a 100% uptime SLA?
- If the area has experienced natural disasters, how did the data center fare during those?
- Does the provider offer remote hands and/or on-site support?
- What is the provider's historic uptime record for the building we are evaluating, as well as across their portfolio of data centers?
- Do they offer concurrently maintainable utility feeds?
- What is the provider's customer service rating?
- Does the provider own or lease the building?
- What training programs and staff certifications are in place?

SCALABILITY

Scalable technology not only provides customers with a seamless experience, it also reduces costs when servers are experiencing high traffic or heavy lifting, such as large data transfers.

- Do they support high-density requirements (minimum 15+ckw per cabinet)?
- Does the data center support a range of customer requirements, such as racks, cages, private suites, and build-to-suit options?
- Do they offer a flexible contract structure to support future growth requirements within the same facility?

At CoreSite, we know people don't notice technology when it's working. But they notice when it's not. Ask yourself these questions to make sure you have a colocation provider that offers your customers the experiences they expect.

Be Unnoticeably Great.

ABOUT CORESITE

CoreSite builds and operates data centers across eight major communication markets in the U.S. Customers choose CoreSite when they need a secure, reliable place to house their IT infrastructure, and need access to networks and major cloud providers to build low-latency hybrid cloud environments.

CoreSite data centers cover 75% of U.S. businesses with latency of five milliseconds or less and provide direct connect solutions to AWS, Microsoft, Google, Alibaba, Oracle and IBM, as well as access to hundreds of cloud and network providers. CoreSite owns and operates the Open Cloud Exchange®, a one-to-many platform that establishes a single connection to multiple clouds.