

Data Center Experience

Over my vast career of IT management no projects compare to the daunting task of data center planning, design and management. Only years of experience can ensure the data center will remain a safe and secure area to house the most important infrastructure equipment. My experience in the data center WINTEL aligns with today's advances in best practice build outs.

From initial planning to rate card development to implementation takes a skilled leader to ensure that the data center is built or relocated according to a very detailed communication and project plan.

Using today's tools such as [Rackwise](#) to properly plan heat load and power consumption are a must in the enterprise data center space. Many claim to have knowledge when it comes to data center management however the true reality is that many simply do not fit the bill. The world of data center management comes with the need to understand and interpret hundreds of signals and monitoring controls to quickly determine what is actionable and what is not.

Along with data center planning comes the need to plan up front that the selected location is indeed ideal in its geography with respect to the areas its serving.

From my experience I can recall a data center being designated in an office park near a creek. No one reviewed the 100 yr. flood plain map from the city. This was a key missed detail. As a result the hurricane that approached the east coast and traveled through New York in the summer of 2011 proved deadly for this data centers location. We were brought in to assess the damage after 30" of water infiltrated the 1st floor area where the data center was housed. As you probably know all the equipment was destroyed and the plans didn't call for an emergency off site area to assemble in to resume operations. Needless to say poor planning and failure to start at the very top and work down a plan resulted in an extended outage that lasted well into 3 weeks causing millions in damaged equipment and lost productivity.

My experience in the data center management realm covers the following key areas:

- Planning
- Key stakeholder meetings
- Project Planning
- Budgeting
- LAN/WAN design
- Rate Cards
- Data Center Designing using automated tools
- Project management of milestones
- Raised Flooring
- Fire Suppression
- Generator Power with clean line to avoid harmonics to avoid UPS tripping
- UPS Power
- Monitoring

- Automated HVAC controls with alerting
- Bio Metric doors
- Security Cameras and DVR
- Redundant A & B Power
- Rack Placement
- WINTEL / VMWARE / EqualLogic / NETAPP planning
- Server Consolidation
- VMware
- Storage Planning
- Mirrored standby sites
- WAN Optimization products
- Multipath redundant firewalls
- Strict Change Control
- Cable Management
- Data Center Team Management
- Outage Windows
- SLA
- Key Performance Indicators
- Ticketing
- Asset Control
- Migrations
- Cisco fabric switching
- TOR vs EOR switching decisions
- CRAC Planning

- See more at: http://marktangotoday.com/Data_Center.html#sthash.Cvj9EBk9.dpuf