

MUST-DO'S FOR A WELL-RUN DATA CENTER

Data centers are at the heart of all successful businesses. Which is why it's important to keep the equipment and the people who maintain and manage it at peak performance. Here are five "Must Do's" for an efficient data center.



1. REGULAR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE IS A MUST

Critical facility systems – UPS, batteries, precision cooling, fire suppression and security systems - require regular preventative maintenance. Schedule maintenance intervals based on manufacturer recommendations and uptime requirements.



2. ANNUAL DATA CENTER AUDITS

Annual facility audits should target UPS and electrical distribution system loads, cable dressing quality, the available cooling capacity, bypass airflow issues, and inventory-deployed hardware, with any changes documented or deficiencies corrected.



3. DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Following an outage, getting the enterprise back up and running as quickly as possible with minimal data loss is essential. Having a disaster recovery plan that addresses Recovery Time Objective (the speed with which applications are returned to production) and Recovery Point Objective (the tolerable level of data loss) is absolutely necessary. The plan should be updated regularly, tested periodically, shared with key personnel and maintained in formats and locations that allow it to be easily accessed during a disaster.



4. EVALUATION/UPGRADE OF EQUIPMENT

To maintain a high level of efficiency in a data center, existing equipment must be evaluated regularly and upgraded when possible. Hardware approaching the end of its warranty coverage is a good candidate for upgrade and equipment that has reached end of support should be replaced as soon as possible.



5. FORMAL STAFF TRAINING

Once a year, data center staff should participate in recurrent training that covers industry best practices, operational/emergency processes, facility systems, and security practices. During this time, solicit staff input regarding possible data center improvements.

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