



DATAKNOX.IO

## What Is Data Center Relocation In The Simplest Terms?

Data center relocation (or migration) is quite literally as it sounds. It's the act of moving your current data center and all of the equipment involved to a new location. It can be a case of moving to an entirely new location with an entirely new address, or simply just another room in the facility you're working within. Plenty of different aspects will need to be taken into account when dealing with such a move as the wrong steps and making errors could cost you hugely.

## Why Might You Ever Want To Relocate?

Each company has a different reason based on where they are in their current situation. Some might want to move due to the company outgrowing where they currently are – they may need more than what is currently being provided. They might also wish to move from an in-house situation to a more managed data center. The opposite might occur, however, and you may want to downsize as there is an extreme surplus to requirements.



## How Can We Help You With Data Center Relocation?

We here at Dataknox know what it takes for a successful data center relocation. We'll be able to walk you through what's necessary and make things as simple as possible. We'll take on your project as if it's our own and won't be satisfied until the job is done perfectly. We'll take on board how you operate and work around your specific needs. A plan and checklist will be devised that suit exactly the kind of process you're looking for.

## Might It Be Wiser To Hire IT Contractors Instead?

One of your first instincts might be to hire inexpensive labor that doesn't have to set you back too far in comparison. There will be IT contractors that will provide this kind of work for you, but the soft cost will typically be much higher. When you work with contract labor, you'll be introduced to unknowns with regard to your data center environment. This could mean more downtime and cause problems for revenue (and then profits) later on down the line.

While IT contractors are competent in many different areas, they'll still be a little shaky when it comes to a specific job such as this. You won't want a jack-of-all-trades style



service when so much is on the line – you'll want a group that knows exactly how to handle each stage of the process. Contract laborers will also not carry the appropriate insurance for handling the equipment in question. Plenty of corporate policies will not cover damage or loss due to non-employee actions.

## Should I Use Internal Resources I Already Have To Move Data Centers?

While it might seem like a good idea, using internal resources will likely have a much more negative effect than you first anticipate. For instance, you might cause issues with the likes of employee morale – they might even receive physical damage along the way. If your employees aren't doing the job they were actually hired for, you might end up losing out on revenue. Productivity will certainly be down, of course. This is an important point to think about because the entire idea is to produce a seamless transition. If an employee is focusing on this as their most significant job of the day/week, then they're being removed from what they're good at. They'll then head back to their everyday tasks not feeling 100%.

Most corporate insurance programs cover physical assets when they are solely located on your premises – they do not do so when they are in transit. Using a third-party firm to manage the entire process allows the use of their transit insurance – this helps out so much in terms of long-term and short-term financial safety.



# What Is A Data Center Relocation Checklist?

Before you make any physical commitments and begin on the actual work, you're going to want to make sure you have a detailed checklist that can help you out as you go along. Without a plan, mistakes will likely be made.

The checklist will be the first step we take in terms of the overall data center relocation process. Here's what will take place:

- 1** You'll get in touch with Dataknox. Our staff will have a little chat about the basics before walking you through the entire process. We'll give you a brief walkthrough so that you can gather an idea of what will happen throughout. After enough details have been exchanged, we'll likely be able to tell you the best solution for the situation you're currently in.
- 2** Understand why you are making the move. While you may already have a motive and a reason, some businesses simply do so because they feel it's the right call. If you know why you're moving and have legitimate reasons behind it, then you'll be able to create a much better plan and produce a much smoother transition.
- 3** Identify the key resources you're going to need. Here, we're talking about everyone in your business that will be affected by this job. From internal IT to customer support, you're going to want to ensure that everyone knows what's going to be happening. You'll also want to know that they know what to do once the job is underway. If everyone is aware and knows their role, then you'll have a more seamless move.
- 4** There will be a lot of hardware around that is being moved. While it's understandable that you might not know a lot of the small details, it's good to figure out what is being relocated. Once you understand the key factors, it'll make things smoother. Make sure you have an accurate inventory of every single piece located in your data center.
- 5** . Figure out where you're going to actually move to. This is obviously a vital part of the puzzle to figure out because you're going to have to deal with plenty of different facets. It can take up to a few months to sort out due to the negotiations, quotes, visits, and all of the rest of the jobs you'll have to undertake here. It's very easy if you have a new location sorted out beforehand, though, of course. The new home will have to meet every requirement you have so that there will be little-to-no bumps along the way.
- 6** Finally, you'll want to figure out exactly how the data center is going to move. There are so many different methods and each business will have a different method based on how they operate. Here at Dataknox, we'll be able to find the right solution to any problem ahead of you.



## How Do I Plan The Data Center Move?

The first thing you'll want to do is follow the steps in the aforementioned checklist. If you can get all of the steps handled efficiently, then you'll have a great roadmap to follow as things begin to pick up. Every single facet of the checklist is essential to a high-quality data center relocation. Design your new data center environment – you'll need to make sure this is planned out because you'll want to have a solid idea of how everything will look once the installation process is underway. It'll also help you as you de-install what you have right now.

Once everything is designed, you can follow along with the checklist properly and make sure you have every single piece of the puzzle. The space, the parts, the vendor selection, and plenty of other aspects will need to be found and figured out. Of course, we'll be there to help you through every step if you so choose.

## How Much Will A Data Center Relocation Cost?

There is no fixed cost for an operation such as this. You cannot simply put a solid number on it due to the fact that there are so many moving parts and variables. Each relocation



will be different based on the uniqueness of each project. It's nigh-on impossible to give a fee without first talking through the process and taking a look at what is necessary.

As you would expect, a data center relocation project that requires only a small amount of work will not be anywhere near as dear as one that would take weeks' worth of planning and carrying out. Whatever fee we arrive at, it's best to make sure you have the funds at the ready and budget for something like this.

As mentioned before, there is such a wide range of ways to provide this kind of service, so you're going to want to make sure you talk it out with us before you make any commitments. Feel free to give us a call or email and we'll be able to discuss how the future will pan out. We're confident that we'll arrive at a fee that we will both be comfortable with.



## How Can I Stick To My Budget When Allocating Funds For This Move?

While it's hard to decipher the exact fee, you can sort of get an idea of what's to be expected. Some projects can be more expensive than you might first anticipate, so it's wise to over-budget a little just in case. You'll be able to account for things like damage, upgrades, and other expenses that you might not have seen coming. It's an extremely significant project, so the idea of expecting to pay more shouldn't really come as a shock. Around 20% extra shouldn't be seen as excessive in this case because of everything that may come with it.

# How Long Does The Process Take?

This is similar to the point about the price in that it will depend on the size and the specificity of the project. You have to take into account the architecture of the environment. Sometimes, you'll have environments that require minimal or no downtime due to redundant components and services. One thing's for sure, however, and it's that we'll be able to provide you with a solid plan and a smooth transition if it's a complicated set of events.

## What Are Main Things To Consider When Looking For Data Center Relocation

There are plenty of things that you must consider when looking for data center relocation. There will be particular points that are exclusive to the business you own. Some companies might need extra things that you might not – there is no set-in-stone way of operating. For now, however, here are a few fundamental points to ponder:

Firstly, you're going to want to make sure that you have the shipping method handled. The equipment required will make a big difference in terms of the method involved. So too will the time in transit and the suspension type. Packing requirements and facility access will also need to come under consideration. Does your equipment need OEM packing materials for warranty preservation, and who has access to the old facility? It is good to ask these kinds of questions because you need answers.

Think about adding outside personnel, too. Does the facility require additional security staff while you get this job done so that there are limited issues with how things will pan out?



# Can I Use Colocation Facility Remote Hands To Move?

When it comes to this line of work, many colocation facilities don't let employees of their competition in. In doing so, this adds restrictions to the amount of assistance a colocation facility can give to you. Plenty will hand out additional resources that will guide you in the installation aspects of the migration, but they'll not be able to provide much assistance with regard to the de-installation process. The logistics portions will also have limited involvement. With that said, many facilities outsource to third-party companies.

# Can I Use A Major Van Line For My Move?

While this might seem like a smart idea – and it is in many ways – not many businesses will opt for this kind of thing. It has its advantages, of course, but they are limited to transit. They'll be dealing with very sensitive equipment and hardware – they will not be used to this kind of thing every day. Special care must be taken with the regard to preparing data center equipment, and that should be left to professionals that know exactly what they're doing. You'll want to work with people who are trained and experienced in this field as the slightest mistake could be very costly. It is worth saying, also, that shipping carriers will not be able to include the services you need such as cabling and re-installation. Just another reason to choose a more specific and dedicated group to work with.

# Can I Move Equipment While It Is Still In The Rack?

Some racks are designed to be moved while equipment is installed. For the majority of the time, however, you should never even think about moving racks when they are full.

Most racks are not designed with the idea of ever being moved full – that's the first point that should be made. Moving racks could cause a collapse with every piece of gear in it – there are a few hundred pounds of equipment aboard, so a huge mess can be made if you're not careful.

Simply moving the rack might seem like a limited issue that will do no damage, but moving a full rack could mean you run the risk of shearing the mounting hardware and dropping some of the equipment out of the rack. So many important internal components such as hard drives and CPU will be put at such a risk. It's important to mention also that most insurance plans do not consider fully-loaded racks as properly packaged and will refuse to cover damage claims. If you want to benefit financially as well as productively, then it's wise not to be hasty while moving equipment.





## How Can I Find The Correct Rack For My Equipment?

The most popular kinds of racks to choose from are those that are widely compatible with the major server and data center equipment manufacturers. You're going to want a rack setup that ensures safe handling and something that accommodates increasingly heavy equipment and hardware.

## Why Choose DataKnox.io Over Other Firms?

DataKnox has all of the knowledge required to provide your businesses with the smoothest possible relocation. Here, we know the best practices, the rules and regulations, security requirements, and so many other vital cogs in the DCR world. We have a team of trained and experienced individuals that know how to provide the best possible transition. Don't be afraid to get in touch via email or phone.