



## Seven Tips for Choosing a Colocation Provider

Here are some of the most important factors to look for when selecting a colocation provider.

### Data Center Location

Selecting a data center located near your business, with 24/7 access, can be important for employees who may need to quickly service or upgrade your equipment. Also, close proximity of the data center to your business can help improve the performance of your IT infrastructure and apps by reducing latency. And be sure the data center location is not in a region prone to natural disasters like hurricanes, floods and earthquakes.

### Security and Compliance

When it comes to security and compliance, not all data center providers are created equal. Be sure your provider uses current physical and network security technologies to keep your environment safe. Also, if industry regulations are important to your business, be sure they have the experience and expertise to help you solve the challenges presented by HIPAA, PCI, FISMA and other industry compliance standards.

### Expertise

Look for a provider with a seasoned staff and proven credentials to help ensure the performance and reliability of your IT infrastructure. They need to be able to diagnosis and fix potential issues that could compromise the performance and security of your equipment and data, quickly and cost efficiently.

### Local Service/Support

Looks for a provider who truly puts the “co” in colocation. It’s a relationship built on trust and security and mutual objectives to ensure success. Providers with a local support team can be a huge advantage when you need the personal touch to resolve issues or meet new challenges.

### Uptime/Reliability

Redundancy should be king when selecting a colo provider. Look for a provider that can provide redundant power for high density applications, has highly efficient cooling systems, and 100% uptime SLAs.

### Carrier Neutrality

A solid carrier-neutral facility has redundant connections from an array of providers (ISPs), and has also made direct peering arrangements with other networks across the Internet - the end result is a more stable and fault-tolerant network.

### Total Cost of Ownership

Basic colocation providers who supply only space and electricity may look like a bargain, but the better overall value is often a full service provider who includes security, facility maintenance, power and cooling requirements as standard, without expensive add-ons.

TierPoint’s national network of data centers can support all your colocation needs. Just give us a call for more information or to schedule a tour.

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