

DATA CENTER RELOCATION



The Objective

Due to a recent company acquisition, the Telecommunication Building Main Data Center was targeted for closure to save millions in synergies by relocating all IT assets in a new data center to co-location in one month. The Telecommunication Building Data Center housed most of the BTS-supported servers, which provided at least some capability for nearly every critical City service. It contained more than 1 PB of storage supporting those servers. It also contained the network routing core for the City, making it a critical communications hub.

The Challenge

•**Total downtime <10 hours:** It was critical that the data center was down for no more than 10 hours during the transition and cutover to the new data center.

•**Must reuse existing equipment:** Most of the existing hardware equipment's had to be transfer completely with cabinets. Most of them had been on operation for more than 10 years nonstop and the risk for failure during transport was high.

•**Space Constrained:** The physical size of the two data centers, hallways, etc. was such that we could not simply have a large crew move everything at once. So all activities needed to be carefully sequenced and transferred on midnight.

•**Repurpose old data center space:** The old data center space was to be reconfigured and prepared for re-use as general office space.

Our Approach

We had overall project management responsibility from inception to completion.

Key Activities included:

•We **performed a detailed inventory** on all existing data center hardware and software.

•We **performed in advanced a detailed checklist** of all equipment's, tools, cars, vans, lifts, packings, traffic permissions, papers, entrance facility, to every details crucial for a successful operation undertaking.

•We **simulated and timed how long** it took to perform a normal shutdown on each piece of equipment, the time it took to uninstall, relocate, and perform normal startup with detailed instructions on how to accomplish same.

•We **created a detailed plan** with work broken into to allow us to manage what work was being performed at any given time to allow us to avoid resource collisions and equipment being restored out of sequence. The plan included contingency for rollback and fix-forward strategies.

The Result

- The data center moved within the 10-hour window as planned. All data center services restored successfully in the new data center with no loss of capability.
- The old data center space was reconfigured for general office space use by removing all wiring, hardware, etc. from its prior use as a data center.
- The client's Chief Information Officer (CIO) said about the project that it was one of the best-executed projects he had ever seen.

