Is Colocation Better Than a Dedicated Server?

Every company these days has to be online. However, how we get online has changed a lot over the years. Two of the most important ways to host a business site are with dedicated servers and colocation. For help deciding which one makes the most sense for your company, let's compare the two.

Colocation

Should your company use colocation? The easy answer is, "how tech-savvy are your people?" If you have reliable IT people, colocation can be a great way to save money and prepare for the day when scaling up or down may be necessary.

Why do you need tech-savvy people? It's because colocation is basically paying for space to store your hardware and little more. We'll address some exceptions momentarily.

Colocation providers maintain special facilities that are designed to keep servers up and running. This means ensuring that natural disasters like earthquakes and tornadoes won't be a problem and providing climate-controlled rooms. Security is always a feature as well.

Your company would essentially choose the equipment they want for their server and send it to the facility where it will be set up and activated.

Now, a lot of providers may go a bit further than this (here's the exception). They might provide IT people who can jump in if something unforeseen goes wrong with your server. This is a great feature to find in a colocation company but it won't make up for a lack of tech-savvy on your company's part.

With colocation companies, you can upgrade and update your equipment as you like, incorporating load balancing, mirroring and other options.

Dedicated Servers

The other option is a dedicated server. As you probably guessed, this is generally for companies that need more digital space, but don't have the personnel available to pick out each and every piece of equipment and assess how that might change as time goes on.

Plenty of Fortune 500 companies use this solution, but dedicated servers are also great for small- and medium-sized businesses that don't have the funds to hire IT people.

To be clear, you'll still need to understand the basics of servers and how to manage them remotely. Fortunately, for an extra fee, you can usually pay the people providing the server to you to handle this necessity.

Just like with colocation, you can rest assured that the facility your equipment is in is designed to protect against interference.

Although the above was meant to make this discussion as cut and dried as possible, it's worth considering your company's unique features. For the most part, though, this comparison should be effective for directing your decision.

Source:

http://www.colocationspace.net/colocationdedicated.cfm