

# Migrating Your Data Center

## Planning and Implementing a Professionally-Managed Migration

By Fred Latala

Is your company thinking about moving its data center? While doing it yourself can seem like a great way to save money—there are a multitude of things that can go wrong. Issues associated with a poorly-planned and executed data center relocation can hinder your business's ability to operate for days or weeks. Damaged equipment, data center and business downtime and employee safety concerns related to moving heavy equipment are all worst-case scenarios that can occur. Don't put yourself in a position to be responsible for these situations just to save a few bucks.

**Successful data center migrations are highly-choreographed events that are the culmination of rigorous business analysis and detailed planning.** To mitigate risks to people, property and business, you should hire a professional, high-value data center migration specialist. In addition to the major concerns mentioned above, hiring an experienced data center migration specialist will also address the issue of keeping your equipment maintenance contracts intact. Maintenance contracts can be nullified if manufacturer-migration requirements are not followed—potentially costing you much more than what you might save with a “do-it-yourself” move.

Other issues can arise during a non-professional relocation, including problems with the power, network and facility. An experienced migration specialist will give you a validated project plan and will involve stakeholders early—walking through the migration strategy in advance so that everyone involved will know how IT and the business will be supported.

Here are some of the high level best practices an experienced migration specialist should follow when planning your migration. They will:

**1. Perform a readiness assessment.** Performing a check-up for infrastructure management provides a baseline of your organization's readiness to undertake a migration initiative. The goal of the assessment is to evaluate the accuracy and completeness of processes, procedures and documentation related to the project.

**2. Design, validate and plan the project.** Building on a positive assessment, each asset must be correlated to the business function it supports.

**3. Implement a validated plan.** A skilled migration specialist will create a strategic command center to manage and escalate any issues. But, a skilled migration specialist will also anticipate those issues prior to the move, and be able to sidestep many that a novice trying a first-time relocation could not anticipate.

If your company is evaluating a data center relocation on its own, remember: you don't know what you don't know. Think carefully about the risks involved. Your professional standing could be damaged if something goes wrong. While moving seems simple, there are many factors that directly affect IT and the business. Your number one objective is to ensure your people are safe and that IT and the business continue to run smoothly.

**Call your local Forsythe representative to discuss your needs for data center migration and planning, or contact Fred Latala, Forsythe's Director of Data Center Migration Services at [flatala@forsythe.com](mailto:flatala@forsythe.com) or 720-407-1478.**

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As the director of Forsythe's data center services practice, Fred Latala is responsible for the company's overall data center migration strategy, vision, best-practice modeling, and the quality of solutions delivered. Latala manages the company's relationships with key data center relocation partners including EMC, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Sun Microsystems. During his tenure at Forsythe, Latala has been focused primarily on data center infrastructure and the discipline of data center migrations. Latala has more than 30 years of experience in IT.

