Are Your Digital Assets Secure?

Physical Security Checklist

Every data center user has varying physical security requirements and priorities. The following checklist can be used as a guideline when evaluating a data center’s security features.

Data Center Site

- Site located in area with acceptable risk of natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, forest fires, tornados, hurricanes, etc.)
- Site located in area with low risk of man-made disasters (plane crashes, riots, explosions, etc.)
- Perimeter surrounded by fence at least 20 feet from the building
- Site has minimum 150 foot secured vehicle standoff for Federal data storage
- Parking spaces located at least 25 feet from building
- Site has adequate lighting
- Site has multiple video surveillance zones
- Cooling towers separate from parking lot
- Site has vehicle arrest barriers

Utilities/Operation

- Electrical utility has 99.9% or better reliability
- Backup battery power on site
- Backup generators on site with at least 24 hours of fuel
- Facility has fuel polishing system with redundant fuel piping systems
- Redundant cooling towers or sources for cooling
- Water is supplied or can be supplied by ground well
- Multiple access providers available at site
- Redundant access to power, cooling and fiber from computer rooms
- Air filtration and heat dispersal systems in place in computer rooms
- Computer room temperature of 55 to 77 degrees Fahrenheit and humidity between 20 and 80 percent (monitored by NOC)

Building Security

- No windows to the outside in computer rooms
- Mantraps at entrances
- Automatic authentication at loading docks

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Physical Security Checklist (Continued)

Network Operation Center (NOC)

- Facility has a network operations center (NOC) that monitors all ongoing activities and alerts operational staff of any irregularities
- Data center employees subject to background checks
- NOC has redundant external means of communication
- NOC manned 24x7x365
- News and weather channels monitored
- List of people to notify in case of disaster maintained
- Documents with sensitive information shredded or destroyed

Monitored Entry

- Guard kiosk(s) at point(s) of entry
- Photo badge IDs for employees working at facility
- Equipment entering and exiting the facility logged and monitored
- Site has biometric access controls
- Visitors accompanied by data center employee or tenant at all times

Computer Room Security

- Restricted access to computer rooms
- Service engineers must obtain access to computer rooms through the NOC
- Posted signs prohibiting food, drink and smoking in computer rooms
- Fireproof doors
- Maximum of two doors to each computer room
- Computer equipment in shared spaces stored in locked cabinets or cages
- Servers of competitive companies in separated spaces