



from Whitespace to Done

Under Pressure

Pop quiz: how long does it take to move a large data center from Canada to the United States into a colocation while remapping and fine-tuning the configuration for maximum power and efficiency?

If you guessed about six months, you wouldn't be wrong. But try doing it in 45 days.

Recently, one of the nation's top technology companies had a bit of a conundrum. It was looking to move existing systems out of several Canadian data centers into a 4,500 square foot colocation facility in Franklin Park, Illinois. The build-out would not only involve moving existing gear, but also required ordering new equipment to maximize power and cooling.

With this large undertaking well into the planning stages, the tech company also stipulated that the move had to be completed in just six weeks, despite this being a job that typically takes half a year. The solution would need to be simultaneously turnkey and scalable for future business needs in a high-density, raised-floor environment.

Executive Summary:

- Tech company needed 4,500 SF colo built out in 45 days
- The move required relocating existing systems cross-country
- Instor performed six months of work in six weeks
- The team mapped out the facility for maximum power and scalability
- Project was completed on time and under budget

The Start of a Beautiful Friendship

Time and budget were of the highest importance. Knowing it needed a team that wouldn't pull punches or waste time, the tech company turned to Instor due to its solid reputation of finding timely, elegant and cost-effective solutions for situations just like this.

Colocations generally allot a tenant a whitespace with cooling and a specific amount of power from the UPS. Beyond that, it was up to Instor to complete the downstream build. This would include acquiring and installing physical security cages, wiring all power distribution and installing custom airflow containment systems.

Hold On To Your Hats

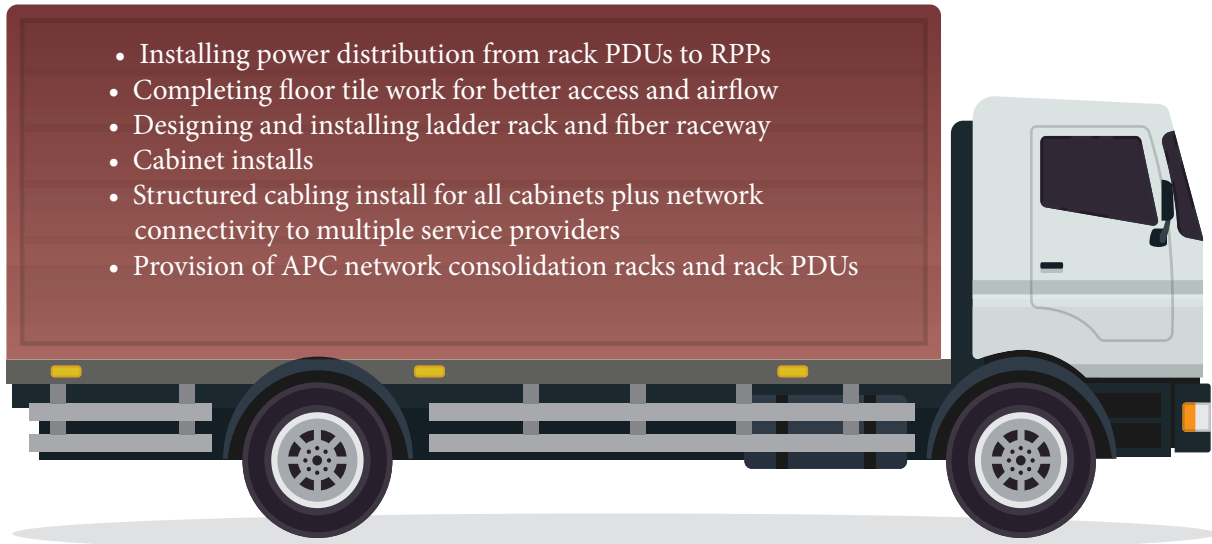
Imagine, for a moment, that you are the company asking for this project to be completed in such a short time. There would be a lot of nerves and a healthy amount of skepticism surrounding a third-party's ability to pull off the job on time and within budget.

Understanding this, the Instor team worked closely with the client to help them set realistic goals and to find creative solutions to get the job done. Starting with a blank slate, Instor first mapped out the data center with the goal of maximizing power efficiency, optimizing airflow and allowing the facility to be scalable for the client's future needs.

Taking a vendor agnostic approach, Instor paired up with the deployment team to select the proper equipment and get the gear quickly ordered so the project would stay on track. Starting with the longest lead times and working back to the shortest, Instor began building out the rest of the data center.

Serving simultaneously as the primary contractors and the project's managers, the Instor team pulled together and oversaw a large network of in-house and outside parties to complete the buildout quickly and efficiently. Instor first tapped into its own team of experienced installers, then supplemented this with a group of local contractors who passed Instor's rigorous white-glove standards.

The project involved the following:



- Installing power distribution from rack PDUs to RPPs
- Completing floor tile work for better access and airflow
- Designing and installing ladder rack and fiber raceway
- Cabinet installs
- Structured cabling install for all cabinets plus network connectivity to multiple service providers
- Provision of APC network consolidation racks and rack PDUs

After consulting with Instor, the company chose RPP-centric power distribution from Eaton due to its ability to bring a level of efficiency that would grow with the data center. Instor was also commissioned to create a custom thermal containment system. The containment system combined hard and soft walls along with Electrotrack end aisle doors with vertical panels above the cabinets.

Success!

On Time and Under Budget

The thermal containment system was the first of its kind for the company and it was so successful that it hit its ROI within 18 month. Ultimately, Instor's team successfully managed teams of skilled professionals, detailed budget guidelines and comprehensive timelines to design and install the data center within a colocation. All while reassuring the client that the job would hit its milestones.

When the 45 days were up, not only had Instor outfitted the facility, but it did so well under budget.

Movin On Up

When it's time to start fresh and relocate your data center - whether into a new whitespace or a shared colocation facility - Instor makes it easy. With more than 30 years in the field, Instor uses industry standard data center relocation best practices to safeguard your equipment during the relocation process. Instor ensures a seamless – and tidy – transition by using service partners specializing in data center cleaning. Instor also uses specialty equipment transportation resources to plan and execute your move.

Contact Instor's team of seasoned professionals for your next move, then sit back and enjoy all that success.