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Data Center Characteristics: A Financial Organization

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A financial trading company will have many rules and regulations placed upon it from the governments it operates within and from the governance rules which the directors of the organization must uphold. As such, the applications it relies upon must be easily accessible, maintain a high level of up-time, and remain secure to all physical and digital intrusion. With these thoughts in mind, the data center which stores and maintains these applications must uphold these characteristics, as well.

The data center must provide a high speed backbone gateway from which customer/client access can be made without fear of traffic bottlenecks. This backbone provides access to the server storage racks which hold the application software in question. If customers/clients are not able to access the application due to the slowness of the infrastructure, it will have a direct impact on their opinion of the organization and likely affect the stock price of the company.

Speaking of access, the application uptime must be within the five nines (Alger, 2005). That is, over the course of a year, the financial application must not have any more than five minutes of downtime. As the system is a transaction system, this will ensure that any monetary movements are made without fear of data being incorrectly sent/received due to a system outage. A four nines level of availability could be considered, if the application in question were not a frequently accessed system, this is not the case, however.

Finally, the data center must maintain a high level of physical and digital security so as to maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of the financial system (Dhillon, 2007). The security of the system is an absolute must, as governance must be maintained. If the data center cannot guarantee system security, then there is the possibility of accessing the financial application illegally thereby putting at risk all of the customer’s/client’s financial records and capital.

Maintaining each of the characteristics must be at the forefront of any data center manager. This is especially important when working for an organization whose profitability and performance are based upon the regulations which govern its operations. Accessibility, uptime, and security are key factors in the performance of the application and will have a direct effect on how customers/clients perceive the organization.

Reference

Alger, D. (2005). *Build the Best Data Center Facility for Your Business.* Indianapolis: Cisco Press.

Dhillon, G. (2007). *Principles of Information Systems Security: Text and Cases.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc.