8 TYPES OF DATA CENTERS

A simple guide for community education

Data centers can be grouped by what they do, who operates them, and how large they are. Many facilities overlap categories.

1. Hyperscale Data Centers



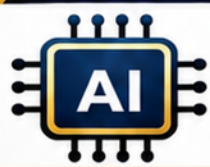
Very large facilities built for massive computing and storage needs, often used by major technology companies.

2. Cloud Data Centers



Provide online storage, software, and computing services that people and businesses access through the internet.

3. AI Data Centers



Designed for artificial intelligence workloads, often using high-density equipment with major power and cooling needs.

4. Enterprise Data Centers



Owned or used mainly by one organization, such as a hospital, bank, university, or large company.

5. Colocation Data Centers



Shared facilities where multiple businesses rent space, power, cooling, and connectivity for their equipment.

6. Edge Data Centers



Smaller facilities located closer to users or devices to reduce delay and support fast local service.

7. High-Performance Computing (HPC) Centers



Specialized facilities used for complex scientific, engineering, research, and simulation work.

8. Data Storage & Disaster Recovery Centers



Focused on storing, backing up, and restoring digital information to support continuity after disruptions.

Important: Tier I, II, III, and IV describe reliability levels — not different types of data centers.

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