

Will you face these common AV & IT installation problems with a corporate relocation?

Are you planning to relocate your offices in the near future? Are you in the middle of doing it now? Of all the challenges of a major move, some of the most problematic center around the transition of a company's technology infrastructure.

Houston-based TechKnowledge provides consulting services to relocating businesses to ensure a zero downtime, trouble free move to a new location. Issues that signal a need for professional assistance during a relocation project Include:

1. **Budget.** Did you know that when construction professionals budget for IT/AV/Security, their figures are hopelessly wrong 98 percent of the time? When you move into a beautiful new complex, it's hard to determine exactly how successful the transfer of technology will be. Often there is frustration and high additional costs, particularly with health-care facilities and other entities with dense technology such as contact centers or trading floors. Budgets that are light by several hundred percent aren't uncommon. Involve technology professionals or your IT staff from the beginning.

2. **Schedule.** Coordinating all aspects of a technology, audio/visual, or security installation is a serious, time consuming undertaking. In so many cases, timelines and overall schedules are ill-conceived, mainly because the individuals who crafted the plan aren't experts in corporate technology. Money and manpower can be brought in to adjust "glitches" in a schedule, but if the targets are too off-the-mark, this rarely helps. The solution is to develop your installation schedule meticulously, drawing on experience to avoid many potential pitfalls.

3. **Clandestine planning.** It's normal for leaders embarking on new plans of this scale not to spread the word to every single employee. The problem is, sometimes plans for a new property acquisition are shared only within a select group – primarily those responsible for the purchase of the facility. The result? People who may have been able to evaluate the new property with an eye toward setting up a large AV or IT systems never even know about the new facility until it's time to start the actual work. Going at it like this is like trying to find your way around an unfamiliar city without a map (or GPS).

Case Study

One of our clients was relocating out of the Central Business District and knew the move would be controversial. Site inspections of the new space didn't happen until after midnight, and a plan/budget/schedule were built from that late-night visit. But the project team was unaware there was a very large data center with 65 IT staff in an adjacent building, and the space plan and budget didn't include that, resulting in a budget that was \$8 million light. Unusual? Unfortunately not. Scenarios like this happen on about 25 percent of our engagements.

4. **Lack of coordination.** Major moves take major coordination. This level of communication is common among real estate professionals, architects, contractors and so on, but it's not so common among IT/AV/Security vendors. Technology providers are dependent upon one another, which means not much will get done until someone is in place to coordinate and sequence the vendors and make sure each phase of an installation project meets objectives for cost, safety and efficiency.

5. **Migration planning.** If you're running a small business, it's possible you could achieve a complete relocation and setup in a weekend. Not so if you have more than 250 employees and all the technology that goes along with them. A seamless migration is one that results in zero downtime, i.e., business can move along at a "normal" pace at the old facility, until the time the new facility is up and ready to go. This is a highly involved task, one that usually requires significant expense and is often grossly underestimated by those given the responsibility to manage it.

Want to avoid these pitfalls? Learn how to plan a streamlined corporate relocation by calling the AV/IT/Security pros at TechKnowledge. Call (713) 840-7800, or send us a message through our website.



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