As technological advances in the healthcare world offer better tools for treating patients, the demand grows for reliable and secure storage of better, larger images, as well as electronic records and forms. For our November program, Holy Spirit Health System showed us how they are meeting that demand with their state-of-the-art data center. Edith Dees, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Leo Banning, Information Technology Manager; and Chuck Eimer, Director of Technology, led a tour of the 28,000-square-foot building.

Produce Aisle Out, Hot Aisle In
The data center occupies what used to be a Weis Market. How did a data center end up in a former grocery store? The search for a new facility began about five years ago when Holy Spirit recognized that they were rapidly approaching maximum capacity for data storage and staff. With the empty grocery store so close to Holy Spirit Hospital, and with room for both current and anticipated needs, the fit was perfect.

Much thought was devoted to transforming the large open space into smaller offices, meeting areas, working spaces, and data center that still felt open and light.

To achieve a bright, modern center for the 65 employees, the design included:

- A “chill room” with large windows, indoor plants, a kitchen, and a soothing color palette for employee breaks and lunches
- Photos on the walls that were taken by employees
- Frosted glass that defined spaces while letting light through
- Windows in the data center

Benefits of Being Under One Roof
Whereas the health system’s data used to be stored in multiple locations, including basements, all employees are now under one roof. Having all assets in one location has the following benefits:

- Increased collaboration among staff
- Increased security and safety
- The ability to take out walls for quick expansion
- A facility that is designed for the needs of the data center
**Staying Grounded**

Some may wonder about the future of data centers given the capability to store information on the “cloud.” However, there are several reasons why data centers are more beneficial than cloud storage:

- Remote hosting is too slow for dense amounts of information
- The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) cannot provide protection if your information leaves the U.S.
- Not all cloud storage arrangements can guarantee retrieval of your information

Leo Banning points out that there is room for increased data capacity

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**Did You Know?**

*It took less than 10 minutes for the former data center to heat to 130 degrees during a power outage.*

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**Keeping It Cool**

The data center’s servers put out a lot of heat. Managing the heat and the electricity feeding into the servers was a major driver in the design plan. The following measures keep the data center at a comfortable temperature:

- In-row cooling is responsive and brings cooling where it is needed
- The servers are lined up back-to-back in rows, creating a “hot aisle”
- Cooling the hot aisle instead of the entire room is more efficient
- 1,000 kW back-up generators can be tested without taking the power down

Thank you to everyone who attended this event!

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Tour participants step inside the “hot aisle” to experience the change in temperature between the racks.