

Hosting & Application Developer Case Study



GT.net found the right fit at the right time with Cologix Vancouver for downtown, neutral & connected colocation

With decades of experience with web application development and hosting, GT.net helps organizations minimize internal IT workloads by deploying, managing, customizing and scaling hosted and cloud based applications. As a multi-million dollar company with clients in 60 countries, GT.net is the trusted technical and business advisor for small and medium enterprises, Fortune 500 brands, and non-profits throughout the world, including the likes of Nissan and Timex, among many others.



Based in Vancouver, GT.net maintains three geographically diverse data centres globally to ensure high data availability and security. When the company's Vancouver colocation provider decided to change strategic directions, GT.net began the hunt for a new facility that upheld the rigorous standards the company maintains. After a tour of Cologix's VAN 2 data centre, the company knew where to turn for cutting-edge, high-security colocation in a facility that overwhelmingly impresses GT.net's customers.



"Cologix's VAN 2 data centre is a **perfect fit** for us with all of the features – **downtown** and close to the office, **brand new facility, priced right, modern, professionally managed, and carrier neutral**. The fact that Cologix is network neutral with **space for us to expand** into will enable continued growth for us."

– Alex Krohn, GT.net Founder

Requirements & Challenges

- World class data centre featuring high-output, fail-safe infrastructure
- 24/7 on-site support
- Data centre certifications & standards such as SSAE audits, as well as support for GT.net to attain its own accreditations
- Highest levels of security & access control
- Stability for unremitting service
- Usage-based power model
- Dual gens, UPS & other infrastructure redundancies

Solution

- ✓ Custom cage with expansion capabilities & A+B reserved power in Cologix's VAN 2 data centre at 1050 W. Pender
- ✓ 24/7 on-site security, biometric access, plus additional security features
- ✓ Improved response times vs. telco colocation
- ✓ Fully redundant facility for hyper stability
- ✓ Diverse fibre paths for seamless failover
- ✓ Per kilowatt power structure
- ✓ Cologix's cloud & network neutrality for open connectivity options

24 Network Neutral Data Centres Throughout North America

Columbus - Dallas - Jacksonville - Lakeland - Minneapolis - Montreal - New Jersey - Toronto - Vancouver



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“The experience with Cologix has been very positive. We are quite happy we made the move, which was a major undertaking in a short time to move the gear with no downtime to customers. Cologix went above and beyond during the migration to ensure it was successful. We find that even as the facility fills up, the level of service has not diminished. GT.net has been extremely happy with the skillset, expertise and friendliness of the on-site Cologix Vancouver team – by far the best data centre team we’ve worked with.”

– Alex Krohn, GT.net Founder

Results

As the second customer in Cologix's newest, state-of-the-art VAN 2 facility, GT.net benefits from:

Open Network & Cloud Platform

Cologix's network and cloud neutrality leaves GT.net open to connect to multiple carriers very easily with a quick turnaround, which has proven to be the biggest improvement to the company's productivity. Having been with a colocation provider that was also a major network provider for six years previously, it was always very painful and would take several weeks for GT.net to access other external carriers. In fact, it could take more than six months to complete the build out to bring new fibre into the previous provider's facility. With Cologix, the company can now connect to whichever provider it wishes based on customer demand and what makes the most business sense at the time, which significantly eases business development for GT.net.

Incentivized Energy Efficiency

When seeking a new colocation provider, it was important for GT.net to move to a power model that charges per kilowatt. This is important for the company as they often need to bring an additional server online, and are now able to increase the per KW allotment to only pay for the power used. This incentivizes the GT.net team to minimize power use by decommissioning and powering off servers instead of continually making changes to the underlying circuits to improve efficiencies. Even if the company does require an additional circuit, Cologix Vancouver maintains on-site electricians for service within days versus circuit installs lasting 11 months with its former telco colocation provider.

Outage-Resistant Infrastructure

With dual generators, UPS and all systems built in a redundant fashion, any of Cologix's physical infrastructure components can fail without impacting customer service. Multiple on-site generators also offer a week's supply of diesel in case of a power outage. Additionally, Cologix runs a fibre ring between its two Vancouver data centres from 1050 West Pender to the carrier hotel in the Harbour Centre building at 555 West Hastings to share connectivity. This provides four different network paths, so if either data centre experiences downtime, the backup connectivity from the second data centre kicks in. GT.net's owner noted that two paths are required, three is good, but four different paths are even better. GT.net picked Cologix for the stable, solid, consistent service as any outage impacts the company's deliverability.

Accommodation for Regulatory Requirements

Cage space with Cologix was pretty much a requirement as GT.net deals with lots of regulatory specifications from HIPAA, SSAE 16 audits, and more. Cologix not only permits GT.net to install its own security cameras and other features, but is also fully supportive of providing documentation to enable the company's own accreditations. With Cologix, the process only takes a few phone calls; whereas, with the former telco colocation provider, it would take several months to access the required paperwork, causing significant backlogs in the process for GT.net.

Superb Service

Not only does GT.net have the right to first refusal on data centre space reserved for the company, but GT.net now benefits from 24/7 on-site data centre staff that are very involved to understand any GT.net challenges and seek a long-term solution versus quick resolutions.