

ARTICLE

Best Practices for Secure Data Center Decommissioning

Achieve maximum data security with Iron Mountain Asset Lifecycle Management

Data breaches can have devastating impacts on a business, and in many cases, they are often preventable. For instance, when data center assets are decommissioned without adequate sanitization, it can put businesses at risk of significant financial and reputational consequences if a data breach occurs.

And that's exactly what happened in 2022 to a leading financial services company. They agreed to pay a \$35 million penalty to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for data security lapses that included unencrypted hard drives that had not been adequately sanitized and were being resold on auction sites.

No one wants to wake up to a story like this about their company. This type of incident demonstrates the criticality of decommissioning data center assets

properly and, most of all, securely to ensure sensitive information doesn't become vulnerable to exploitation. Businesses that adhere to these best practices avoid data breaches and potentially grave consequences.

How to Avoid Data Breaches

To prevent a breach caused by inadequate sanitization, consider partnering with a data center decommissioning service provider that has the necessary experience and resources to ensure your protection. These qualified providers follow strict data sanitization procedures, including software-based wiping or shredding of storage devices. Secure decommissioning also means there is a strict end-to-end presence of physical security, audit trails are maintained, and certificates of destruction are provided.

“The three most important tasks to execute correctly, and to which ITAD executives should pay special attention, are transportation logistics/chain of custody, data sanitization and recycling.”

GARTNER MARKET GUIDE
FOR IT ASSET DISPOSITION



Asset Lifecycle Management Best Practices

Iron Mountain Asset Lifecycle Management (ALM) offers a comprehensive and secure data center decommissioning solution tailored to each client's specific requirements. Our proprietary software, Teraware™, ensures complete data destruction and enables thorough reconciliation of assets to be decommissioned. Iron Mountain also incorporates a physical reconciliation process to confirm every drive has been accounted for, virtually eliminating the potential for data-bearing device escapes. Iron Mountain provides a complete audit trail to support regulatory compliance—issuing Certificates of Sanitization or Certificates of Destruction for every serialized asset.

Beyond Data Security: Achieving Sustainability and Value in Decommissioning

Iron Mountain ALM goes beyond just data protection during data center decommissioning by offering comprehensive solutions for total data destruction and responsible asset remarketing. By repurposing memory, remarketing components, and giving decommissioned hardware a second life, Iron Mountain helps clients minimize e-waste, reduce their carbon footprint, and work towards a greener future while improving their bottom line. With customizable, scalable services, clients can rest assured that they are not only getting the best value from their decommissioned assets but also contributing to global sustainability efforts.

The Smart Choice for Secure Data Center Decommissioning

Iron Mountain ALM is the ideal partner for businesses seeking maximum data security, compliance, and financial returns in their data center decommissioning. With our proven expertise in secure data destruction, asset disposition, and logistics management, we offer a complete solution for sustainable IT best practices. By partnering with Iron Mountain ALM, businesses can successfully avoid data breaches caused by inadequate sanitization, and the potentially devastating consequences that come with them.

ABOUT IRON MOUNTAIN

For over 70 years, Iron Mountain Incorporated (NYSE: IRM) has been your strategic partner to care for your valuable assets. A global leader in storage and information management services, and trusted by more than 225,000 organizations around the world, including 95% of the Fortune 1000, we protect, unlock, and extend the value of your information and assets—whatever they are, wherever they are, however they're stored. We provide the framework necessary to bridge the gap between physical and digital and extract value along the lifecycle of your information, enabling organizational resilience. And all this with a commitment to sustainability at our core.

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