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A safe haven for data

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PERFECT PLAN: Data centres like Safehouse are a great tool for start-ups to ensure business continuity and stress-free security, says Leonard Yee.

So you have heard of boutique hotels, but how about a boutique datacentre?

This is the term that i-Tech Network Solutions Sdn Bhd has used to describe Safehouse, a green datacentre that it has set up in Mont Kiara, Kuala Lumpur.

"I like to use the word because we're not big (in the sense of what might be expected of a typical datacentre). I think we can be quite nimble because of that as we're not constrained by bureaucracy," says Leonard Yee, chief executive officer at i-Tech.

He believes that Safehouse's location sets it apart from its competitors. Instead of being typically situated within an IT hub, it is situated within the grounds of i-Zen @ Kiara II, a serviced residence developed by Ireka Corporation Berhad, i-Tech's parent company.

"We (Ireka) own the building and the floor space. From that point, it made sense. We decided we could put the place to good use by making it into a datacentre."

Power saver

Safehouse's green features comes from its scalable modular data centre (SMDC) architecture.

"It's built on demand," explains Yee. "Everything's already in place, for example, the cabling, but we don't actually run the equipment until it's actually needed (by a customer)."

He claims that this will result in greater energy as well as cost efficiency.

"The cost saving comes from the fact that you don't have to build straightaway so your capital expenditure isn't so high in the beginning," says Yee.



ENERGY EFFICIENT: Safehouse is built using a scalable modular data centre (SMDC) architecture.

Besides that, he shares that Safehouse operates using an in-row cooling system to control the temperature within the data centre.

"It's where the air is recycled; it goes into the chillers which then recycle it and then pumps it back out again. We can auto control the temperature too. This cuts down on electricity costs," Yee says.

He feels that going green is especially important to remain competitive in the market.

"If you don't go green, especially if you're trying to attract international companies, I think you'll have a hard time," claims Yee.

Besides the interest from government agencies, he shares that the company has also received inquiries regarding Safehouse from overseas countries including Japan, Switzerland and part of Britain.

Expanding business opportunities

Since Ireka's background is in the field of construction, i-Tech hopes to expand Safehouse's potential further in the future by offering its services together with a commercial rental package in the buildings which its parent company has developed. Take, for instance, the business centre of 1 Mont Kiara.

"That's the reason for wanting to do this here. We want to take advantage of commercial business going on around the area since some of the companies may want to think about putting their data somewhere else instead of within their own office grounds and using up more space," Yee explains.

He especially recommends Safehouse's services (comprises co-location, bandwidth across multiple carriers and managed services) to new start-ups as he feels it is more cost effective for them rather than having to set up and manage their own server architecture.

"It's the perfect plan for start-ups as they don't have to worry about security. Data is the most important part of your organisation. If you lose it, your company will lose a lot in terms of business continuity," Yee says.

He adds that Safehouse will be targeted at the SME market, although i-Tech is not disregarding the possibility of bigger clients stepping in along the way as well.

Safehouse has secured 11 clients since its launch in November last year. The datacentre runs on a two tier network architecture and has a total area of 5,000 sqft (about the length of four double storey linked houses). It was built through the use of technology from IBM, Juniper Networks and Schneider Electric. Safehouse can accommodate around 100 server racks.

For more information about Safehouse, visit www.safehouse.com.my.