

“A corporate level of disaster recovery for the masses.”

Background

Vancouver-based Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden Architects + Urbanistes (HBBH) is a multi-faceted and multi-disciplined team of architects, urban planners and designers. Known for imaginative problem solving in the face of complex urban issues, their designs take shape with the highest regard for the unique qualities and spirit of place. Examples of such accomplishments have spanned over three decades and include the precedent setting redevelopment of Granville Island in Vancouver, the master plan for Canada’s Parliamentary Precinct, numerous municipal, residential and cultural projects, including the recent design of the Whistler Athlete’s High Performance Centre, which will be a lasting legacy of the 2010 Olympic Games. As an associate with the firm, Stephane uses his diverse skill set to help design award-winning buildings, while at the same time acts as CIO, directing and managing the firm’s IT requirements.

The Challenge

As an architectural company, HBBH relies on digital data. “All of our drawings are digital,” Stephane comments, “and it would be an enormous amount of work to try and redraw them in the event of data loss.” Prior to investigating alternative methods of data backup and storage, Stephane’s firm relied on a manual system, backing up its data onto one large hard drive. However, with the exponential growth of data, the company could no longer fit their data onto one drive. As Stephane quips, without a new system of data storage, “I would be carrying 12 hard drives with me to our offsite storage facility – which was not going to happen.” Plus, backing up all of this data was intensely time consuming. “At the end of the day,” Stephane says, “our old system was just not feasible.” He turned to Navigata for a solution.

The Solution

As Stephane explains, HBBH was “looking for an effective backup solution and to implement a disaster recovery plan from a business strategy point of view, having offsite backup that is always current, safe and reliable is of paramount importance.” Stephane was interested in “minimizing downtime” and in deploying a reliable, scalable solution that would offer his company the full flexibility to “expand infinitely”. Navigata, he says, delivered. In using Navigata Data Centre Colocation, Stephane reports, “I’ve never had a problem with downtime. We have had all of three 20 minute outages in the many years that we’ve been a customer, which is probably best in class. There is no other company out there that offers this corporate level of disaster recovery to the masses.

Stephane also appreciates the customer service offered by Navigata. As he relates, HBBH “only deals with companies that have very good reputations for customer service and reliability, and Navigata exceeds all of our expectations.” Also, given that Stephane would rather spend his time designing buildings rather than managing his firm’s IT services, he appreciates the efficiency and support of Navigata. Implementing a colocation solution, Stephane reports, was straightforward – in fact, the only call he received from Navigata “was one to let me know that our colocation service was up and running. Navigata was very professional.”

For Stephane the benefits of Navigata Data Centre Colocation, which he identifies as “exceptional customer service and support as well as the reliability of the networks,” are invaluable. As he summarizes, “I am not a full-time IT person, so I want something that is easy to use, always on and always working. I don’t have to think about colocation: it just works. That’s why we use Navigata.”

Highlights

CORPORATE PROFILE

Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden Architects + Urbanistes (HBBH) is a Vancouver-based multi-faceted and multi-disciplined team of architects, urban planners and designers whose three decades of accomplishments include redevelopment of Granville Island and the Whistler Athlete’s High Performance Centre, a lasting legacy of the 2010 Olympic Games.

THE CHALLENGE

HBBH was looking for an effective backup solution and to implement a disaster recovery plan from a business strategy point of view. Having off-site backup that is always current, safe and reliable was of paramount importance.

THE SOLUTION

Navigata recommended and implemented a customized Data Centre Colocation solution that would allow HBBH to backup precious digital files at an off-site location that was safe and reliable.

“From a business strategy point of view, having off-site backup that is always current, safe and reliable is of paramount importance.”

Stephane Laroye

Associate

Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden
Architects + Urbanistes