

Chapter 3: Data Center Locations

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1. Why Does Facebook's Data Center Specialist Argue That "The Internet Is Not a Cloud?"

Facebook's data center specialist demystifies the common belief that 'The internet is not a cloud' because no data is stored in the atmosphere. The analyst argues that just like Facebook, information shared on the internet is from servers (data storage centers) that are spread worldwide and interconnected by giant fibre-optic cables (Data Center Locations, n. d). The description of Facebook's phenomenon data center in California gives a sneak view of the nature of internet servers. Facebook's data center covers space of up to 300,000 square feet. It continues to expand so that it can accommodate more people. This is because many people continue creating accounts, and the company needs to add servers to store their information (Data Center Locations, n.d). The data center acts as a storage of personal information for billions of Facebook users. The information stored here includes photos, videos, and other profile information. The data center acts as Facebook's internet, as any search on Facebook by a user is received and processed in real-time. This means that the data center needs to be active all the time (Laudon & Traver, 2017). The center has automated generators to ensure activities run during a power outage. Besides, some engineers respond to technical issues as soon as possible.

The internet has a similar architecture to Facebook but does not have one data center. The internet has many data centers interconnected via fibre and cable worldwide. The data centers (servers) share information in milliseconds. The data centers store small and large amounts of information depending on the nature of the service. The internet relies on servers that are connected to the Web. The purpose of a server is to store and process data. The connection of

servers to the internet makes it possible for them to share information depending on a user's request. This means that if a company has servers but has not shared its information on the Web, it will be hard to find search results over the internet.

2. Facebook Had Over 2.3 billion Users as Of December 31, 2018. If Facebook Continues to Employ Engineers at The Same Rate as Stated in The Video, How Many Engineers Does Facebook Have?

The employment rate is one engineer for one million users; for 2.3 billion users, Facebook would employ; $2,300,000,000/1,000,000$, which is approximately 2300 engineers.

References

Laudon, C. K. & Traver, G. C. (2017). *E-commerce 2017: Business, technology, society*.

Publisher: Pearson

Data Center Locations. (n.d). *Facebook Data Center*. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_r97qdyQtIk)

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