

Colocation at a Glance

You own the hardware, the provider runs the facility

Who owns what

The provider runs the facility

- Building and power feeds
- Cooling plant
- Physical security
- Connectivity and cross-connects
- SLA on power, temperature, security

You own the IT

- Servers, storage, network gear
- Configuration and operation
- Hardware health and warranty
- Everything inside your rack
- Monitoring — from a distance

On-premises vs colocation vs cloud

Dimension	On-premises	Colocation	Cloud
Hardware owner	You	You	The provider
Facility operator	You	The provider	The provider
Upfront cost	Building, plant, hardware	Hardware only	None
Scaling speed	Months — construction	Weeks — order and rack	Minutes
Cost profile	High fixed, low marginal	Predictable rent + hardware	Variable, usage-based
Hardware monitoring	Your job, on site	Your job, remotely	Provider's job, invisible

What a colo contract is priced on

Space + power

Per rack / per U with a power allowance; larger footprints per committed kW — power, not floor space, is what facilities run out of

One-time setup

Installation charges when you move in

Cross-connects

Monthly fee per in-building fiber run to carriers, exchanges, cloud on-ramps

Remote hands

Hourly on-site technicians working from your ticket — they don't know your systems

When colocation is the right call

- Retiring the office server room
- Steady, predictable workloads
- Compliance and data control on owned hardware
- Interconnection and latency (carrier-dense sites)
- Disaster recovery footprint in another region
- Cloud repatriation of stable workloads

In colo you own hardware you can't walk up to: the provider monitors the building, everything inside your rack is yours. That is why colo tenants rely on out-of-band BMC monitoring (IPMI, Redfish, iDRAC, iLO) that answers even when the OS is down.

Public knowledge from Sensaka · free to share with attribution

Source: sensaka.com/resources/what-is-colocation

sensaka.com