

## DATA CENTERS VS. A.I. DATA CENTERS

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Today I got an object lesson in technology lingo that is going to play a crucial role in our conversations about the future of Corpus Christi and Nueces County: the difference between data centers and AI data centers. I attended the open house at 717 N. Taranchua St. where Duos Edge AI is launching its data center in the heart of the downtown business district. The purpose of the center is to meet increasing demand for computing power to support real-time data processing, facilitate the use of AI applications, and address local processing requirements like on-demand streaming.

Okay, that's their verbiage. But in layman's terms, these guys are going to provide the low latency computing power to local users for applications in things like education, hospitals, government services and phone company interconnects.

The footprint is contained, as is the capacity of the facility. Two small buildings with a bank of backup generators and cooling fans located in a parking lot across the streets from Backstreet and the CCISD building, the facility running at a constant load and pulling about 400-450 KW's even at peak, clocks in with an electricity bill that we'd all envy—about \$500. There is little room for expansion, though it's thought Netflix may come in with their own server to provide low latency streaming for their customers. That can easily be accommodated in the present configuration, according to Bill Radford, Duos CTO. Fred Hoffman, our M.I.C. engineer who went with me to the open house, was impressed by Radford's transparency and the efficiency of the physical facility.

Now the technology vocab lesson: this is a data center, scaled to the use of community businesses and infrastructure. There will be no outside demand on electricity and zero water usage. The divide between a data center like this and

an AI data center is a universe apart. The Hut 8 data center proposed for Robstown, like the gargantuan facilities popping up all over Texas and the rest of the country, are there to serve the tech conglomerates; Google, Meta, Apple, Open AI, Amazon and so on. These centers exist solely for the tech bros and their empires, feeding their large language models with massive amounts of your water and electricity.

So now that you know the difference, you know how important it is. You'll be prepared to discuss the future of Nueces County armed with the information you need by tuning into The Bob Jones Show. Weekday 6am-10am. We'll talk to y'all then!