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Part 5: IT Equipment Utilization for servers (ITEUsv)

Technologies de l'information — Centres de traitement de données — Indicateurs de performance clés —

Partie 5: Utilisation des appareils de technologies de l'information (TI) se rapportant aux serveurs



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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

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Introduction

The global economy is now reliant on information and communication technologies and the associated generation, transmission, dissemination, computation and storage of digital data. All markets have experienced exponential growth in that data for social, educational and business sectors and, while the Internet backbone carries the traffic, there are a wide variety of data centres at nodes and hubs within both private enterprise and shared/collocation facilities.

The historical data generation growth rate exceeds the capacity growth rate of the information and communications technology hardware and, with less than half of the world's population having access to an Internet connection as of 2014, that growth in data can only accelerate. In addition, with many governments having "digital agendas" to provide both citizens and businesses with faster broadband access, the very increase in network speed and capacity will, by itself, generate more usage (Jevon's Paradox). Data generation and the consequential increase in data manipulation and storage are directly linked to increasing power consumption.

With this background, it is clear that data centre growth, and power consumption in particular, is an inevitable consequence and that growth will demand increasing power consumption despite the most stringent energy efficiency strategies. This makes the need for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that cover the effective use of resources (including, but not limited to, energy) and the reduction of CO₂ emissions essential.

In order to determine the overall resource effectiveness or efficiency of a data centre, a holistic suite of metrics is required. For the resource effectiveness or efficiency of data centre infrastructures, power usage effectiveness (PUE) was defined in ISO/IEC 30134-2. PUE will be utilized to measure and improve energy efficiency of data centre infrastructures, such as cooling systems and power supply systems. For data centres that own not only infrastructure but also IT equipment, it is also necessary to measure and improve energy effectiveness or efficiency of their IT equipment. A data centre, which provides only infrastructure to the customer, is called a co-location data centre or housing service provider. For these data centres, PUE is essential. On the other hand, a data centre which owns and provides server, storage and network equipment is called a hosting or cloud service provider. These service providers can manage IT equipment and improve the energy effectiveness of a data centre by improving the energy effectiveness of the IT equipment which they own.

This document specifies the IT Equipment Utilization for servers in a Data Centre (ITEUsv) which specifies a method for measuring the average utilization of server equipment in a data centre. A data centre which owns servers can use this document to determine the average utilization of their current server equipment and to improve energy effectiveness by increasing the average utilization of servers. IT equipment installed in a data centre consists of servers, storage systems and network equipment. But it is difficult to calculate the summarized utilization among different types of IT equipment since the metrics for measuring their performance are different and a simple addition or average is not an appropriate method for summarizing. ITEUsv defines the method to obtain the average utilization of servers.

One approach to improve the resource effectiveness or efficiency of servers in a data centre is to

- improve the utilization ratio of servers by using such technologies as virtualization and server consolidation for sharing use of servers, and
- reduce the number of servers to achieve the same level of information processing.

ITEUsv is a KPI used to quantify the effects of this approach.

This document is part of a series of International Standards for such KPIs and has been produced in accordance with ISO/IEC 30134-1, which defines common requirements for a holistic suite of KPIs for data centre resource usage effectiveness or efficiency.

The ISO/IEC 30134 series does not specify limits or targets for any KPI and does not describe or imply, unless specifically stated, any form of aggregation of individual KPIs into a combined nor an overall KPI for data centre resource usage effectiveness or efficiency.