

Survey reveals poorly run data centres

The Aperture Research Institute, established by Aperture Technologies to share market intelligence about data center management, has published its first report entitled "Organizations Struggle with Data Center Capacity Management", which demonstrates that managing data center capacity is a significant challenge, with many companies unable to predict their capacity needs accurately.

Thirty seven percent of those surveyed admitted they had run out of space, power or cooling capacity without sufficient notice in the last two years. Only 6 percent considered they were "excellent" at predicting when additional space or power infrastructure will be needed, with 10 percent describing their abilities as "poor" and 27 percent as merely "fair." Capacity planning procedures are partly at fault, with 41 percent of those surveyed saying theirs were poor or fair. Only 20 percent considered their procedures to be great or excellent.

The challenge of assessing future infrastructure needs was named by 90 percent of respondents as being a medium or high priority.

The top five challenges, chosen by respondents as high priorities in managing the data center's capacity, are:

1. Limitations on cooling capacity
2. Limitations of the power distribution system
3. Achieving sufficient airflow through racks
4. Assessing future infrastructure needs
5. Amount of total power delivered from the utility

"The management of the applications layer of the data center is already mature, but our research shows that many companies still struggle to manage the physical constraints of the environment. It is a fact that businesses change and, therefore, the demands on the data center will change," said Steve Yellen, vice president of marketing at Aperture.