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Industry news

IT data centres are running out of space

02 May 2007

Almost half of all IT data centres detailed in a new survey are running out of physical space and have a rising power density of racks that could risk serious outage.

The study by the Aperture Research Institute surveyed 100 enterprise data managers, covering more than 600 data centres across a range of businesses of all sizes including banking, insurance, retail and telecommunications.

Nearly 90 per cent of respondents revealed that three-quarters or more of all the space in their data centres is dedicated to IT equipment, with 43 per cent saying the figure in use was closer to 90 per cent - hinting at possible future logistical problems in the pipeline.

And the future risks of increased downtime and power outage was highlighted by statistics which showed that almost 40 per cent of companies operated an average rack using seven to 18 kilowatts of power or more, with 90 per cent using blade servers, which offer greater capabilities but demand more power and constant cooling.

"Data centres are facing a time of crisis because of the increased demands on their physical resources and management," said Steve Yellen, vice president of marketing at Aperture.

"There's a gap between IT and data centre facilities that's resulting in a rapid increase in high density equipment without thinking about the ability of a data centre to reliably support that capacity. With these data centres stretching thinner and thinner, more and more instances of downtime and failure are likely to occur."