

Data centers lack tools and commitment to deliver on the ambitions of their green initiatives, says new ARI survey

Survey shows that organizations lack the tools to measure energy efficiency, lack processes to charge the business for energy use, and that many do not decommission 'ghost' servers that are no longer needed

Stamford, CT – May 28, 2008 – A survey by the Aperture Research Institute (ARI) of more than 100 data center professionals has shown that organizations are unable or unwilling to meet the expectations set by their adoption of green initiatives for the data center. This follows an earlier ARI report published in March 2008, which discovered that 70% of organizations are adopting green initiatives, although 19% of those had omitted the data center from that program.

In the latest ARI study, 74% of those surveyed refused to activate power saving features on devices if it would require a drop in performance. While 37% are concerned that the power/performance ratio doesn't add up, 15% worry that they have no way to track whether the power saving setting is on or off. Nearly half (48%) of those surveyed blame the business for not using power saving features, saying that users wouldn't tolerate a drop in performance in the interests of saving power.

When it comes to procurement, energy efficiency and ease of disposal are the lowest priorities, rated as less significant than brand and price. 37% of data centers have no plans to measure energy efficiency, and 76% do not charge the business for the power used by the IT it commissions. One reason for that is a lack of infrastructure for measuring power consumption.

Steve Yellen, Principal of the Aperture Research Institute, said: "Although many organizations have made a commitment to cutting their environmental impact, when it comes to the data center, most lack the tools and processes they need if they are to deliver on that promise. The number one cause of increasing power consumption is an increase in demand for IT services, so business managers must be made accountable for the energy their applications consume. Only 24% of organizations we surveyed said the IT department charges the business for energy use. They simply don't have the technology to be able to implement the management processes they need."

The survey also found that decommissioning processes are not strictly followed, and "ghost servers" haunt the data centers of 19% of organizations. Ghost servers are those servers which the business no longer needs, but which have not been switched off, and which are as a result needlessly consuming electricity, space and other limited resources.

The Aperture Research Institute is the first organization dedicated to researching data centers, their challenges, and best practice management. It was established by Aperture Technologies Inc., the leading global provider of software for managing the physical infrastructure of data centers.

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The Aperture Research Institute's latest research note, entitled 'Data Centers Lack Tools to Measure Efficiency and Support Green Initiatives', is available for free download at http://www.aperture.com/about/aperture_research_institute.php

About The Aperture Research Institute™

The Aperture Research Institute has been established to share expertise and market intelligence about data centers and how they are managed. The Aperture Research Institute is a wholly owned subsidiary of Aperture Technologies.

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