

# AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENTS

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The World Wide Web and the rise of servers and PC's data centers have become a major position in the overall power consumption of the world. In order to prevent global warming and ensuing disasters, already Internet-service providers, hosting providers on green power have changed. Even household energy suppliers offer green electricity from renewable energy such as wind, solar, biomass and hydro, which emits no carbon dioxide, to stand against global warming. Only a global change for the information technology can prevent the global-warming. The switch to renewable energy is the beginning of our future and must be pursued as well as the research and development in information and communication technology.*

## **KEYWORDS**

*Renewable energy, web server, energy consumption*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The World Wide Web stands for worldwide network. In 1989, it was developed at Cern1. Initially intended only as a replacement system for scientific work, it has quickly developed into a system that is no longer possible to think in today's society.

Services to customers in the power industry are the most important goal. The flow of information is one of effective tools in the management of an organization to service the customers. If an organization wants to have an access to the correct and updated information, an attention and a serious effort should be paid to the development of information systems. Recently, energy consumption used by information technology (IT) equipment has become an interesting issue since the first ENERGY STAR specification for personal computers was released in the early 1990s [5]. The first detailed measurements of energy consumption for personal computers (PCs) together with an estimate of total electricity used by office equipment were reported in the late 1980s ([3], [7], [9], [10], [14]). Often, the first step towards harnessing the power consumption in data centers, is to understand how energy is used in the data center. Different types of analysis are using for measuring data center energy. Aspects of measurement are not only energy used by the equipment itself, but also are by the central data center equipment, including chillers and fans. Several research on estimate of power used by servers and data centers have been reported in the

literature, see for instance [6], [12], [13], [15]. In [15], they are studying an estimate of the power by data storage systems and network equipment and aggregating data from IDC by server class and measured power data on a representative server for each class.

To best of our knowledge, few studies have been performed in this area. For instance, Ton and Fortenbery ([16]) extended the work done by Roth et al. 2004 on analysis of energy consumption by power suppliers. The developed analysis improves on the Roth et al. analysis for servers by estimating power use for servers in 2000, 2003, 2004, and 2005, and by using the latest IDC estimates of the installed base of servers in each class. Moreover, this analysis of energy consumption by power suppliers depends on power estimates from server powers used for the most popular server models in each size class.

Custom servers used by some large Internet companies (such as Google) are another important category of servers that may be represented in the IDC data. These are ordered directly from the manufacturer as personal computer motherboards but are then used as servers. For instance, it has been reported that Google owns about 450,000 servers worldwide [11]. It is not known whether all of these servers are the custom-designed units described above and how many are standard servers that would have fallen under the IDC ‘volume server’ category.

In General, the Structure of the enterprise systems and server market by server category is categorized as follows

- Volume Server Market (< \$25,000)
- Midrange Market (\$25,000-\$249,999)
- High-End Market (> \$500,000)

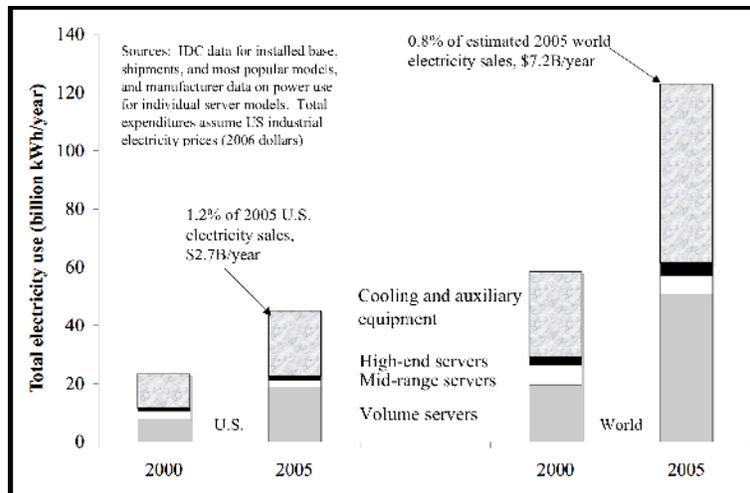


Figure 1: Total electricity use for servers in the U.S. and the world in 2000 and 2005 [8].

In Figure 1, in a period of 2000 to 2005, a total electricity used for servers are compared in USA and the rest of the world. This growth can be interpreted as the result of growth in the number of volume, mid-range or high-end servers. For instance, the total power used by servers was about 0.6% of total USA electricity consumption in 2005 without including cooling and auxiliary infrastructures.

## **2. PC USERS, INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS AND HOSTING COMPANIES**

End of the 90s the number of Internet users in Germany was estimated at about 5 million. 8 years later there were almost 43 million internet users thus an increase of 9 million per year. This rapid development has meant that huge data centers had to be built to the high demands of data resources which of PC users, Internet service providers and hosting companies were required to do [4].

A study by the Fraunhofer - Institute for Reliability and Micro Integration (ITM) and the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI has been studied for the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMW), the power consumption of information and communication technology in Germany extensively and is the result come to mind that 10.5 percent of total electricity consumption. By 2020, this power consumption expected to rise to 66.7 terawatt hours (TWh), representing an increase of 20 percent.

### **2.1. The policy response**

Politicians and legislators have recognized the problem in time. Due to the continuing high electricity consumption which is still largely out of nuclear energy and coal energy has been covered, the road was opened, to generate electricity from environmentally friendly sources. The starting gun for this purpose was on 07.12.1990 successes with the Law on feeding electricity from renewable energy sources into the grid. After three to revision and expansion targets in the electricity sector by 2020 the share of renewable energies is 35% and even up to 2020 at least 50%. It makes clear that the future means being outside without a huge burden on the current world.

### **2.2. The cost of electricity production**

Figure 2 shows electricity flows in data centers. From the reliability point of view in data centers, it is important to design the electrical distribution system in a proper way. Therefore, the concept of energy losses should be taken into account because of numerous AC-DC conversions within data centers.

The cost of electricity generated includes the initial capital, return on investment, as well as the operation costs, fuel costs, and maintenance and service costs. This calculation does not include other costs associated with each type of plant, such as long distance connections to grids, balancing and reserve costs, etc [17]. The cost is normally presented in units of local currency per unit of electricity.

Since producing electricity from renewable sources cannot be a competitor for other sources of electricity in the market due to their higher production costs, society is in favor of an extended use of these technologies due to their benefits.

## **3. THE IMPACT OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY**

When discussing the impact of the renewable energy Act on the electricity price, one has to distinguish between a direct and an indirect effect [18].

### 3.1. The direct effect

In this effect, the impact of the renewable energy act on the electricity price can be assessed based on how much electricity from renewable energies is supplied.

### 3.2. The indirect effect

In addition to the direct price effect, there is a second, indirect effect, which will also lead to a decrease of spot market prices when additional electricity from renewable source enters the market. The latter will substitute electricity from conventional power plants.

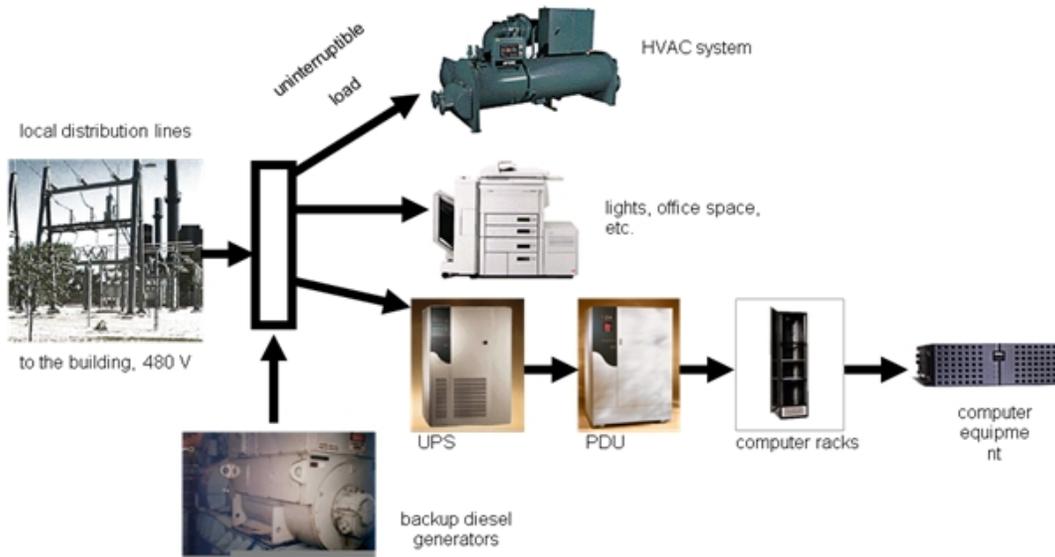


Figure 2: Electricity flows in data centers<sup>1</sup>.

### 3.3. Transition from old to new energy

Primary care-Worldwide offer customers to have clean electricity, which is produced from 100% renewable energy such as wind, solar, biomass and water. It is now up to companies to actually keep it in order to keep distance from the atomic to switch to green power. It is also clear that there are fluctuations during the transition period between the old Energy and the new energy.

## 4. EXAMPLE

In this section, we analyse the cost of electricity production for the conditions under which it makes sense to add wind turbines or a battery bank to a diesel power system using HOMER software. The system comprises two diesel generators, a 150 kW and a 75 kW. The wind turbine under consideration is a 50 kW model. The profile of wind speed data is plotted in Figure 3.

<sup>1</sup> <http://N4E.LBL.gov>

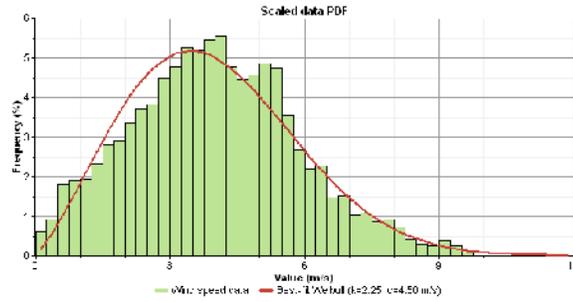


Figure 3: Profile of wind speed data.

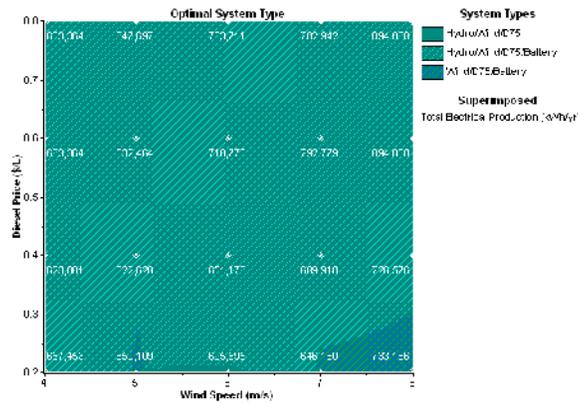


Figure 4: Total electricity production.

We considered a range of diesel fuel prices and wind speeds. The optimal system type graph shows that for high wind speeds and high fuel prices, wind power does make sense. Figure 4 shows total electricity production in terms of diesel price and wind speed. Figure 5 depicts fuel costs. Also, the HOMER software recommends a battery bank to capture excess wind power at the higher wind speeds.

Moreover, CO emissions for the optimal system type is plotted in Figure 6 in terms of wind speed and diesel costs. 75kW diesel capacity is also shown in Figure 7.

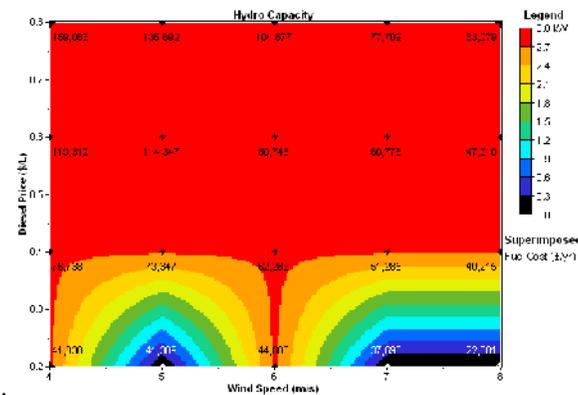


Figure 5: Fuel costs.



is a high interest in wind power technology to produce the electricity. In 2008, the estimated share of wind power in Germany's electricity production amounted to 6.3%, followed by biomass-based electricity generation and water power, whose shares were around 3.6% and 3.1%, respectively.

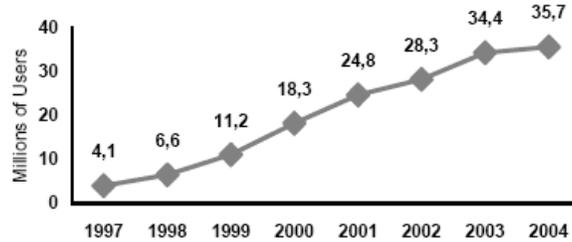


Figure 8. Development of the number of Internet users in Germany [18].

The German EEG is a start for the future which is also from other countries around the world have been taken as positive. The Federal Environment Ministry confirmed the 47 countries of the world use the EEG as a role model for your own funding opportunities. Subsequently, companies in Germany as bright spot recorded 20,000 new customers from Hamburg. It should be mentioned that it is particularly difficult to forecast trends in the IT industry.

The IDC forecast incorporates several trends that will affect power used by servers, including the move to more use of blade servers (which will tend to increase power use), and the shift to consolidation and virtualization (which will tend to decrease power use by reducing the number of physical servers that are needed). The industry has recently become more sensitive to total cost of ownership for these facilities, driven by the increasing importance of infrastructure and utility costs relative to IT costs ([1]).

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, the World Wide Web and the rise of servers and PC's data centers are studied as a major position in the overall power consumption of the world. In order to prevent global warming and ensuing disasters, already Internet-service providers, hosting providers on green power have changed. Even household energy suppliers offer green electricity from renewable energy such as wind, solar, biomass and hydro, which emits no carbon dioxide, to stand against global warming. Only a global change for the area information technology can prevent the global-warming. The switch to renewable energy is the beginning of our future and must be pursued as well as the research and development in information and communication technology.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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