Do You Overcool Your Data Center?

Learn The Key To Preventing Overcooling & Saving Energy Costs

WORLDWIDE DEMAND for real-time data, applications, and services has led to an unprecedented increase in data center density and energy costs. While IT equipment accounts for 50% of those energy costs, another 37% is consumed when cooling and circulating air; a figure that amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

Data centers often overcool to ensure that their mission-critical equipment will not fail due to overheating. But studies have shown this is an unnecessary and costly practice.

"Data center managers can save up to 3% in energy costs for every degree of upward change in the baseline temperature, known as a set point. The higher set point means less frequent use of air conditioning, which saves the energy used to run cooling systems," says David J. Cappuccio, Gartner managing vice president and chief of research.

The key to avoiding overcooling and saving on energy costs is to determine your optimal set point. You can base the decision off of equipment recommendations, but a better approach is to use ASHRAE guidelines to ensure you are operating within the healthy range for temperature and humidity. And the best way to meet those guidelines is to adopt DCIM software and environmental sensor technology as a part of your energy management strategy.

DCIM, along with environmental sensors positioned according to ASHRAE guidelines, allow you to make informed decisions about how much cooling and air circulation is needed. Built-in cooling charts, trend reports, and heat maps provide a holistic view of environmental conditions and ensure you are on the path toward energy efficiency. P