

Simulation of a Research Data Centre Room in an Academic Campus

Khaled Alsharif, Kyosung Choo¹

¹ Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department,
Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH 44555, United States
kchoo@ysu.edu

Extended Abstract

Data centers are forty times more energy-intensive than conventional office buildings [1]. The amount of electricity consumed by data centers is equivalent to the amount consumed by 5.8 million average U.S. households and is similar to the quantity used by the entire U.S. transportation manufacturing industry [2]. Data center energy efficiency is now considered the chief concern of these centers, followed by availability and security as the second and third concerns, respectively [3-5].

In the present study, simulation studies were performed to evaluate energy performance and savings for a data center room at the Youngstown State University campus. The IT, cooling, and electrical loads were measured to compare the simulation model and suggest Energy Conservation Measure (ECM). The inlet and outlet temperature of the servers for the baseline model are well matched with the measure data within 5 % error.

The ECM model is developed by separating the cold inlet flow and hot outlet flow. The ECM and its respective energy saving were identified and suggested as measures to reduce energy consumption by optimizing the thermo-fluid flow in the data center room. Partitions were attached at the center of the data center room in order to separate the cold inlet and hot outlet. The maximum rack inlet and outlet temperatures of the based model are 26.6 °C and 31.1 °C, respectively. The maximum rack inlet and outlet temperatures of the ECM model are 14.8 °C and 26.9 °C, respectively. Which means the ECM model has 11.8 °C and 4.2 °C lower temperatures at the rack inlet and outlet compare to the baseline model. Based on the ECM model, we can increase 11.8 °C of the room set point temperature, which reduces energy consumptions of the data center room by moving the ASHRAE thermal guideline box [6].

References

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