
**Information technology — Data
centres — Key performance
indicators —**

**Part 2:
Power usage effectiveness (PUE)**

*Technologies de l'information — Centres de données — Indicateurs de
performance clés —*

Partie 2: Efficacité dans l'utilisation de la puissance (PUE)

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: [Foreword — Supplementary information](#).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 39, *Sustainability for and by Information Technology*.

ISO/IEC 30134 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Data centres — Key performance indicators*:

- *Part 1: Overview and general requirements*
- *Part 2: Power usage effectiveness (PUE)*
- *Part 3: Renewable energy factor (REF)*

The following parts are under preparation:

- *Part 4: IT Equipment Energy Efficiency for Servers (ITEEsv)*
- *Part 5: IT Equipment Utilization for Servers (ITEUsv)*

Introduction

The global economy is now reliant on information and communication technologies and the associated generation, transmission, dissemination, computation and storage of digital data. All markets have experienced exponential growth in that data, for social, educational and business sectors and, while the internet backbone carries the traffic there are a wide variety of data centres at nodes and hubs within both private enterprise and shared/collocation facilities.

The historical data generation growth rate exceeds the capacity growth rate of the information and communications technology hardware and, with less than half (in 2014) of the world's population having access to an internet connection, that growth in data can only accelerate. In addition, with many governments having "digital agendas" to provide both citizens and businesses with ever faster broadband access, the very increase in network speed and capacity will, by itself, generate ever more usage (Jevons Paradox). Data generation and the consequential increase in data manipulation and storage are directly linked to increasing power consumption.

With this background, it is clear that data centre growth, and power consumption in particular, is an inevitable consequence and that growth will demand increasing power consumption despite the most stringent energy efficiency strategies. This makes the need for key performance indicators (KPIs) that cover the effective use of resources (including but not limited to energy) and the reduction of CO₂ emissions essential.

Within the ISO/IEC 30134 series, the term "*resource usage effectiveness*" is more generally used for KPIs in preference to "*resource usage efficiency*", which is restricted to situations where the input and output parameters used to define the KPI have the same units.

In order to determine the overall resource effectiveness or efficiency of a data centre, a holistic suite of metrics is required. This part of ISO/IEC 30134 specifies power usage effectiveness (PUE), which has become a popular metric to determine the efficient utilization and distribution of energy resources within a data centre.

NOTE It is recognized that the term "efficiency" is to be employed for PUE but "effectiveness" provides continuity with earlier market recognition of the term.

This part of ISO/IEC 30134 belongs to a series of standards for such KPIs and has been produced in accordance with ISO/IEC 30134-1, which defines common requirements for a holistic suite of KPIs for data centre resource usage effectiveness or efficiency.

The ISO/IEC 30134 series does not specify limits or targets for any KPI and does not describe or imply, unless specifically stated, any form of aggregation of individual KPIs into a combined nor an overall KPI for data centre resource usage effectiveness or efficiency.

Information technology — Data centres — Key performance indicators —

Part 2: Power usage effectiveness (PUE)

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 30134 specifies the power usage effectiveness (PUE) as a key performance indicator (KPI) to quantify the efficient use of energy in the form of electricity.

This part of ISO/IEC 30134

- a) defines the power usage effectiveness (PUE) of a data centre,
- b) introduces PUE measurement categories,
- c) describes the relationship of this KPI to a data centre's infrastructure, information technology equipment and information technology operations,
- d) defines the measurement, the calculation and the reporting of the parameter,
- e) provides information on the correct interpretation of the PUE.

PUE derivatives are described in [Annex D](#).

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 30134-1:2016, *Information technology — Data centres — Key performance indicators — Part 1: Overview and general requirements*