

# Compute the Green Way

Desktop computing is consuming close to 85-90% of the cost towards electricity, but green initiatives could prove to be energy savors

Organizations and CIOs, in particular, are under tremendous pressure to conceptualize new processes that could enable better and a swifter implementation of green IT initiatives. While cost and RoI are key to decision-making, it is often found that a major contributing factor for the CIOs to make informed decisions, is the lack of a clear consensus on the scope and detail of the project. In IT Industry, desktop computing is the main source of energy consumption. CIOs have to ensure that they adopt a mechanism to control it, such as replacing CRTs with LCD, rack servers with blade architecture, etc.

According to Bengaluru based company see beyond technologies, data centers and servers contribute 10-15% of cost of electricity from computing, however, where is the balance cost of electricity on computing? The fact is that it is the desktop computing which is consuming close to 85-90% of the cost towards electricity.

The company, See Beyond Technologies, has devised a solution named infraSECURE Environment Management System (EMS) that hibernates desktop computers to save on the power drained when computers are not in use. The solution has an auditable software based electricity meter that computes the power savings from computers and amount of carbon footprint reduction. The product wakes up computers at predefined times of day/night to run batch



schedules such as anti-virus updates, back-up, and hibernates them after completion.

"Major challenges faced regarding managing the desktops and laptops in the organization were controlling different operating systems and applications, managing PCs of different models, configurations, and above all no control on the power usage of each PC as they were kept switched on even during weekends and holidays. The organization's approach was to look out for a centralized monitoring and control solution," says UVK Kumar, head, IT, Doha Bank. Manish Agarwal, AVP at Infinite Computer Solutions, initially tried a group policy for managing desktops and laptops, however, the manageability and reporting was not meeting the requirements. Moreover, power savings could not be measured. By using the infraSECURE solution, machines were brought to hibernation mode and policies could be customized and applied.

In 2008-09, Infosys rolled out an optimized power management configuration covering around 50% of desktop computers in the network. As a result of this configuration, desktops enter sleep mode after one hour of inactivity. Considering an average power consumption of 10W per hour by a desktop and a monitor in sleep mode, as against 60W per hour during non-sleep mode, this configuration is expected to bring in a maximum reduction of 18-20% in total power consumption by desktops.

Mindlance also takes lot of care to promote green IT bringing TFT monitors in use and discarding CRT monitors was another initiative by Kamal Sharma, the CIO, to help reduce the energy consumption simultaneously ensuring that all energy efficiency ratings are met. The company also plans to implement some energy saving softwares such as VMware at their organization.

Interestingly, see beyond technologies believes that saving power with 1,000 desktops using their solution could help in lighting up 500 houses on an annual basis.

## Conclusion

InfraSECURE solution can act as a simple, non-disruptive utility that pays for itself in months, while helping companies to achieve their broader environmental objectives.

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