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## Always-on PCs cost UK Plc £300m a year

Survey finds over 30 per cent of PCs are left on each night, wasting firms at least £17 per machine each year

James Murray, [BusinessGreen](#), 25 Mar 2009



On any given night an estimated 30 per cent of workplace PCs are left on, according a major new survey which calculated that the practice is costing UK firms more than £300m a year.

The survey of more than 2,000 UK adults found that 30 per cent of respondents admit to not turning off their PC overnight and at weekends, increasing corporate energy bills by an estimated £17 per PC.

The findings from polling company Harris Interactive mark an improvement on the last survey, carried out two years ago, which revealed that half of workers frequently left their PCs on when not in use.

However, the report calculated that based on current energy prices the practice was still costing UK firms a total of £300m a year. It added that a firm with 10,000 PCs that were left on all the time would increase its annual energy bills by at least £168,000.

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Sumir Karayi, chief executive of PC power management software specialist [1E](#), which commissioned the survey alongside campaign group the [Alliance to Save Energy](#), said that the figures represented a highly conservative estimate.

He said that while three out of 10 workers admit to leaving their PCs on, in practice the number is higher. "When we look at the data from some of the larger companies where we deploy our software, it is nearer 70 per cent of workers that leave machines on," he observed. "We estimate that on any given night around 40 per cent of machines are left on."

Karayi argued that the estimated cost of PC that was left on all the time was similarly conservative as it focused only on the amount of energy the machine uses and ignored the increased demands left on machines place on air conditioning units.

He added that 1E estimated that deploying software capable of ensuring PCs are safely turned off when not in use could reduce total energy bills by around £25 per PC.

The survey also investigated PC turn-off rates in the US and found that the practice is costing the US economy \$2.8bn in increased energy bills.

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