



# earth2tech

[earth2tech Home](#)  
Tracking Green Innovation

[earth2tech Maps](#)  
Mapping the Greentech Revolution

[earth2tech FAQs](#)  
Greentech Resources

[Research](#)  
Green IT Research and Analysis

[Automotive](#)
[Clean Power](#)
[Energy Storage](#)
[Green Building](#)
[Green IT](#)
[Policy](#)
[Smart Grid](#)

## Idle Servers Suck Power and Money: Report

By [Katie Fehrenbacher](#) | [2 Comments](#) | [Tweet This \(14\)](#)

Posted October 16th, 2009 at 6:00 am in [Green IT](#)



One-sixth of the world's servers — computers that run web services — are not being used at all, wasting \$24.7 billion a year, including \$3.8 billion in energy-related costs, according to a new report published Thursday. Researchers at the Alliance to Save Energy, Kelton Research and 1E, a software IT company, found through surveys of server managers and analysis of industry data that out of the world's 44 million servers, roughly 4.7 million of them are idle and not doing necessary work.

The problem is that most servers are housed in data centers, into which server managers have a hard time peering in order to see which ones are being productive and which ones aren't. In the meantime, servers that aren't doing useful work, but are still on, are still sucking power — usually as much as a highly productive server. Without the proper data, server managers are hard-pressed to turn off company servers if there's a remote chance that they might be needed for something.

Here's one solution, also brought to you by one of the report sponsors, 1E. It launched on Thursday its power management software for servers, which the company says uses smart algorithms to determine which servers are doing useful work and which ones aren't, as well as how much energy they're using and when. 1E also says its "NightWatchman Server Edition" can power down servers into a drowsy state, cutting their energy use by 12 percent.

1E has been selling its power management software for PCs for over a decade, and counts among its customers AT&T, Verizon Wireless and HSBC. 1E's CEO Sumir Karayi even claims the company invented the PC power management sector. Based in London and New York, the company has been bootstrapped since its founding.

Clearly 1E's tools are just one company's solution to the idle server problem. Making data centers more green and bringing down the energy costs and carbon footprints of the Internet has emerged as a hot trend (read about [green data center design strategies](#) on our subscription research service, GigaOM Pro). Other companies are focusing on virtualization server software, wireless sensor networks in data centers, energy efficient server and storage hardware, and finding low-hanging fruit like using [free outside air cooling](#).

[Twitter](#)
[Facebook](#)
[RSS](#)

Sign up for our daily email:



[Smart Grid Stimulus Funding Revealed!](#)

[The Winners and Losers in the Smart Grid Stimulus Funds](#)

[Smart Grid Stimulus Funds: Demo Projects, Partners Emerge](#)

[10 Things To Watch for At the Solar Power Conference](#)

[PHOTOS: What's Hot At Solar Power International 2009](#)

[FAQ: Smart Grid](#)

### Bookmarks

[25 Who Ditched Infotech for Cleantech](#)

[Earth2Tech Maps: 101 Cleantech Startups](#)

[Green:Net 09 Presentations](#)

Image courtesy of 1E.

Yahoo! Buzz Digg Stumble Reddit del.icio.us Email

« [Bill Gates Wants a Green Agriculture Revolution: Here's Tech That Can Drive It](#)

[How to Sell Your Smart Grid Biz to IBM](#) »



CONNECTED CONSUMER

[What the VC Industry Upheaval Means For Startups](#)

CONNECTED CONSUMER

[Windows 7 Forecast: Mostly Sunny, With a Chance of Showers](#)

CONNECTED CONSUMER

[Hulu and the End of Free TV](#)

NEWNET

[How Search Is Evolving Beyond Text](#)

[See more premium content](#) »

Watch [videos](#) at Vodpod and more of [my videos](#)

## Comments (2)

[Subscribe to comments feed](#)



It's not enough to improve efficiency and optimize cooling. We should be coupling data centers with consumers of thermal energy — geothermal plants, or municipal systems.

AgentG — 10:56 AM on October 16, 2009

[Reply](#)



This article could have addressed the impact of all the idle electrical components we own, like chargers, home pc's, dvd's, printers, etc. Estimates put idle energy consumption at 1 - 2 % of total energy use... That's as much as the airline industry.

joe pah — 6:37 PM on October 16, 2009

[Reply](#)

## Linkbacks (0)

Name \*

E-mail (not shared) \*

Website

Comment \*

Notify me of follow-up comments via email.