INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO/IEC 24091

First edition
2019-11

Information technology — Power efficiency measurement specification for data center storage

Reference number
ISO/IEC 24091:2019(E)

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

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.

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 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see http://patents.iec.ch).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by SNIA (as SNIA Emerald™ Power Efficiency Measurement Specification V3.0.3) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was adopted, under the JTC 1 PAS procedure, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Contents

List of Tables, Figures and Equations

1 Introduction

There is a growing awareness of the environmental impact of IT equipment use. This impact takes several forms: the energy expended in equipment manufacture and distribution, the impact of materials reclamation, and the energy consumed in operation and cooling of the equipment. IT equipment users of all kinds now wish to make their IT operations as energy efficient as possible. This new priority can be driven by one or more of several requirements:

- Rising energy costs have made power and cooling expenses a more significant percentage of total cost of ownership of server and storage equipment;
- Some data centers are physically unable to add more power and cooling load, which means that new applications and data can only be brought on if old ones are retired or consolidated onto new, more efficient configurations;
- Increased regulatory and societal pressures provide incentives for companies to lower their total energy footprints. For many companies, IT is a significant portion of overall energy consumption, and corporate Green goals can only be achieved by reducing IT's energy needs or by making operations more efficient.

IT equipment users will seek advice on the most energy efficient approach to getting their work done. It is not practical for customers to test a wide range of storage products and architectures for themselves. A more effective approach is to create a collection of standard metrics that allow IT architects to objectively compare a range of possible solutions. This objective, metric-based approach has a dual impact:

- Users can select the mode of storage usage that accomplishes their work objectives with the lowest overall energy consumption;
- Companies will be driven to innovate and compete in the development of energy efficient products as measured by the standard yardsticks.

2 Scope

2.1 Abstract

This document describes a standardized method to assess the energy efficiency of commercial storage products in both active and idle states of operation. A taxonomy is defined that classifies storage products in terms of operational profiles and supported features. Test definition and execution rules for measuring the power efficiency of each taxonomy category are described; these include test sequence, test configuration, instrumentation, benchmark driver, IO profiles, measurement interval, and metric stability assessment. Qualitative heuristic tests are defined to verify the existence of several capacity optimization methods. Resulting power efficiency metrics are defined as ratios of idle capacity or active operations during a selected stable measurement interval to the average measured power.

2.2 Introduction

This document defines methodologies and metrics for the evaluation of the related performance and energy consumption of storage products in specific active and idle states.

Storage products and components are said to be in an “active” state when they are processing externally initiated, application-level requests for data transfer between host(s) and the storage product(s). For purposes of this document, idle is defined as “ready idle”, in which storage systems and components are configured, powered up, connected to one or more hosts and capable of satisfying externally initiated, application-level initiated IO requests within normal response time constraints, but no such IO requests are being submitted.

2.3 Current Revision

This document addresses storage products supporting block or file data access. Block access and file access refer to the type of service provided typically by Storage Area Network (SAN) and Network Attached Storage (NAS) systems, respectively. It is not appropriate to use this document to ascertain power efficiency for anything other than these two access modes. This document includes:

- A generalized taxonomy for storage products (clause 5);
- An assessment mechanism for software-based Capacity Optimization Methods (clause 6);
- Measurement and data collection guidelines for assessing the power efficiency of block- and file-based storage products in both active and ready idle states (clause 7);
- Metrics describing storage product power efficiency (clause 8);
- Required disclosures for a test result published as a SNIA Emerald™[1] Power Efficiency Measurement test result (clause 9).

2.4 Purpose

The purpose of a SNIA Emerald™ Power Efficiency Measurement is to provide a reproducible and standardized assessment of the energy efficiency of commercial storage products in both active and ready idle states.

1. Tested systems shall be comprised of commercially released products and components;
2. Tested systems shall employ settings, parameters, and configurations that would allow end-users to achieve power efficiency levels equivalent to the published result;
3. All data published as an SNIA Emerald™ Power Efficiency Measurement test result shall be gathered from test execution conducted according to this document;

[1] SNIA Emerald™ is a trademark of the Storage Networking Industry Association. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO of the product named.

4. Test execution shall complete in its entirety and without test failure or test error messages;
5. Software features which invoke, generate, or use software designed specifically for the test shall not be used. Configuration options chosen for test execution shall be options that are generally recommended for the customer;
6. Energy for powering the equipment shall be provided by the power mains that are being monitored (not by an internal UPS).

A SNIA Emerald™ Power Efficiency Measurement shall be a good faith effort to accurately characterize the power requirements of the tested system. The precise configuration used in a SNIA Emerald™ Power Efficiency Measurement is left to the sponsor of a test. Any commercially released components may be used, and a focus on new or emerging components or technologies is encouraged.

2.5 Disclaimer

A SNIA Emerald™ Power Efficiency Measurement test result provides a high-level assessment of the energy efficiency of the tested system in specific ready idle and active states. It is not an attempt to precisely model or reproduce any specific installation.

Actual performance and energy consumption behavior is highly dependent upon precise workload, environmental and usage parameters. While a SNIA Emerald™ Power Efficiency Measurement test result is intended to provide a realistic and reproducible assessment of the relative power efficiency of a system across a broad range of configurations and usage patterns, it cannot completely match the precise needs of any one specific installation.

3 Normative References

The following documents are referred to in the text in a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Table 1 lists these documents.

Table 1 – Normative References

Author/Owner	Title	Revision	URL
ISO/IEC	*ISO/IEC Directives Part II*	Eighth edition, 2018	https://www.iso.org/directives-and-policies.html

4 Definitions, Symbols, Abbreviations, and Conventions

4.1 Overview

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in The SNIA Dictionary[2] and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

• ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

• IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

The terms and definitions defined in this document are based on those found in The SNIA Dictionary[2]. They have been extended, as needed, for use in this document. In cases where the current definitions in the SNIA dictionary conflict with those presented in this document, the definitions in this document shall apply.

4.2 Definitions

4.2.1

auto-tiering

policy-based system that automatically places and moves data across tiers to optimize performance service levels, cost targets, and overall energy consumption

Note 1 to entry: Each storage tier may comprise different storage technologies, offering varying performance, cost, and energy consumption characteristics.

4.2.2

cache

temporary storage used to transparently store data for expedited access to or from slower media, and not directly addressable by end-user applications

4.2.3

capacity optimization method (COM)

subsystem, whether implemented in hardware or software, which reduces the consumption of space required to store a data set

4.2.4

committed data

data that has been written to stable storage

4.2.5

compression

the process of encoding data to reduce its size

4.2.6

count-key-data (CKD)

disk data organization model in which the disk is assumed to consist of a fixed number of tracks, each having a maximum data capacity

Note 1 to entry: The CKD architecture derives its name from the record format, which consists of a field containing the number of bytes of data and a record address, an optional key field by which particular records can be easily recognized, and the data itself.

4.2.7

data deduplication

replacement of multiple copies of data—at variable levels of granularity—with references to a shared copy in order to save storage space and/or bandwidth

4.2.8

dedupable

property that a collection of data is said to possess if the needed storage capacity for the data is reduced significantly by data deduplication

4.2.9

delta snapshot

type of point in time copy that preserves the state of data at an instant in time, by storing only those blocks that are different from an already existing full copy of the data

4.2.10

direct-connected

storage designed to be under the control of a single host, or multiple hosts in a non-shared environment

4.2.11

efficiency

ratio of useful work to the power required to do the work

4.2.12

file

abstract data object made up of a) an ordered sequence of data bytes stored on a disk or tape, b) a symbolic name by which the object can be uniquely identified, and c) a set of properties, such as ownership and access permissions that allow the object to be managed by a file system or backup manager

4.2.13

file system

software component that imposes structure on the address space of one or more physical or virtual disks so that applications may deal more conveniently with abstract named data objects of variable size (files)

4.2.14

fixed block architecture (FBA)

model of disks in which storage space is organized as linear, dense address spaces of blocks of a fixed size

Note 1 to entry: Fixed block architecture is the disk model on which SCSI is predicated.

4.2.15

fixed content addressable storage (FCAS)

storage optimized to manage content addressable data that is not expected to change during its lifetime

4.2.16

formatted capacity

total number of bytes available to be written after a system or device has been formatted for use, e.g., by an object store, file system or block services manager

Note 1 to entry: Formatted capacity, also called usable capacity, is less than or equal to raw capacity. It does not include areas set aside for system use, spares, RAID parity areas, checksum space, host- or file system-level remapping, "right sizing" of disks, disk labeling and so on. However, it may include areas that are normally reserved—such as snapshot set-asides—if they can alternatively be configured for ordinary data storage by the storage administrator.

4.2.17

free space

amount of additional irreducible data that can be written to the product under test as configured

4.2.18

hot band

simulation of naturally occurring hot spots

4.2.19

hot spot

area of storage more frequently accessed across the addressable space

4.2.20

IO intensity

measure of the number of IOPS requested by a load generator

Note 1 to entry: IO intensity is phrased as a percentage of selected maximum IOPS level that satisfies the timing requirement(s) for a taxonomy category.

4.2.21

irreducible data

data that is neither compressible nor dedupable

4.2.22

load generator

hardware and software environment executing the workload generator to drive the product under test during measurements

4.2.23

Logical Unit (LU)

entity within a SCSI target that executes IO commands

4.2.24

Logical Unit Number (LUN)

synonym for logical unit