Federal Partnership for Green Data Centers Meeting Summaries

May 27, 2009

Patricia Nealon of SynapSense and David Edgar of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) shared their expertise about wireless monitoring of data centers. They showed how wireless sensors can be used to constantly monitor the temperature and humidity in data centers, which allows data center managers to affectively allocate resources.

In this meeting, a final charter was the group was distributed as well as an update on data center news, including ENERGY STAR® updates, a roadmap for data centers, and a summary of upcoming events.

March 24, 2009

In the March meeting of the Federal Partnership for Green Data Centers, representatives from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) spoke to the group about the proposed Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) criteria for data centers. The U.S. Green Buildings Council created the LEED rating system for homes and commercial buildings. Recently, versions have been adopted for retail facilities, schools, and healthcare facilities. LBNL created a list of proposed criteria and has submitted it for consideration.

In the second half, Will Lintner of the Federal Energy Management Program presented an update of data center energy efficiency initiatives taking place in the Department of Energy (DOE), including benchmarking, training, and assessments.

At this meeting, a draft charter for the Federal Partnership for Green Data Centers was circulated. The charter will be finalized in an upcoming meeting.

February 25, 2009

One of the Federal Partnership for Green Data Centers' objectives is to facilitate collaboration between the Federal Government and partners in the private sector to encourage the sharing of information, best practices, and lessons learned. By inviting presenters from McKinsey to participate in the February meeting, the Federal Partnership for Green Data Centers took the first step towards fulfilling this goal. McKinsey participants (Kreg Nichols, Chandru Krishnamurthy, and Will Forrest) spoke to the group about the Corporate Average Data center Efficiency index (CADE), a metric being developed to measure comprehensive data center efficiency.

The U.S. Department of State also presented at the February meeting. Speaker Irvin Gray shared insight about the benefits and challenges to greening data centers through utility energy services contracts (UESC).

January 21, 2009

On Wednesday, January 21, 10 agency representatives attended the first meeting of the Federal Data Center Energy Efficiency Working Group in Washington, D.C., with at least six more attending virtually. The group will meet periodically with the goal of increasing energy efficiency in data centers throughout the Federal Government by sharing best-practice information and promoting data center efforts within each agency. FEMP is also building partnerships with industry stakeholders, who will present cutting-edge strategies and technologies at upcoming meetings.

The meeting opened with Chair Will Lintner of FEMP welcoming the agency representatives to the meeting, followed by three presentations. Paul Scheihing of DOE's Industrial Technologies Program presented information on the Save Energy Now in Data Centers Program. Next, Kathleen Vokes of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR program shared information about ENERGY STAR's forthcoming [specifications for data centers and computer servers](). Next, Robert Green, DOE-OCIO, told the group about DOE's IT initiatives, including expanding virtualization, thin client use, and monitoring desktop power use. Lastly Kevin Powell from the General Administration Services (GSA) gave a presentation entitled "Secure Data Center Solutions." which included information about design charrettes at several GSA-owned facilities and the importance of benchmarking and metrics for tracking performance.