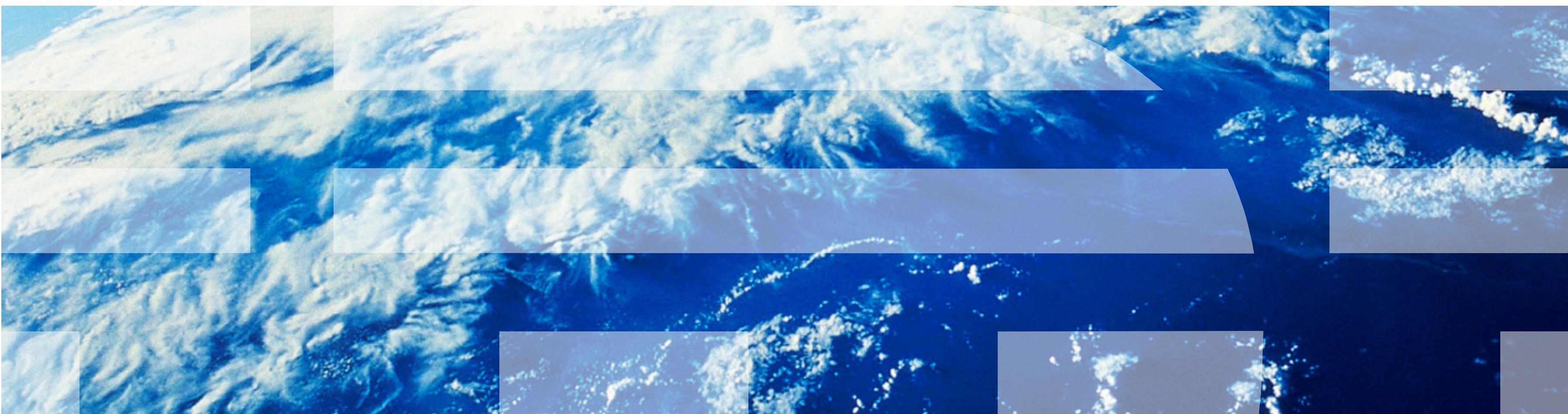


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# Lecture 1



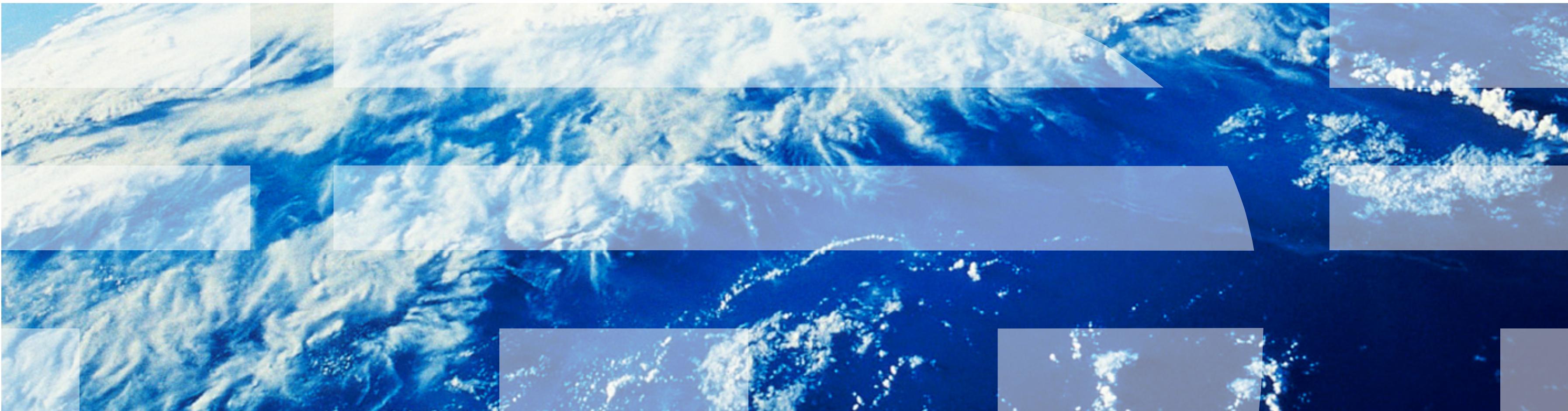
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# Computer Systems for Data Science

## Topic 1

### Course Introduction

### Systems concepts



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## Topic 1: Agenda

Intro to instructors

High-level overview

What is data science and big data?

Class goals and why should you care?

Class logistics

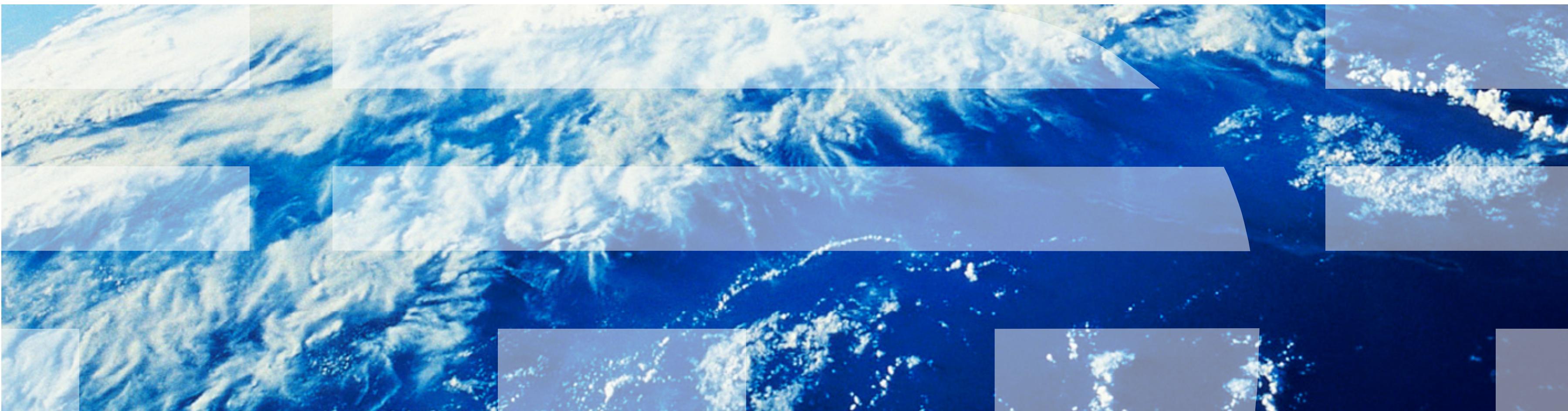
How the class is going to work?

Performance and systems rules of thumb

Intro to datacenters

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# Who Are We?



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## Course Instructors and TAs

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## Course Instructors and TAs

- Instructor: Waqar Aqeel

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- Instructor: Waqar Aqeel
- Head TAs: Krishen and Anouksha

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## Course Instructors and TAs

- Instructor: Waqar Aqeel
- Head TAs: Krishen and Anouksha
- TAs: Anisha, Vaishnavi, Sushmita, Arya
- All CAs have experience in databases and systems

---

# What is Data Science and Big Data?



## This was a system for big data

67	
June 11- 1928	Geo A. Kelly
June 16	Mrs. Chas. Long Jr.
June 16	Nellora Wright
June 16	Charity A. Boles
" "	Mrs. H. A. Carpenter
" "	Mr. & Mrs. Carpenter
July 10	James Ostrom trap 251 S. M. Vernon St. Prescott
July 10	F. W. Gerning
July 10	Millicent Gerning
	Walt Klein
July 11	Mrs. Paul & Daughter
	Mrs. Ralph Roberts
" "	Mrs. A. H. Favours
" "	Mrs. J. A. Miller
	Mrs. C. J. Harris
	Mrs. C. J. Vista
	Mary S. Coopman
	Mrs. Golden Hoffman
	Mrs. Reg & Young
	Mrs. A. L. Whitney
	Mrs. J. F. Treador
	Mrs. J. H. Brown
	Phoenix, Arizona.
	Phoenix Arizona
	Phoenix Arizona
	Prescott - Arizona.
	San Francisco
	Prescott -
	Dewey, Arizona
	Dewey, Arizona
	Ph. 719 - N. Y.
	San Francisco Calif.
	Prescott
	"
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	"
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	"
	"
	Azona
	"

# Data science systems were expensive



## Low-cost hard disk computers are here

11 megabytes of hard disk and 64 kilobytes of fast RAM in a  
Z80A computer for under \$10K. Two floppy drives, too.  
Naturally, it's from Cromemco.

It's a reality. In Cromemco's new Model Z-2H you get all of the above and even more. With Cromemco you get it all.

In this new Model Z-2H you get not only a large-storage Winchester hard disk drive but also two floppy disk drives. In the hard disk drive you get unprecedented storage capacity at this price—11 megabytes unformatted.

You get speed—both in the 4 MHz Z80A microprocessor and in the fast 64K RAM which has a chip access time of only 150 nanoseconds. You get speed in the computer minimum instruction execution time of 1 microsecond. You get speed in the hard disk transfer rate of 5.6 megabits/sec.

### EXPANDABILITY

You get expandability, too. The high-speed RAM can be expanded to 512 kilobytes if you wish.

And the computer has a full 12-slot card cage you can use for additional RAM and interface cards.

### BROADEST SOFTWARE SUPPORT

With the Z-2H you also get the broadest software support in the

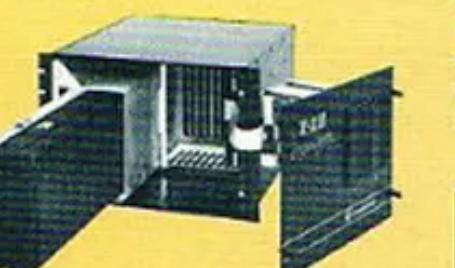
microcomputer field. Software Cromemco is known for. Software like this:

- Extended BASIC
- FORTRAN IV
- RATFOR (RATIONAL FORTRAN)
- COBOL
- Z80 Macro Assembler
- Word Processing System
- Data Base Management

with more coming all the time.

### SMALL, RUGGED, RELIABLE

With all its features the new Z-2H, including its hard disk drive, is still housed in just one small cabinet.



Hard disk drive at lower left can be interchanged just by sliding out and disconnecting plug. Seven free card slots are available. Z-2H includes printer interface card.

Included in that cabinet, too, is Cromemco ruggedness and reliability. Cromemco is time-proved. Our equipment is a survey winner for reliability. Of course, there's Cromemco's all-metal cabinet. Rugged, solid. And, there's the heavy-duty power supply (30A @ 8V, 15A @ +18 V, and 15A @ -18V) for circuitry you'll sooner or later want to plug into those free card slots.

### CALL NOW

With its high performance and low price you KNOW this new Z-2H is going to be a smash. Look into it right now. Contact your Cromemco computer store and get our sales literature. Find out when you can see it. Many dealers will be showing the Z-2H soon—and you'll want to be there when they do.

**PRESENT CROMEMCO USERS**  
We've kept you in mind, too. Ask about the new Model HDD Disk Drive which can combine with your present Cromemco computer to give you up to 22 megabytes of disk storage.



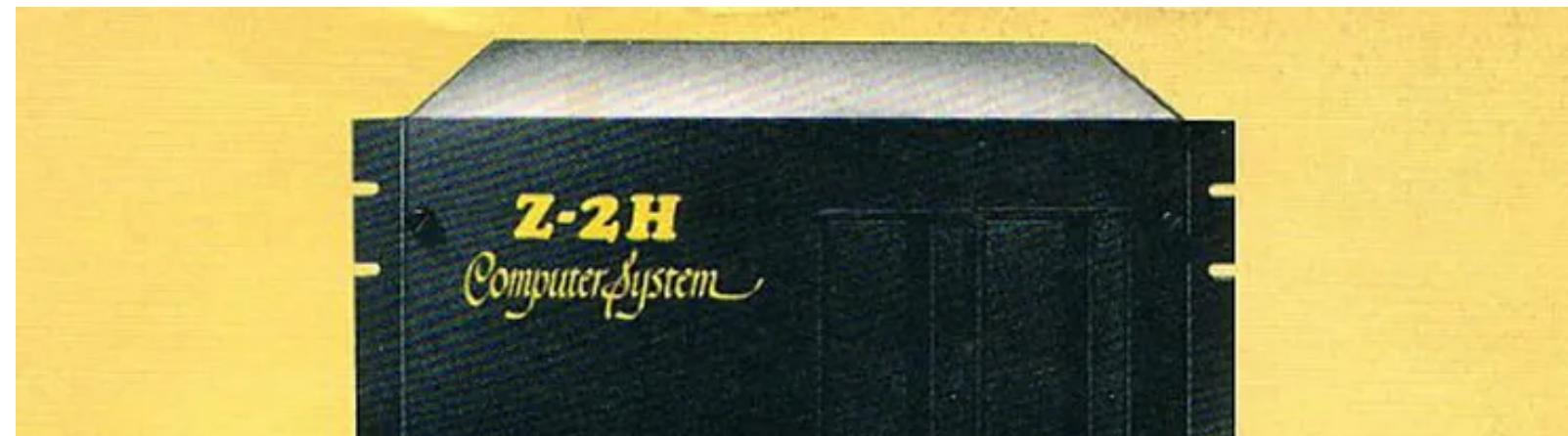
**Cromemco**  
Incorporated

280 BERNARDO AVE., MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94030 • (415) 964-7400

Tomorrow's computers now

CIRCLE 135 ON READER SERVICE CARD

# Data science systems were expensive



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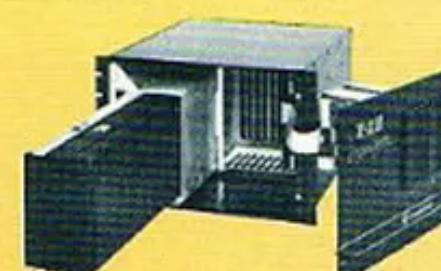
microcomputer market. Cromemco is kind of like a Swiss Army knife.

- External Disk Drives
- FORTAN
- RATER
- COBOL
- Z80 Microprocessor
- Word Processing System
- Data Base Management

with more coming all the time.

### SMALL, RUGGED, RELIABLE

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Hard disk drive at lower left can be interchanged just by sliding out and disconnecting the power and data plug. Seven free card slots are available. Z-2H includes printer interface card.

## C3 Generative AI: Enterprise Edition Info

[View purchase options](#)

Pricing is based on the duration and terms of your contract with the vendor, and additional usage. You pay upfront or in installments according to your contract terms with the vendor. This entitles you to a specified quantity of use for the contract duration. Usage-based pricing is in effect for overages or additional usage not covered in the contract. These charges are applied on top of the contract price. If you choose not to renew or replace your contract before the contract end date, access to your entitlements will expire.

Additional AWS infrastructure costs may apply. Use the [AWS Pricing Calculator](#) to estimate your infrastructure costs.

### 1-month contract (1) Info

Dimension	Description	Cost/month	Overage cost
Production Pilot Fee	\$250,000 over a period of 3 months - required with all options	\$250,000.00	\$0.55/unit

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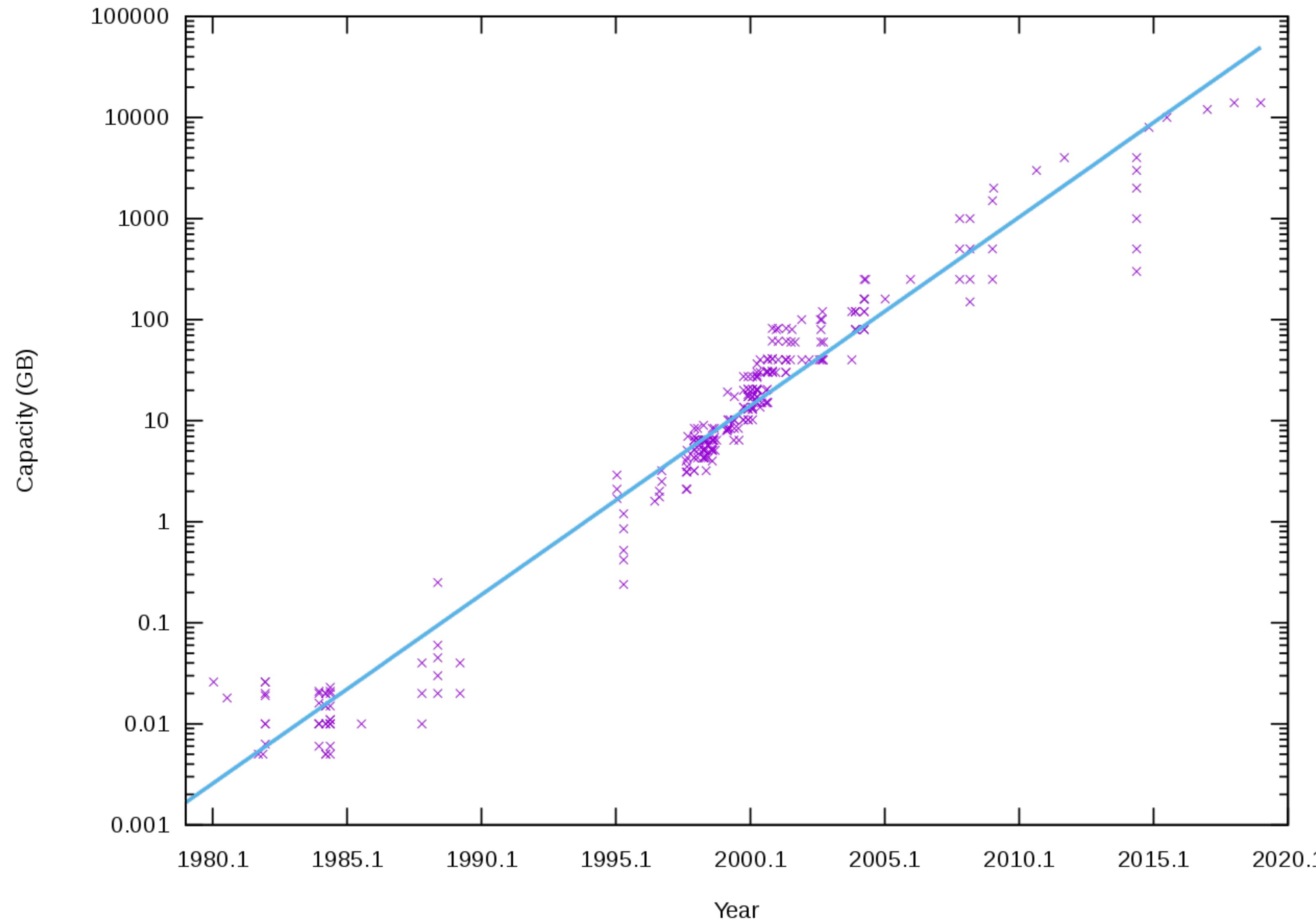
Tomorrow's computers now

CIRCLE 135 ON READER SERVICE CARD

## They are still expensive!

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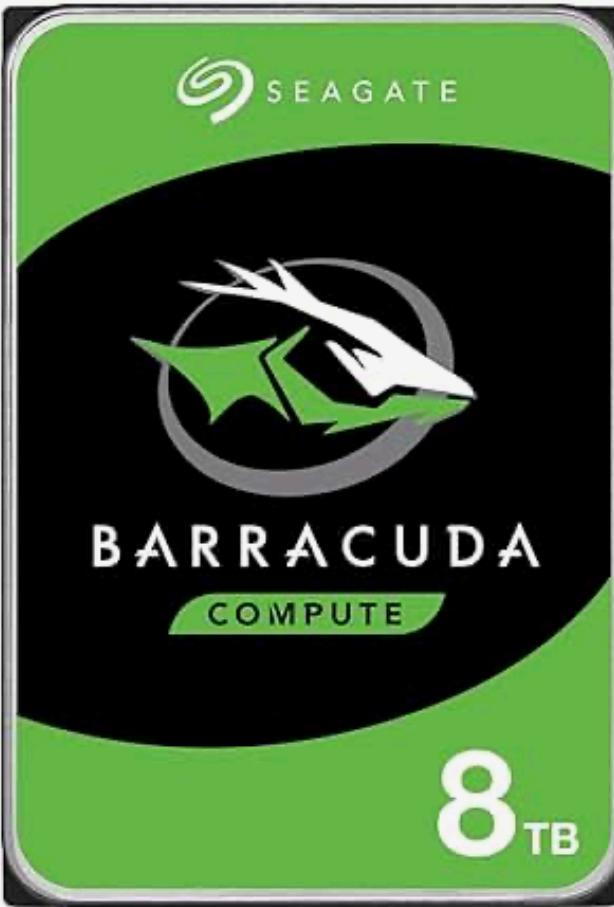
Today: data is cheap



## Today: data is cheap



Overall Pick ⓘ

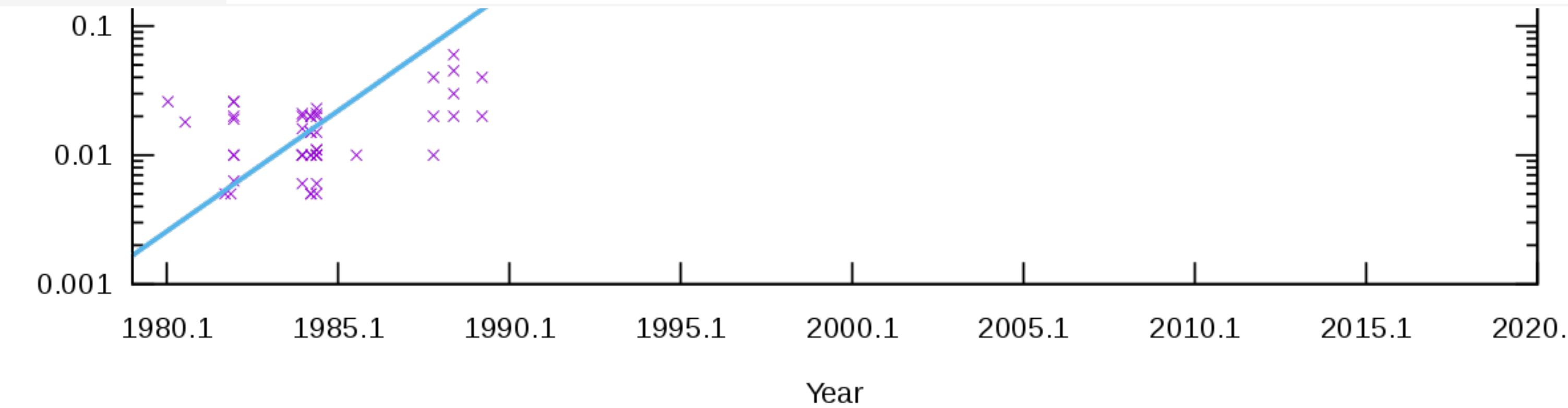


**Seagate BarraCuda 8 TB Internal Hard Drive HDD – 3.5 Inch SATA 6 Gb/s, 5,400 RPM, 256 MB Cache for Computer Desktop PC (ST8000DMZ04/004)**

4.6 ★★★★★ (103.4K)  
3K+ bought in past month

**\$169<sup>99</sup>**  
**✓prime Today**  
**FREE delivery Today 6 PM - 11 PM**

**Add to cart**  
**More Buying Choices**  
**\$159.88 (13+ used & new offers)**



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## Where is data coming from?

- Physical devices



---

## Where is data coming from?

- Physical devices
- Software logs

---

## Where is data coming from?

- Physical devices
- Software logs
- Phones



---

## Where is data coming from?

- Physical devices
- Software logs
- Phones
- GPS/Cars



---

## Where is data coming from?

- Physical devices
- Software logs
- Phones
- GPS/Cars
- Internet of Things



# Where is data coming from?

- Physical devices
- Software logs
- Phones
- GPS/Cars
- Internet of Things
- Social media, website contents



The New York Times

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 Today's Paper

U.S. INTERNATIONAL CANADA ESPAÑOL 中文 SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1/WEEK LOG IN S&P 500 -2.06% ↑

**LIVE 1m ago** Trump Opens Davos Speech by Touting U.S. Economy and Criticizing Europe

President Trump, addressing leaders in Davos, highlighted his policies before pivoting to criticism of Europe, saying it was "not heading in the right direction."

See more updates ›

**ANALYSIS** Canada Flexes on Global Stage With an Eye to Its Own Survival

Prime Minister Mark Carney got a standing ovation for starkly describing the end of Pax Americana. He is looking for new allies to help his country survive it.

5 MIN READ

**UPDATES FROM OUR REPORTERS**

Jim Tankersley

Trump's explicit case here is that Germany invaded Denmark in World War II, and the United States had to defend Greenland but then gave it back. Trump calls America "stupid" for that move and calls Denmark "ungrateful."

● ● ● ◀ ▶

Greenland Tensions Rattle Global Markets 52454.4 2 MIN READ

Some Republicans Begin to Echo Trump's Case to Acquire Greenland 4 MIN READ

Why Was Macron Wearing Sunglasses at Davos? 2 MIN READ

10 Long Books for Long Winter Nights 5 MIN READ

Are They Hot, or Is It the 'Australia Effect'? 4 MIN READ

◀ ▶

Winnie Au for The New York Times

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## What can we do with all this data?

- What video should I recommend to this user to view next?

---

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- Does this MRI image of a breast contain a tumor?
- Who is going to win the election?
- Which cities in the US will have high incidence of flu in 2 weeks?
- Is the object across from the car a pedestrian?

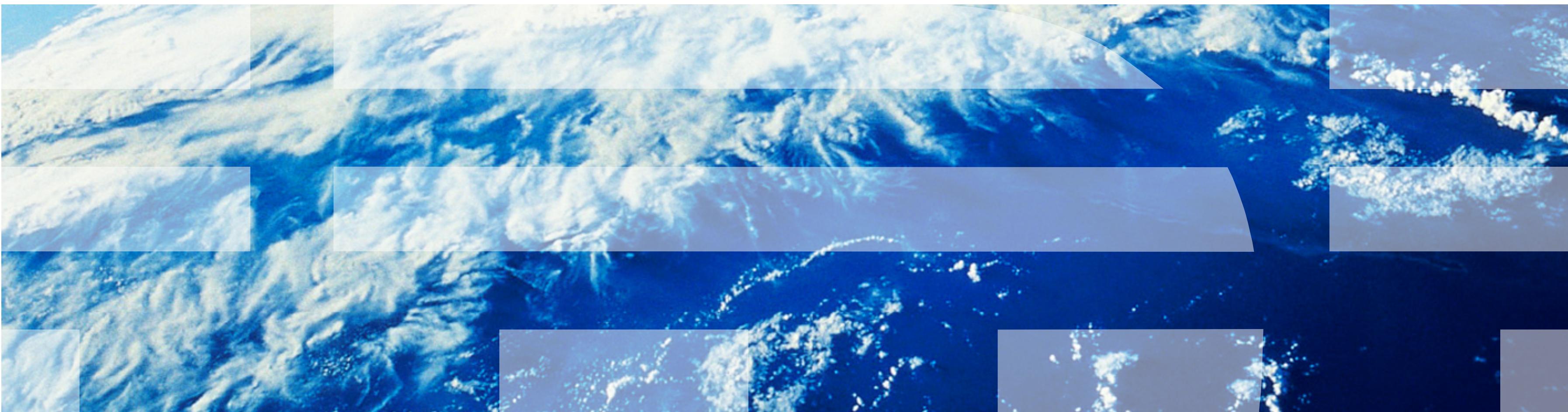
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## What is big data?

- “**Extremely large data sets** that may be analyzed computationally to reveal patterns, trends, and associations, especially relating to human behavior and interactions” – Oxford Dictionary
  
- What’s an extremely large data set?
  - Fits on a single machine?
  - Fits on 10 machines?

---

# What is this class about?



---

Our focus in this class: **Computer Systems** for Data Science

---

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How do we ensure uptime/availability to the data?

How can data be visualized?

How do ML/AI systems work?

What are the statistical/ mathematical foundations for data science?

How to ensure privacy/ security/quality?

---

## Course Objectives

---

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- **Graduate-level course**

---

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- **Broad overview of cloud systems that are used in data science**
  - **Database** related topics (DBMS, SQL, NoSQL, data lakes/warehouses)
  - **Computer systems** foundations (throughput vs. latency, scalability vs. performance)
  - **Distributed systems** for data scientists (sharding, fault tolerance)
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- **You come from diverse backgrounds:** Some of the content will be repetitive for students who have taken the classes above, like databases, systems, networks etc.
- **Required background**
  - Programming experience with Python
  - Both programming assignments will be submitted in Python

---

## Course Administration and Grading

---

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  - Show locally, link to come

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  - Lecture slides
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- **Homework, assignments, exams**
  - Programming assignment 2: (5%)
  - Written assignment 2: systems and databases (5%)
  - Programming assignment 3: Indexing and filtering (10%)
  - Written assignment 4: distributed systems, ML, security (5%)
  - In-person midterm (25%)
  - In-person final exam (50%)

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- **All assignments will be turned in online**
- **All classes streamed online (Zoom) and recorded (available on CourseWorks)**
  - No attendance required

---

## Programming Assignments

---

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- 2 programming assignments
  - Both done individually

---

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- Programming assignments are in Python
  - Brush up on your Python if you are rusty: many resources online
    - Most commonly-used language for data scientists

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- Programming assignment 1 done in Google Cloud (GCP)
  - Goal: familiarize yourself with working in public cloud environment
    - AWS / Azure / GCP are similar
    - Many systems and deployment details are hidden / automated (but we won't ignore them!)
    - We will be focusing on systems-level problems, not on algorithms
  - We will provide GCP credits, if you run out contact us
    - If you reach \$10 of credits or less, please contact: Arya Shidore
    - But be careful not to spend too many!

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    - But be careful not to spend too many!
- Programming assignment goals
  - Assignment 1: BigQuery
    - Learning to use SQL on a big data set
  - Assignment 3: Indexing and filtering data structures
    - Understanding how real-world data systems data structures work, strengthen Python skills

---

## More logistics

- **Office hours:**
  - CAs will hold office hours every weekday over Google Meet
  - Course calendar will have the meeting link: all office hours will use the same link
- **Ed**
  - A CA is guaranteed to be available on Ed every weekday (when the school is open) from 9AM – 5PM. We will try to answer your questions as fast as possible
- **Submit your assignments on time!**
  - Homework submission will be on Gradescope
  - **If you do not submit your HW on time, your grade will be 0%**
  - We will give you **plenty of time** for the assignments, don't wait until the last minute!
  - You can resubmit homework as many times as you want, until the deadline

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## Tentative Contents and Syllabus

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- Computer systems and performance rules of thumb
  - Latency vs. throughput
  - Amdahl's law
  - Back-of-the-envelope systems math
  - Performance bottlenecks

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  - What is a data center?
  - Data center failures
  - Achieving reliability with smart software
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- Relational model and SQL
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  - SELECT, FROM, WHERE
  - GROUPBY
  - JOINs
  - Nested queries
  - Transactions
  - ACID
  - OLAP vs. OLTP, SQL vs. NoSQL
  - Logging

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  - The memory hierarchy
  - Storage technologies primer
  - Distributed file systems
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  - Filters
  - Caching
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  - Stragglers
  - Lineage
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- Global serving infra
  - Layered load balancing
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- Observability
  - Data monitoring
  - Production metrics as a big data system
  - Data quality

Adapted from David Patterson and Kathryn McKinley

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# Performance Concepts and Rules of Thumb



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- Metrics allow us to compare two computer systems
- They are crucial for proving improvements, diagnosing regressions

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## Tradeoff: latency vs. throughput

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- A more relevant example:
  - Latency requirement: Assuming cars drive at 65mph, so self driving car needs to recognize an object in 0.1 seconds
  - Throughput requirement: Object recognition system needs to process 1 million object recognition tasks every second to support 10,000 cars simultaneously

---

## Latency vs. Throughput is often a trade off

Plane	DC to Paris	Speed	Passengers	Throughput (pmph)
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- Which plane has higher **performance**?
  - Time to do the task (execution time)
    - Latency, execution time, response time
  - Tasks per day, hour, week, sec (performance)
    - Throughput, bandwidth, operations per second
  - Depends on what YOU want

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- “System X is n times faster than Y” means:
  - $n = \frac{\text{performance}(X)}{\text{performance}(Y)}$

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## How do we improve performance?

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- Suppose we have a database that processes two types of queries:
  - Query A finishes in 100 seconds
  - Query B finishes in 2 seconds
- We want better performance
  - Which query should we improve?
- The answer: it depends! (a pretty lousy answer)

---

## Speedup

- Make a change to the system
  - Measure how much faster/slower it is
- 
- $$Speedup = \frac{Execution\ time\ before\ change}{Execution\ time\ after\ change}$$

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Speedup when we know details about the change

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  - How good is the enhancement? (factor S)
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- $$ExTime_{new} = ExTime_{old} * \left[ (1 - p) + \frac{p}{S} \right]$$

- Explanation:
  - $(1 - p)$  is the fraction of operations that are not affected by E
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    - Customers are either complaining, or they are not

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- More useful for parallel programming bottlenecks, but can be adapted here.

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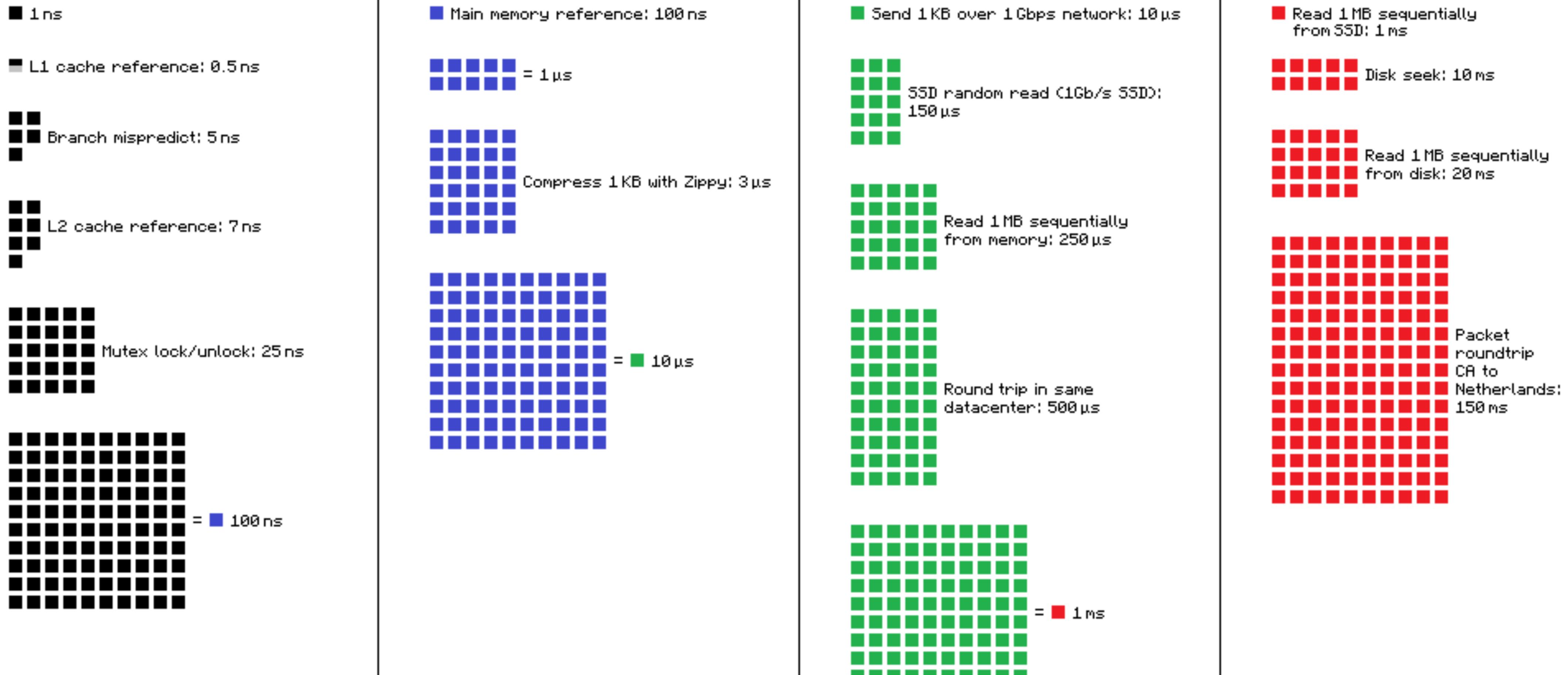
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- Read a small random object from magnetic disk: 10,000,000ns, 10ms
- Run a SQL query on a disk database: 20,000,000ns, 20ms
- Roundtrip time over the internet: 30,000,000us, 30ms
  - Bounded by the speed of light! Roundtrip light speed from NYC to Beijing is ~150ms

## Latency Numbers Every Programmer Should Know



Source: <https://gist.github.com/2841832>

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- Scenario:
  - A user application running in the cloud needs to read a small object (e.g., lookup the student's name using their CUID).
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  - → Since 72% requests go to the database and it's so slow, its latency dominates the total latency

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- Scenario 2: The app requires getting an initial response from the cloud database, then a user input, and then another cloud database request
  - Latency with flash database: 202ms
  - **Latency with disk database: 220ms**
- Scenario 3: The app requires 20 sequential databases accesses within the cloud to compute a single user query, and then it can return a response
  - **Latency with flash database: 120ms**
  - Latency with disk database: 300ms

---

## Identifying performance bottlenecks

- My application is seeing an average latency of 200ms, where is the bottleneck?
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- Guess 2: database slowdown (second highest latency)

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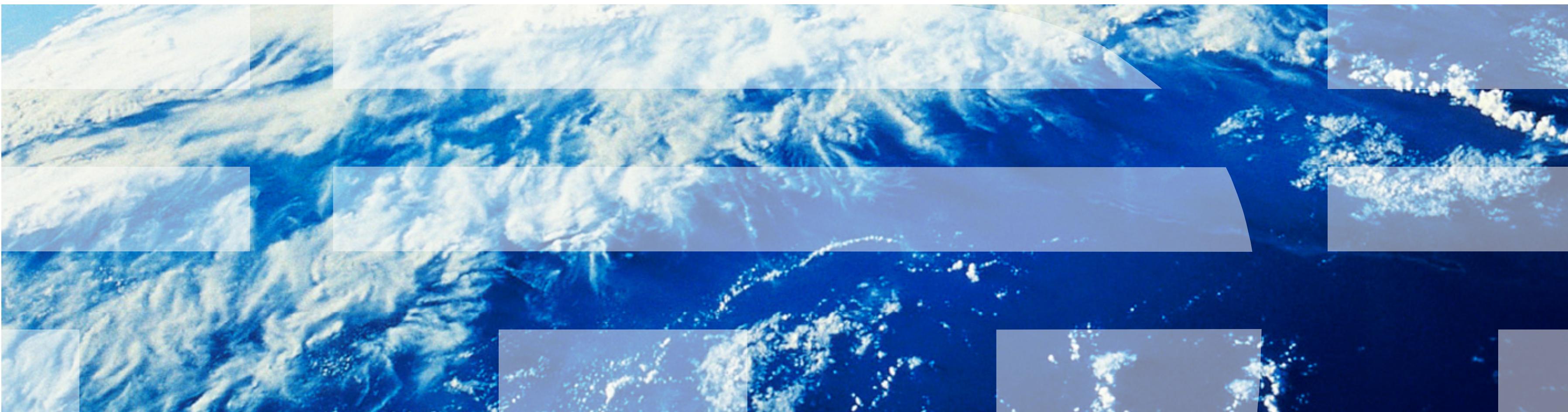
## Summary

- Latency and throughput: two important metrics, sometimes correlate, but often do not
- Amdahl's law: optimize the common case
- Computer systems almost always involve a performance vs. cost trade off

Adapted from Mendel Rosenblum and Jeff Dean

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# The Infrastructure of Big Data



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## Motivating example: Google web search (1999 vs. 2010)

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- More machines \* faster machines: ~1000X

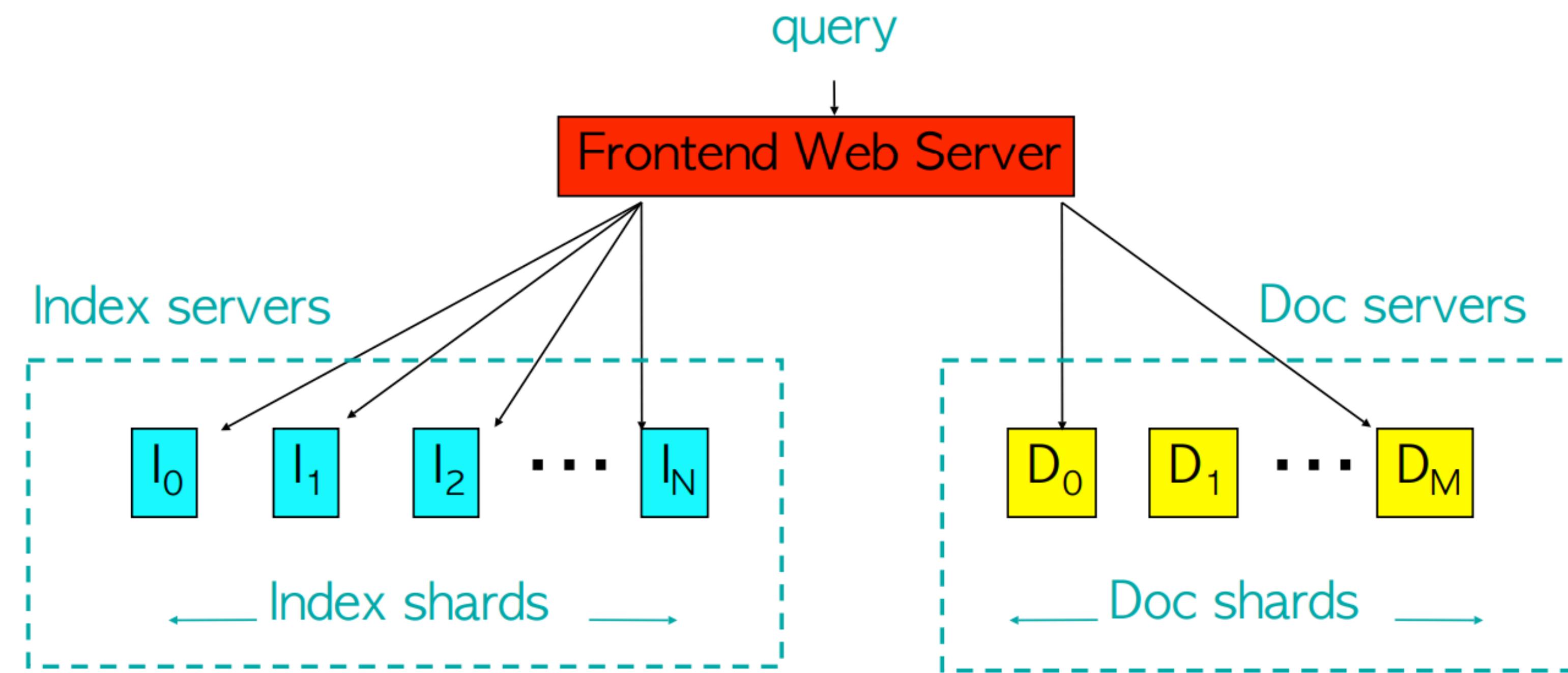
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## Google Circa 1997 (definitely not big data)



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## Google infrastructure circa 1997 could fit in a single room



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## Scaling up

- What happens when a server doesn't fit in a single room?
- What happens if we need 1000X more servers?

---

## Scaling up

- What happens when a server doesn't fit in a single room?
- What happens if we need 1000X more servers?
  
- The cloud to the rescue!
  - Also known as... **data centers**

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## Evolution of data centers

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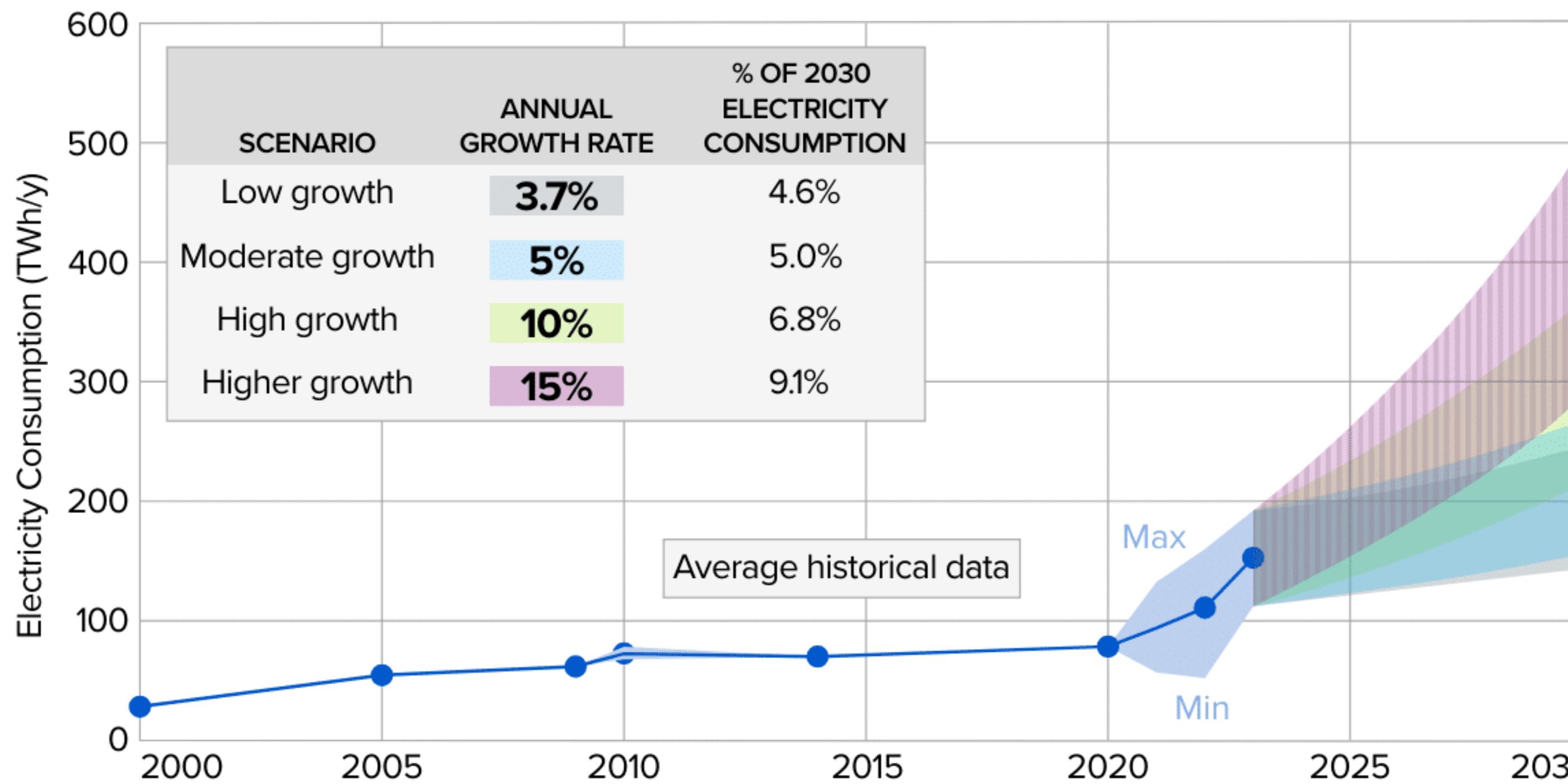
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- 2020's-today:
  - Accelerated construction of AI-specific datacenters
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- Companies consider data center technology a trade-secret, especially in the age of AI
  - Limited public discussion of the state of the art from industry leaders

## Power is the biggest constraint



**Figure ES-1.** Projections of potential electricity consumption by U.S. data centers: 2023–2030 . % of 2030 electricity consumption projections assume that all other (non-data center) load increases at 1% annually.

NATIONAL

**Three Mile Island nuclear plant will reopen to power Microsoft data centers**

**Google emissions jump 48% in five years due to AI data center boom**

Water and electricity use soar to record highs

# Network infrastructure at a data center

Discovering Data Centers

The illustration shows a large, modern data center building with multiple levels and windows. It is situated on a green hillside with several evergreen trees. Above the building, several vertical columns of binary code (0s and 1s) are floating in the air, suggesting data transmission or storage. The background is white, and the overall style is clean and professional.

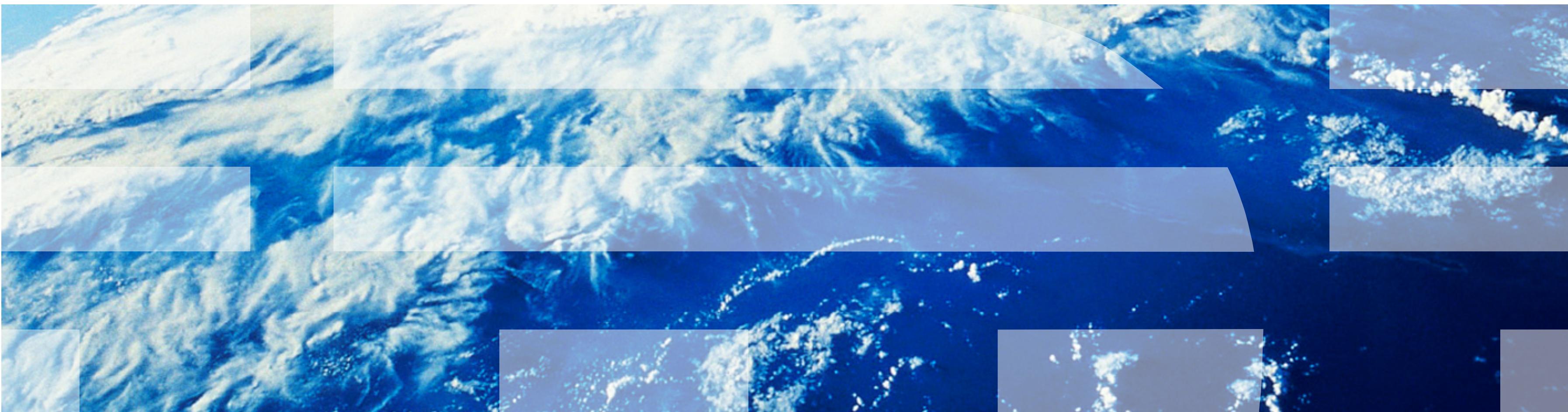
# Network infrastructure at a data center

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# Datacenter building blocks



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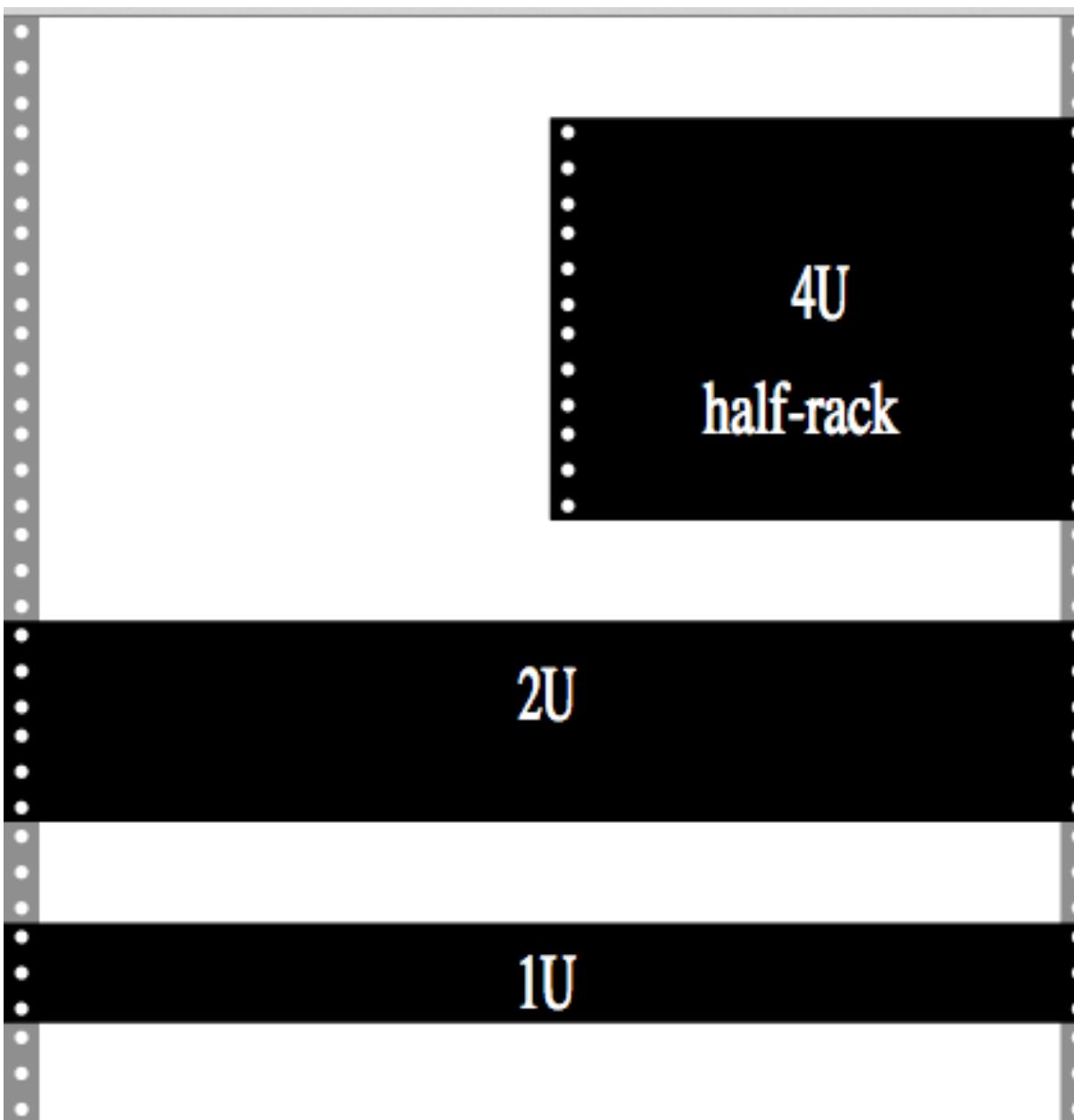
# Rack



# Rack

- Typically is 19 or 23 inches wide
- Typically 42 U
  - U or RU is a Rack Unit - 1.75 inches

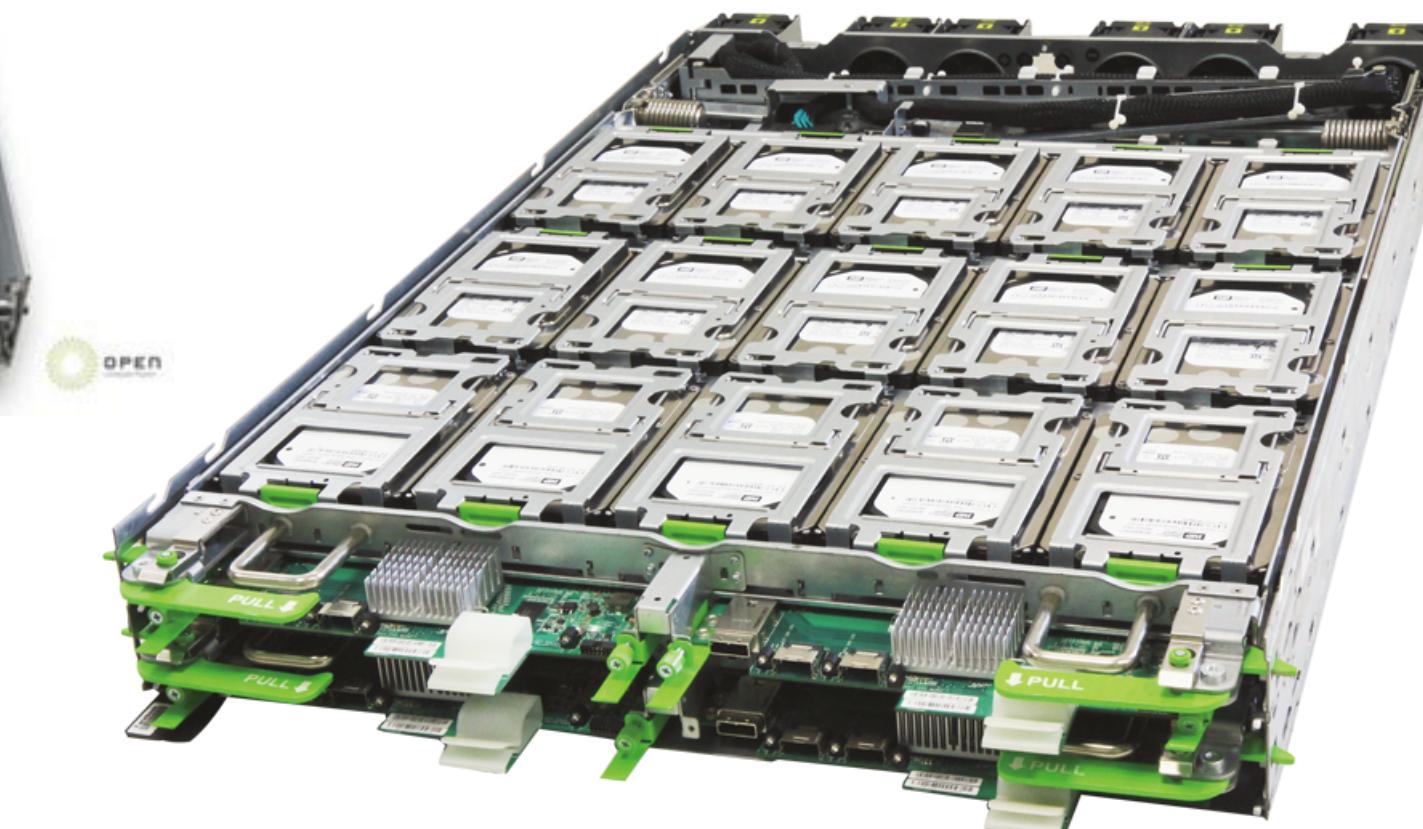
- Slots:



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## Rack Slots

- Slots hold power distribution, servers, storage, networking equipment
- Typical server: 2U
  - 128-192 cores
  - DRAM: 256-512 GB
- Typical storage: 2U
  - 30 drives
- Typical Network: 1U
  - 72 100Gb/s



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# Project Stargate

## Announcing The Stargate Project

### Announcing The Stargate Project

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The Stargate Project is a new company which intends to invest \$500 billion over the next four years building new AI infrastructure for OpenAI in the United States. We will begin deploying \$100 billion immediately. This infrastructure will secure American leadership in AI, create hundreds of thousands of American jobs, and generate massive economic benefit for the entire world. This project will not only support the re-industrialization of the United States but also provide a strategic capability to protect the national security of America and its allies.

The initial equity funders in Stargate are SoftBank, OpenAI, Oracle, and MGX. SoftBank and OpenAI are the lead partners for Stargate, with SoftBank having financial responsibility and OpenAI having operational responsibility. Masayoshi Son will be the chairman.