



**Atos**

Chair of Distributed Information Systems

# Measurement of Energy-efficiency in the Context of Office Workplaces

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# **Abstract**

Due to progressively tightening climate conservation legislation, energy efficiency becomes an increasingly important issue in the context of office work. By the year 2050 the Federal Climate Change Law mandates negative greenhouse emissions, which is most likely only achievable by a massive reduction in emissions due to energy generation. By creating an experimental measurement laboratory in a real office environment, this paper describes the creation of a reliable data source and evaluation methodology. The data set contains a time series of power consumption of different device types. The gathered data differentiates various device types and workplaces. Three discrete key performance indicators (CO<sub>2</sub> Footprint, Workday to Weekday Consumption Ratio, Idle Time) are used to evaluate the established data basis and results are presented in various visualizations. Additionally an interactive dashboard tool to further explore the data set is introduced.

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# **1 Introduction**

## **1.1 Sustainability**

In 2015, the notion of sustainability was defined by a set of 17 distinct goals by the UN [9], called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each goal was defined by a subset of different targets, aiming to define a successful completion of this goal. To evaluate the contribution of this work, the chosen research subject is mapped to specific goals and the concrete targets in section 1.1.1. The tangible legal frameworks, that are implemented in Germany are discussed in section 1.1.2.

### **1.1.1 Sustainability Targets**

In the discussion on sustainability, the service sector is involved in almost all goals listed by the EU. The numbering of all specified goals can be seen in figure 1.1 and are listed as follows:

## 1 Introduction



Figure 1.1: Overview of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) numbered from 1 to 17, adapted from The 2030 Agenda by Bundesregierung Deutschland, 2022 [16].

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1	No Poverty	9	Industry, Innovation And Infrastructure
2	Zero Hunger	10	Reduced Inequalities
3	Good Health and Well-Being	11	Sustainable Cities & Communities
4	Quality Education	12	Responsible Consumption & Production
5	Gender Equality	13	Climate Action
6	Clean Water & Sanitation	14	Life Below Water
7	Affordable & Clean Energy	15	Life On Land
8	Decent Work & Economic Growth	16	Peace & Justice, Strong Institutions

---

While providing good paying jobs through less physically intensive work, and easily accessible education, coordination services, IT and office work provides positive influences to goals regarding economic prosperity, equality and innovation (1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10). As such the positive influences of work in this sector should be sustained as much as possible. On the other hand, service sector corporations can actively create challenges to physical and mental well being, manifested in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 3, as IT occupations are often sedentary and mentally demanding. Goals re-

## *1 Introduction*

garding Sustainable consumption, city development, institutional regulation and clean environment needs (SDGs 6, 11, 12 and 16) can be at odds with the needs of the IT sector, due to the push to urbanization by office jobs, the variety of supply needs in modern offices. While mostly being neutral to almost all other goals, after the initial challenges are met, the sustainability can be threatened with respect to affordable and clean energy (goal 7) simply due to the existence of fully supplied offices in a developed country. Energy demands due to production, operation and demolition are a constant byproduct of economic activity in the service and IT sector. In order to facilitate the positives of office work, our goal should be to minimize negative effects in these specific other areas. Energy efficiency is an adequate tool to mitigate parts of the damages ensued due to office economy. However, to find effective ways to curb electricity consumption in all areas, a solid knowledge foundation is key, to compare and evaluate problems and solutions in the field. On the side of energy generation it is important to analyze the technical and political framework to energy availability, and the respective environmental costs.

### **1.1.2 National Goal Implementations**

As a member of the European Union, the german government for the first time enacted in 2019 the respective goals into national policy with an agenda tackling every sustainability goal with the following points:

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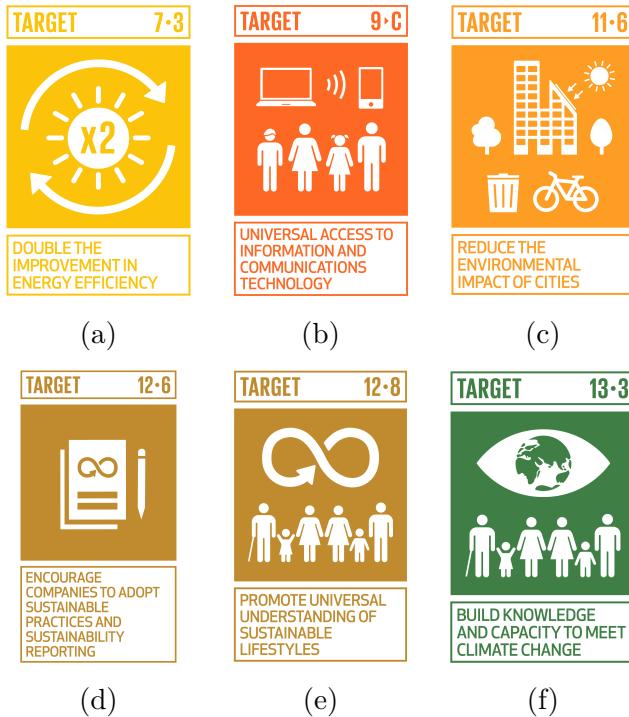


Figure 1.2: Collection of targets concerned by energy efficiency adapted from Global Goals, 2022 via '<https://www.globalgoals.org/resources/>'.

- Human well-being and capabilities, social justice (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)
- Climate action and energy transition (SDGs 7, 13)
- Circular economy (SDGs 8, 9, 12)
- Sustainable building and transport (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13)
- Sustainable agricultural and food systems (SDGs 2, 3, 8, 12, 13)
- A pollutant-free environment (SDGs 6, 8, 9, 14, 15)

While adapting the goals of the European Union, the specific implementation is similarly vague, in most cases. In terms of greenhouse gas emission, these goals were defined to incorporate a reduction of emissions by 65% until 2030 compared to the level of 1990, up to a final CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality by 2045 [25].

## 1.2 Power Consumption as a Contributor

From publications by the Umweltbundesamt, around 84% of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions are produced due to emissions regarding energy and heat generation. While the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are receding, this partition remains almost constant [24]. Therefore in order to fulfill CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality by the year 2045, more than 80% of the problem stems from meeting any kind of energy demands. As part of the Federal Climate Change Act of 2021, the legal binding achievement of emission neutrality was finalized. The legal goal and methodology is posted as "Climate neutrality of the federal administration is to be achieved, in particular, through energy savings, through the efficient provision, conversion, use and storage of energy and efficient use of renewable energy sources and the selection of the most climatefriendly modes of transport" [5]. While setting clear milestones in a specific time frame, the legislation only sets out a very vague set of interventions. In light of achieving these goals, this work sets out to investigate possible contributions available in the context of energy consumption in office environments. The three objectives are defined as:

1. Generation of a robust and reliable energy consumption data set.
2. Estimating the direct impact of consumed electricity on CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.
3. Use well defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to identify optimization potential in energy consumption.

The section 2 highlights related works intersecting with these three research aspects and the office environment.

## 2 Related Works

As expected by the expansive number of factors contributing to sustainability, the amount of related works is also numerous. The spectrum of different research questions reflect the many facets of the broad topic of sustainability, and needs to be differentiated in the three relevant aspects, as seen in section 1.2. In 2.1 an excerpt of literature regarding available data in the context of office buildings are shown. Section 2.2 gives an insight into CO<sub>2</sub> footprint estimation. Finally in section 2.3 a few papers outlining specific efficiency possibilities are shown.

### 2.1 Data Gathering And Office Consumption

The study by Kurt W. Roth et al. [19] gives a first insight on expected data in an office environment. By calculations of estimated operation hours over a year, the distribution of energy consumption across different device types were quantified and accumulated over an estimated lifetime in commercial buildings.

As a template in gathering and evaluation of measurement data can be seen in the work by S. Wilhelm et al. [27]. The author created a labeled energy consumption data set to provide training data of private households for algorithms and machine learning in various applications. The hardware setup fits the requirements set by the experiment of

this work. Parts of the software described in section 4.1.2, was built upon the basis that was graciously provided by S. Wilhelm.

## **2.2 CO<sub>2</sub> Estimation**

As CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted in various stages of the office life cycle, different aspects can be examined. The work of Suzuki et al. [22] gives a detailed estimation of CO<sub>2</sub> impact from construction, through operation until deconstruction using industrial statistics of manufacturers and contractors. With respect to energy consumption specifically, the work of R.Saidur [20] establishes an estimation of the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint created by office buildings in Malaysia. The data was split into general appliances, air conditioning and lighting, to provide a very general overview of consumption in this context. Both works base their CO<sub>2</sub> footprint estimation upon conversion tables which relate CO<sub>2</sub> generation to their specific energy source. However this approach does not translate equally when considering power consumption. One main reason for this, is the international power grid system, which enables free trade and consumption of energy without regard where said electricity was produced. The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) proposed by the European Commission determines greenhouse intensity using the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG). This protocol is structured similarly to a traditional accounting system, by separating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into three distinct scopes as seen in table 2.1. To determine CO<sub>2</sub> footprint in this manner, it would be necessary to consult the emission report of the university's respective energy provider. As these data points depend on the respective 'Scope 1' values of the provider, a proper estimation could be made referring to CO<sub>2</sub> emission data given in their Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) report or, if sufficient non mandatory data is given [23], data entered into the german Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR). Each register only requires an annual report [4],

and are unavailable in the scope of this work. In section 4.2.3 a case for the usage of average CO<sub>2</sub> consumption will be made.

Scope 1:	direct emission due to energy generation, transportation, processing and fugitive emissions
Scope 2:	indirect emissions due to consumed purchased electricity, and associated transportation & distribution costs
Scope 3:	(optional) indirect emissions due to further activities upstream in the energy generation supply line, for example drilling and construction of electricity trade companies

Table 2.1: Scope distinction defined in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG) Corporate Standard [17].

## 2.3 Efficiency Potential

By researching the theoretical potential of energy savings, further interesting principles can be discovered. The article by R. Launder [11] determines that all computation produces a minimum change in entropy of a closed computational system, due to irreversible physical processes, greater or equal to  $\log_e 2 \times k_b \times T$ . This is also known as the 'Landauer Limit' or 'Landauer Principle', and was also shown to hold in dedicated experiments, as seen by the publication of J.P.S Peterson et al. [14]. While prohibiting real 'zero energy consumption' computations, the theoretical efficiency boundaries are far from limiting the potential efficiency gains through modern interventions.

A field study by Victor Zhirnov et al. [28] gave a qualitative overview of energy consumption of different parts of computer processing, with 42% of energy consumed by Displays, 35% by computing, 19% by communication and about 4% by storage. Furthermore an increase in energy efficiency in processor computation with respect to circuit size was shown, as switching energy per transistor is decreasing. During experimentation, the specific consumption ratios can be compared to the data given here.

## *2 Related Works*

In Pereira et al. [13] the power consumption of 26 different programming languages was compared on a small collection of standard problems. The results show a clear superiority of compiled languages compared to interpreted languages in terms of energy efficiency. Although not in every case, the efficiency with respect to time performance correlate very closely to total power consumption. This also means that the quality of work will have great influence in expected outcomes. This could introduce unaccounted differences in consumption patterns.

# 3 Physics Fundamentals

The section 3.1 establishes a short overview of the physical quantities relevant to be measured by the instruments in order to determine power consumption. Section 3.2 introduces the considerations of noise encountered during measurement due to voltage fluctuations.

## 3.1 Physical quantities

To establish a robust data basis, a compressed investigation on the physical fundamentals has to be made, in order to ensure a realistic expectation on the available data can be expected. Instantaneous electrical power ( $P$ ) is defined as the derivative of electrical energy over at time  $t_0$ . Electrical energy ( $W$ ) is the combination of the electric current ( $I$ ), defined as transported charge ( $Q$ ) over time, and the electric voltage ( $V$ ) of electric particles moving in an electric circuit/citeHacker2020. Given the measurement of each quantity is determined as the average value over a measurement interval, all quantities are also defined as constant over the given time period. Therefore the relevant electric properties of the system can be described by the simplified formula shown in equation 3.1.

$$W = P \times t = I \times V \times t = V \times Q \quad (3.1)$$

By observation of the formula, the act of measuring the amount of power consumed in an electrical system is accomplished by determining the electrical potential and electrical current in a system over a given amount of time.

## 3.2 Voltage Fluctuations

The first component of interest is the voltage provided by the outlets used in IT application environments. In European countries, the amount and fluctuations of the electric grid is regulated in European standard 'Europäische Norm (EN) 50160'. By this standardization boundaries on frequency, voltage fluctuation, flickering, faults and other quantities were given. As most regulations regard the quality and safety of the power grid, an overview on relevant standards for measurement needs is given in table 3.1. Due to the given voltage fluctuation ranges, a theoretical measurement error of 10% could be expected on instantaneous measurements, due to noise in the mean voltage value of 230V. As quality standards also demand the fluctuations to be ideally symmetrical, noise in the voltage supplied should mostly cancel out when averaging over multiple measurements. For this reason, a method with a sufficient surplus of separate measurements, averaged over a larger time span, should be considered preferable. In this thesis, the fluctuations in measurement due to voltage issues is considered negligible.

frequency	50 Hz (+/- 1%)
voltage fluctuation (slow)	230 V (+/- 10%)
voltage fluctuation (fast)	230 V (+/- 5%)
voltage faults (short)	< 1000 per year
voltage faults (long)	< 50 per year

Table 3.1: extract of standardization values given in EN 50160 [8].

### 3.3 Determining Electric Current

By analyzing the electric formula of equation 3.1 and the conclusion of section 3.2 the power measurement is directly correlated to the electrical current an office appliance is drawing from the grid. In electrical engineering, different methods to determine the current in an electric circuit are known. The most direct way would consist of a separately closed electric circuit where voltage drops on a standardized resistor. However, this approach does not allow the observation of an already established supply system. The application of measuring 'in-use' appliances, requires different methods, like the usage linear current hall effect sensors.

#### Hall Effect

The hall effect is a physical phenomenon, named after US physicist Edwin Hall: 1855 – 1938. The effect "...occurs in a current-carrying conductor that is located in a magnetic field. Thereby an electric field builds up which is perpendicular to the current direction and the magnetic field and compensates the Lorentz force affecting the electrons" [10]. In figure 3.1 a depiction of the hall sensor and its components can be viewed. Basically the conducting sheet measures a permeating magnetic field 'H' by the voltage differential ' $V_H$ ' created through Lorentz forces ( $F_L$ ) affecting the 'Constant Current Flow'. This is possible, as the hall voltage is rising, until its equivalent electric force ( $F_e$ ) creates an equilibrium. The electric field strength (E) is equivalent to the hall voltage ( $V_H$ ) divided by the diameter of the conductor plate (d). The strength the Lorentz force is directly proportional to the strength of the magnetic field (B), as well as drift velocity (v) and charge (q) of the current. The drift velocity of the particles is dictated by the current and cross section of the conductor. All relevant quantities can be computed

using formula 3.2.

$$F_e = E \times q = \frac{V_H}{d} \times q = B \times v \times q = F_L \quad (3.2)$$

Rearranged the strength of the directional magnetic field is computed as shown in equation 3.3.

$$B = \frac{V_H}{d \times v} \quad (3.3)$$

As every flowing current induces an electromagnetic field around the conduction it is traversing, the hall effect can be utilized to directly measure the current of a nearby electric circuit. Depending on the design of the sensor unit, the direction of electric current (positive or negative) can be distinguished. With additional amplification, trim settings and filtering, a clearer signal can be deduced, as alternating current does not produce a constant electromagnetic field. These sensors often are designated as linear current hall effect sensors. A simplified block diagram of such a hall sensor can be seen in figure 3.2

## 3.4 Summary

The conclusion of this section is, that using an assortment of hall effect sensors, the accurate measurement of flowing current in a live IT environment is very possible. As current through the electric appliance is a direct result of the energy needs of the measured object, the resulting measurement is sufficiently linked to real energy consumption. Regarding voltage, the exact amount of the quantity is highly dependent on the power quality supplied by the grid. As this factor is mostly independent from the experiment, fluctuations and uncertainties should be reduced by using average measurements over a longer period of time. This can be achieved by evaluating the average of multiple measurements in the order of magnitude of multiple tens or hundred. For this experiment a

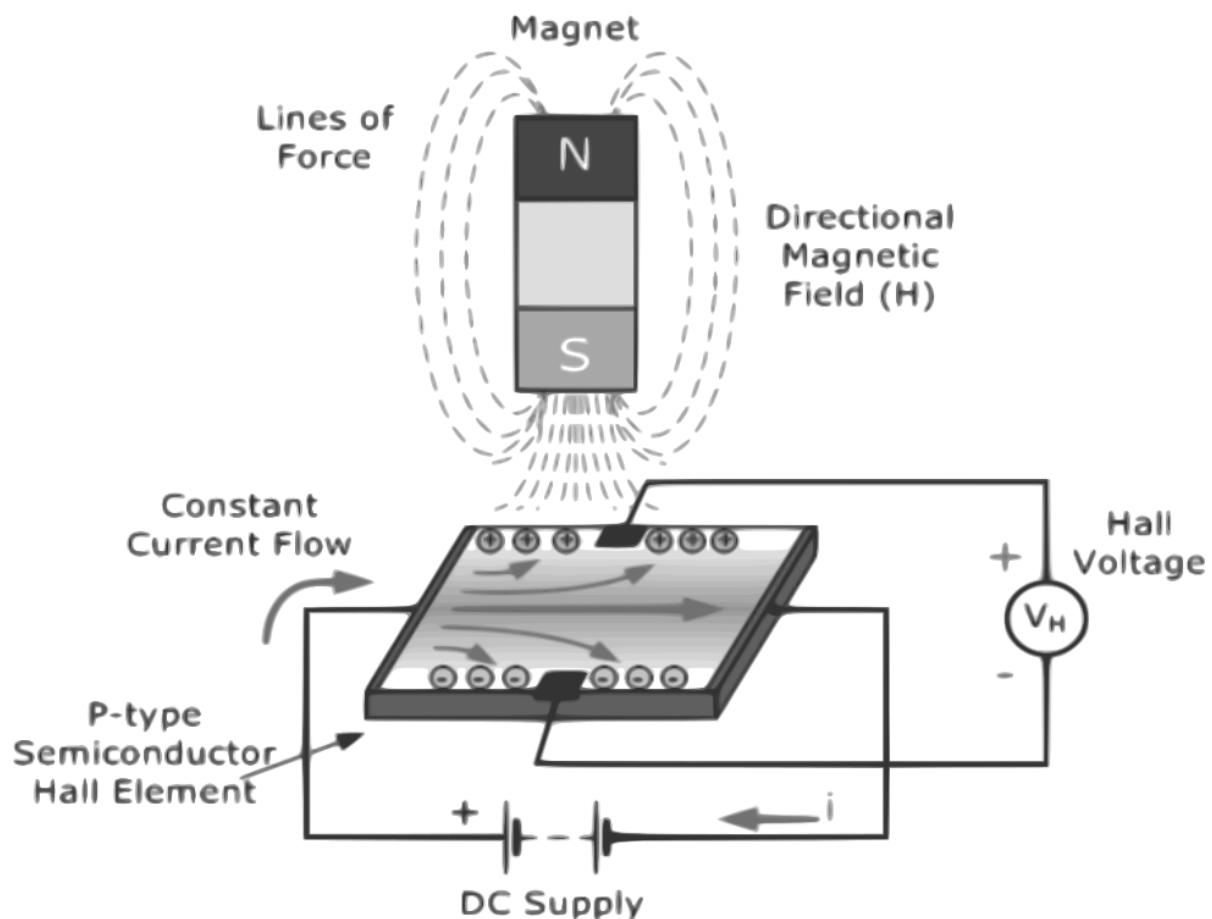


Figure 3.1: Block Diagram of an exemplary hall effect sensor. Recreated from [7].

timing window of 15 minutes is considered as sufficient, and will be chosen as the default measurement interval after averaging.

## Functional Block Diagram

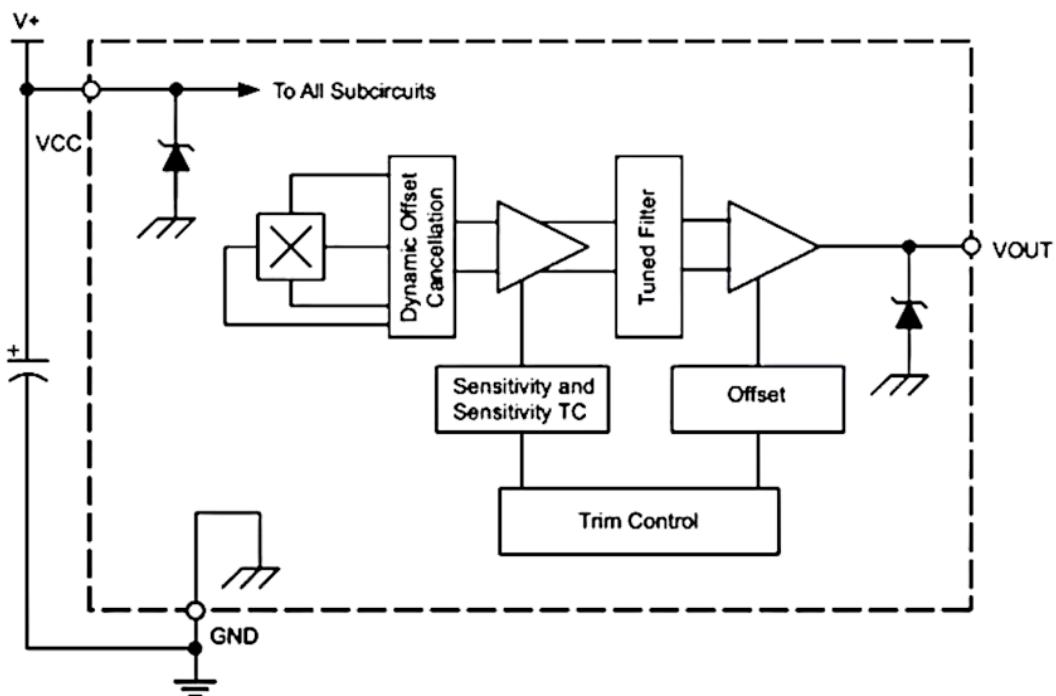


Figure 3.2: Block Diagram of an exemplary linear hall effect sensor. The box marked with an X is signifying the hall sensor [15].

# **4 Methodology**

In this chapter, the methodology to establish an accurate data basis is discussed. Section 4.1.1 describes the various pieces of hardware with their technical features, as well as the physical implementation in the actual experimental environment. The specific software infrastructure used to extract the information from the hardware is described in detail in section 4.1.2.

## **4.1 Measurement Equipment**

In this section, the actual implementation of the experiment is described in detail. The subsection 4.1.1 details a description of the sensors, network equipment and server systems utilized during research. In subsection 4.1.2 the structure, functionality and communication of all software components can be examined.

### **4.1.1 Hardware**

To collect relevant power data in the IT environment, an assortment of independently functional sensors was deployed. The Allnet sensor units contain a linear hall sensor,

## 4 Methodology

which is able to measure consumption of appliances, as well as possible power provided by energy sources to the grid. All sensor units were evenly places into workplaces throughout the university facility. A schematic overview of all rooms and their workplace typification can be seen in figure 4.1. An additional caveat of linear sensors is bias/noise

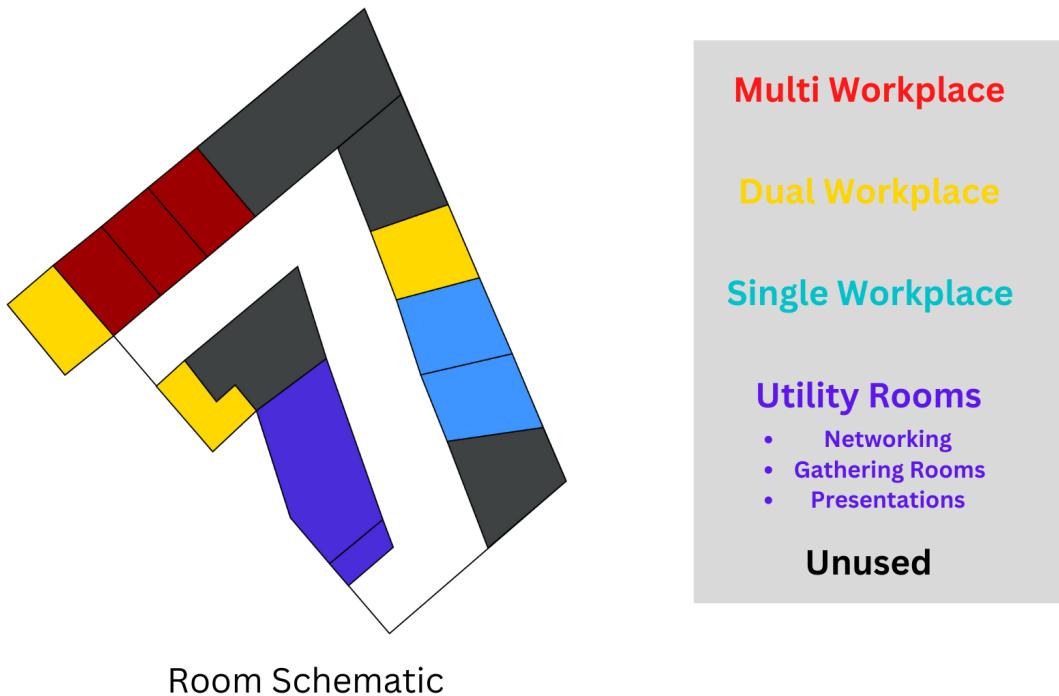


Figure 4.1: Room schematic of the office section of the university building.

in the sensor data can lead to negative values although the specific appliance is unable to work as an actual energy source. In the data set these 'erroneous' data points are not altered, as for example with the usage of battery equipped laptops, a short term negative consumption cannot be ruled out completely.

This way a (un-)conscious skew towards certain data trends by the experiment can be excluded. In table 4.1 a short overview of technical properties of the specific sensor model can be seen.

## Operation

The configuration of a sensor, using factory settings, requires a computer with an Ethernet port, power supply, Ethernet cable, and a browser. As a short overview each configuration of the sensors broadly follow the steps listed below:

1. Connect the Allnet sensor via Ethernet to the computer.
2. Configure your Ethernet port to populate the same subnet as the default address space of the sensor. (IPv4 192.168.0.100 by default)
3. Open browser and connect to the sensor using HTTP protocol.
4. Follow the instructions given by the device.
5. Configure network settings according to the local area network the sensor should be integrated in.
6. Restart device to update network configuration.

## Data Access

The internal Unix server provides different data accesses for both actuators and sensors via an REST API system in JSON and XML format. The relevant structure of the REST addresses can be seen in listing 4.1.

```
1 rest_address = f"http://{{ip_address}}/{{format}}/?mode={{mode}}"
```

Listing 4.1: address format of a sensor, provided variable values of a valid ip\_address (0.0.0.0 to 255.255.255.255) a format (xml or json) and a valid mode (all, sensor, ).

supported voltage	100-230V AC
max relay current	8 ampere
operation temperature	0-40 C°
Networking	IEEE 802.3u IEEE 802.11b/g/n

Table 4.1: technical data according to the manufacturer.

#### *4 Methodology*

At the setup of the experiment, the provided batch of sensors did not transmit sensory data via the JSON format, therefore the measurements were taken using the XML data provided. An exemplary data item with structure description can be seen in figure 4.2. To determine which values are provided, the mode parameter can be chosen to include sensory data only, actuators only, or all. It is necessary to enable remote access to the device using the HTML interface of the sensor. After successful initialization, current sensory data readings can be accessed using the REST API of the device. The result of each HTML request is a response in the data format specified in the 'format' parameter.

## 4 Methodology

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <sensors>
3   <sensor>
4     <id>2</id>
5     <name>AC Voltage</name>
6     <current>227.25</current>
7     <unit>V</unit>
8     <minmax>
9       <today>
10      <min>
11        <value>222.50</value>
12        <date>03.08.2022 09:31:58</date>
13        <timestamp>1659511918</timestamp>
14      </min>
15      <max>
16        <value>233.95</value>
17        <date>03.08.2022 05:01:24</date>
18        <timestamp>1659495684</timestamp>
19      </max>
20    </today>
21    <absolute>
22      <min>
23        ...
24      </min>
25      <max>
26        ...
27      </max>
28    </absolute>
29  </minmax>
30 </sensor>
31 <sensor>
32   ...
33 </sensor> ...
```

Listing 4.2: Example data item from a power measurement.

The parsing of each XML data package is done by the software running in the 'Pika Producer' service which is further described in section 4.1.2.

To connect all measurement devices, a wireless local area network was configured using a FRITZ!Box 7590, latest running on FRITZ!OS version 7.29. As the router is located behind a well secured university firewall, a fitting setup had to be found. The access to each individual sensor had to be configured using port forwarding to access the router's subnet and exposing the host into the university intranet. To access any part of the docker software running on the virtual machine, an access via the university network or VPN is strictly necessary to avoid compromising any it security. As any connection using wireless connections is more susceptible to distortions, the evaluation tables contained

a measurement to be able to evaluate unexpected values due to a lack of measurements in the future. The minimum number of measurement counts can reach low single digits, although the average for all tables is around the high 70s. The exact measurements can be seen in table 4.2, which provide a confident basis for evaluation.

## **Virtual Machine**

To build the necessary infrastructure, host the database and run continuous software, the university provided access to a virtual Linux machine. The VM can be accessed in the university intranet using the URL 'energy.uni-passau.de'. Via this address, all software applications are made available using docker port forwarding. The address overview for access to all tools can be seen in table 4.3. The service can be used by ordinary browsers using the base URL and the service port suffix, e.g. 'https://energy.uni-passau.de:3050'. These suffixes can be changed using the respective docker files of their services. For functionality of each service, refer to the respective section in 4.1.2.

In conclusion this setup allows an individual request to each sensor and the local subnet can be accessed by the virtual machine which is connected to the university intranet. Further information on the deployed software services can be found in the following section 4.1.2.

### **4.1.2 Software**

The energy virtual machine is used by different members of the university chair. To avoid cluttering of the system, each piece of software is running in an isolated Docker image. Communication between the docker services is possible using docker bridges and connections from the outside are port forwarded from the VM to the docker host. An

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Table	Count
Sensor_1_Meta	90
Sensor_2_Meta	70
Sensor_3_Meta	90
Sensor_4_Meta	85
Sensor_5_Meta	80
Sensor_6_Meta	77
Sensor_7_Meta	71
Sensor_8_Meta	86
Sensor_9_Meta	84
Sensor_10_Meta	89
Sensor_11_Meta	90
Sensor_12_Meta	90
Sensor_13_Meta	89
Sensor_14_Meta	90
Sensor_15_Meta	90
Sensor_16_Meta	90
Sensor_17_Meta	90
Sensor_18_Meta	90
Sensor_19_Meta	89
Sensor_20_Meta	90
Sensor_21_Meta	90
Sensor_22_Meta	90
Sensor_23_Meta	90
Sensor_24_Meta	89
Sensor_25_Meta	90
Sensor_26_Meta	89
Sensor_27_Meta	90
Sensor_28_Meta	90
Sensor_29_Meta	90
Sensor_30_Meta	88
Sensor_31_Meta	90
Sensor_32_Meta	90
Sensor_33_Meta	90
Sensor_34_Meta	90
Sensor_35_Meta	90
Sensor_36_Meta	90

Table 4.2: average measurement count per 15 minute interval. Rounded to the full integer.

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Grafana	3050
Adminer	8181
PSQL DB	6543
RabbitMQ	8080

Table 4.3: access ports for the respective docker services. Can be used as suffix after the url `energy.uni-passau.de:'suffix'`.

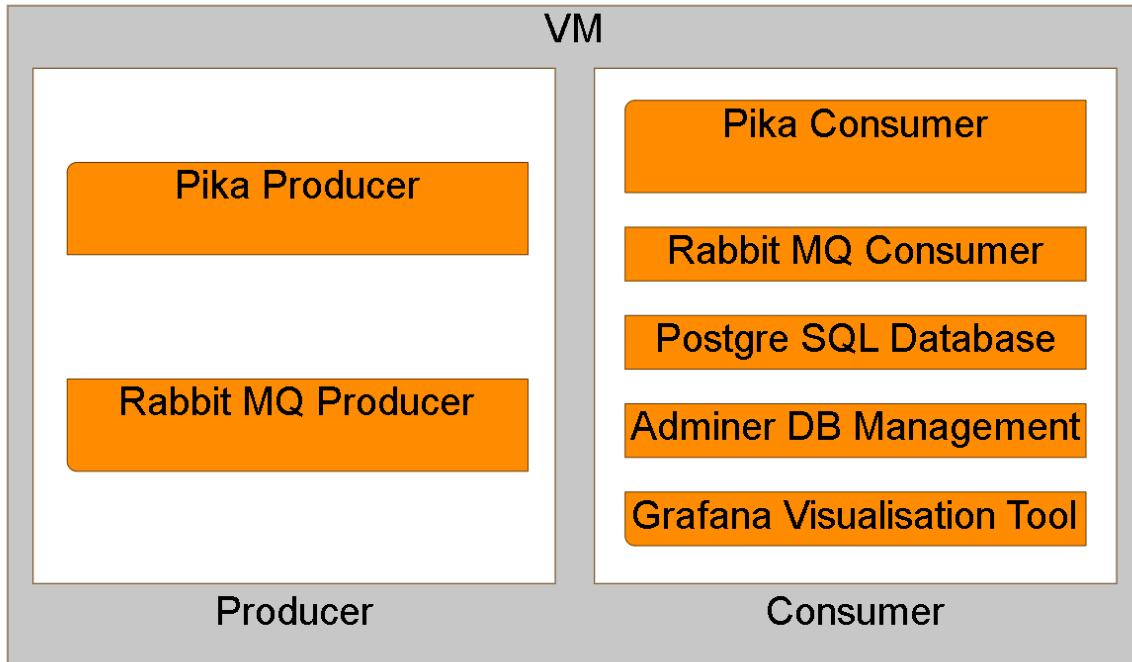


Figure 4.2: Overview of active docker services within the docker VM.

overview of all running docker services can be seen in figure 4.2. The services are divided by functionality into Producer and Consumer Services. This relates to the nomenclature used in the context of message brokers. In the experiment the open source broker implementation Rabbit MQ is used and serves as the connection between producer and consumer services. Each group of services can be started at once by using the respective docker-compose file in each package.

## Producer

The task of the producer services is to provide sensory data received from individual requests to sensors in a consumable format. The producer service package is a continuation of the base skeleton provided by M. Sc. Sebastian Wilhelm (refer to the producer package in the repository [26]). Besides altering the operation mode from a distributed system using raspberry pis to a centralized vm structure, simplification of setup parameters, security and cryptography feature addition, https support, many automated recovery features, like retry loops, cleaning of faulty measurement readings were implemented.

**Pika Consumer** The consumer establishes a pool of threads establishing (secured, if enabled,) connections to each individual sensor. To avoid cluttering and overloading broker connections, separate existing measurement readings are pooled and released in chunks to the broker. Before transmission each xml response is parsed using the xml structure. The parsing is coded as such, to work with all similarly formatted files which are used by the manufacturer. That means the sensors which provide additional functionalities and sensory data can be seamlessly incorporated in the measurement. Existing code and additional own contributions were commented to improve readability and maintenance. The separate files are divided thus into their functionality:

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AllnetPoll:	Provides the threading class and http request logic
device_name_mapping:	defines and maps each sensor address to their respective table name
local_config:	enables the usage of subgroups of a bigger system by limiting the number/range of addresses
pika_producer:	main class that initiates the threads, initiates pooling the measurements, and parses the packages
pooling:	holds the round robin pool logic and determines chunk size.

Additional files in the package only hold function for specific circumstances like operation on windows, or other setup prototypes for reference.

**Rabbit MQ producer** is the producer instance of the rabbit mq message broker system. It enables asynchronous messaging between producer and consumer. This conversion step could strictly be bypassed, and is as such not necessary. This would be at the cost of modular structure, as this way provides the opportunity to run the respective instances of producer and consumer on different machines. The configuration of communication between docker images is the exact same was as communication via networking, and is therefore suitable for every kind of setup. The producer services provide their data to the docker host system. Via a docker bridge a DNS based connection can be established using docker image names or their respective address which are configured in the docker-compose file and the respective .env file of the producer. After successful setup the consumer can be established to receive incoming data. A comprehensive illustration of the information flow of the producer services can be seen in figure 4.4.

### Consumer

In this package the counter parts of the producer elements can be instantiated. Besides similar configuration improvements, as made with the producer package, a second layer of fault detection to avoid null values was added. Different steps that became redundant due to simplification have been removed, like setup wait time that were accounted for in previously distributed networks. To depict the inner workings of the services it is important to note that within the consumer two separate functionalities should be differentiated. The services 'Pika Consumer', 'Rabbit MQ Consumer' and 'PostgreSQL Database' complete the functionality of record keeping. To simply save measurements to a database, these software packages will suffice. These three consumer services are built a continuation of the base skeleton provided by M. Sc. Sebastian Wilhelm refer to the consumer package in the repository [26]. Adminer and Grafana are simply additional tools for database management and visualizations and can be omitted if the respective application does not require such a step. Via docker compose functionality it is possible to add these functionalities into an already running recording tool.

**Pika Consumer** receives incoming packages from the Rabbit MQ Consumer and saves them into the database via extracting messages into python dictionaries and inserting into, or respectively creating tables using the sqlalchemy library after a short fault check. For compatibility and maintenance reasons, all further evaluations, insertions and queries by code are also made using sqlalchemy.

**Rabbit MQ Consumer** acts as the counterpart to the Rabbit MQ Producer and only receives incoming parsed measurements. Connection configuration is made using environment variables in the .env file.

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**PostgreSQL Database** is a docker image of an ordinary PostgreSQL database implementation. Connection configuration is made using environment variables in the .env file. Besides the tables created by the consumer, the active service also holds all metadata tables created during the evaluation phase described in section 5. A short overview of the database tables, and their logic can be seen in figure 4.3.

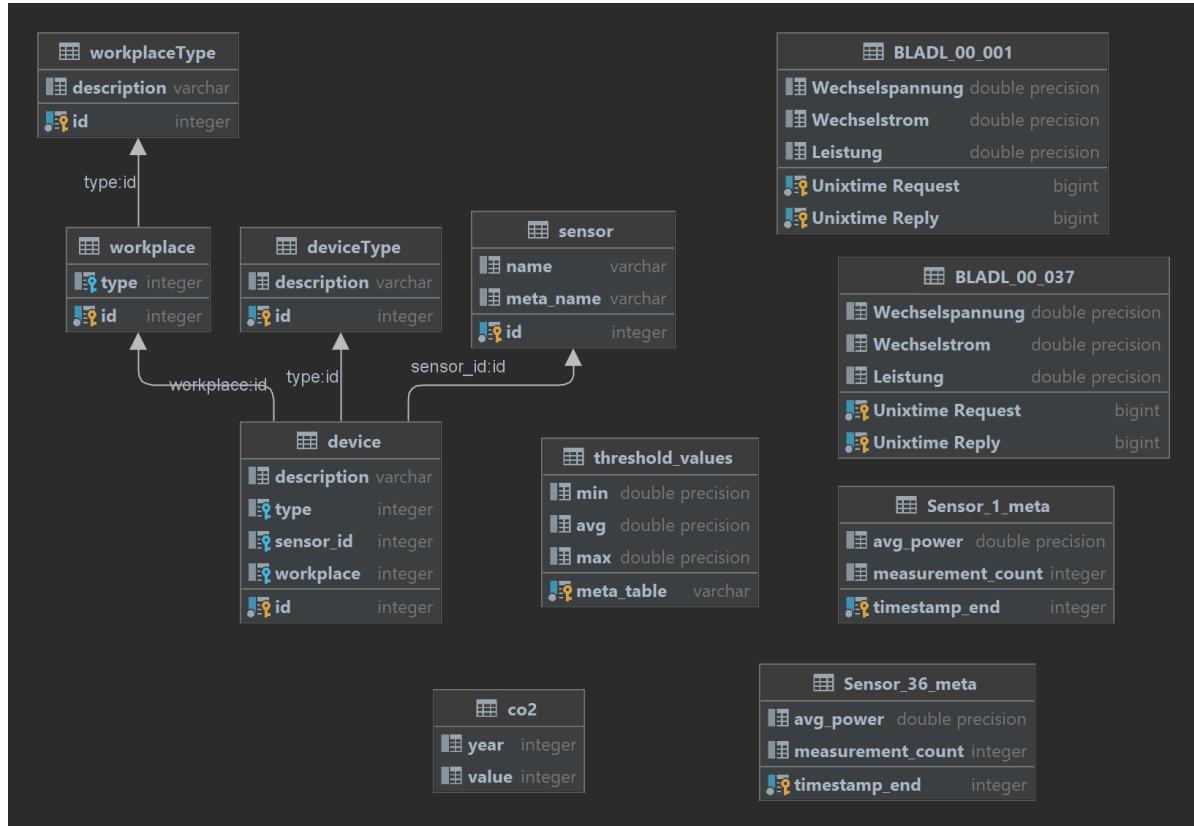


Figure 4.3: Overview of the different database tables. Foreign keys are marked, other concatenations are made using table names or dates. For simplicity, multiples of the measurement and meta tables are omitted.

**Grafana** is a time series visualization tool, to create interactive dashboards of a variety of data sources, including PostgreSQL. It provides many useful tools besides time series illustrations, like annotation capabilities, a user management system, and extensive query variables. A basic example dashboard which can be used to illustrate the data set of this work is described in the section 5.2.

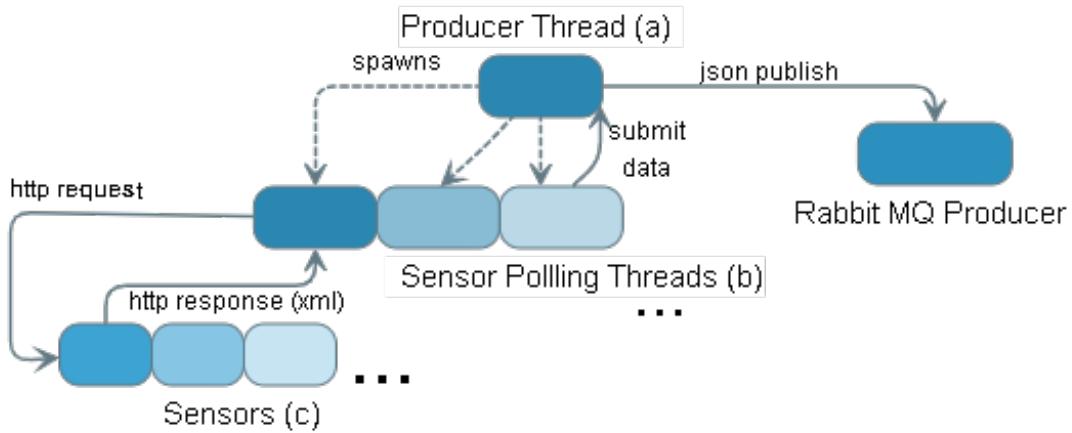


Figure 4.4: Information Flow Producer Service

**Adminer DB Management** is a lightweight administration tool for relational database systems. As the PostgreSQL service is usable like any other db system, any management tool of choice can also be used. However with this service an available management tool can be easily provided. A comprehensive illustration of the information flow of the consumer services can be seen in figure 4.5.

In combination, all services build a powerful foundation to manage, explore and evaluate a variety of datasets in energy consumption measurement. As part of the result section of this work, an example application, called Recorded Performance Motivation Tool (RPMT), is shown in section 5.2.

### Reference Measurement

Besides the experimental measurements in the live office environment, an additional measurement using a single power consumer was undertaken.

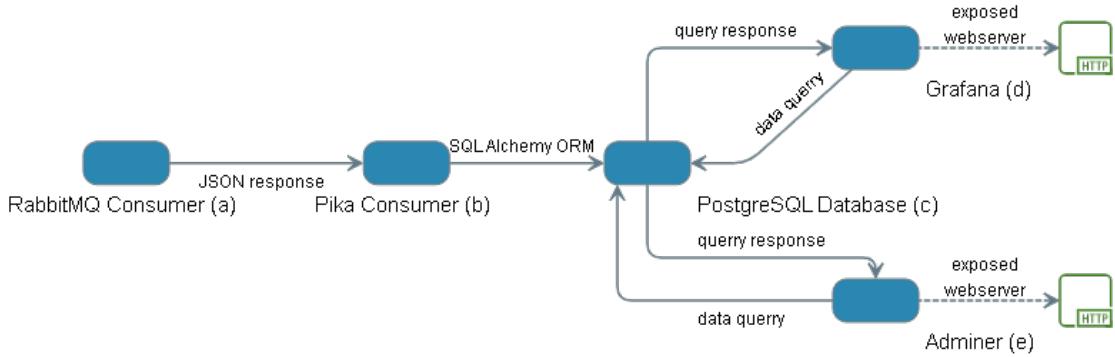


Figure 4.5: Information Flow Consumer Service

**The setup** consists of a separate instance of all software components shown above, connected to a single power sensor identical to the other experiment. The reference device was chosen to produce similar power measurements over a longer period of time. As a suitable option, an actively cooled light source was chosen. Further technical details of the device can be seen in table 4.6.

**The measurement** was taken for a total of 707063 seconds with around 20 000 individual measurements. To subtract interruptions due to setup time, all measurements near zero were eliminated. The clean data of the reference measurement can be seen in the main repository as a CSV file.

**The resulting data set** was used as a basis for calculation of average values, maximum deviation, variance and standard deviation. The evaluation query can be seen in listing 4.3. Due to the results shown in table 4.4, it can be assumed that individual measurements are accurate within about 1 watt. This correlates with values received from the measurement, which registered unused sockets at around -0.6 to 0.8 watts. As these deviations appear quite symmetrical, through the averaging process, these influences

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Model	MX-H25 LED Spotlight
Manufacturer	Stairville
Voltage	230V
Consumption (max)	102W
Operation Mode	Basic Mode b-CH

Figure 4.6: Excerpt from manufacturer specifications of the measured device.

probably largely negate one another. However a precise measurement, where consumption and environmental variables are better controlled, could challenge this assumption.

```
1  SELECT round(cast(avg("Leistung")as numeric),4) as "Average",
2    round(cast(max("Leistung") - min("Leistung") as numeric),4)
3      as "Max-Deviation",
4    round(cast(variance("Leistung") as numeric),4) as "Variance",
5    round(cast(stddev("Leistung") as numeric),4) as "StdDev"
6    FROM strommessung_1
7    WHERE "Leistung" > 0
```

Listing 4.3: Evaluation query of the reference measurement.

Average	Max-Deviation	Variance	StdDev
41.9417	4.7	0.7585	0.8709

Table 4.4: Result of the evaluation query in listing 4.3.

## 4.2 Evaluation Metrics/ Key Performance Indicators

### (KPIs)

To evaluate impacts on the environment a small set of well defined metrics is a useful tool. To give an easier overview of the difference in consumption between different devices, types, workplaces and users, this work supplies three distinct metrics represented in the evaluations or visualizations.

### 4.2.1 Idle Time of devices

A core aspect of energy conservation is the avoidance of consumption all together. As a strong indicator of necessity the quantification of usage overall is already a great metric to evaluate a device. By the feasible measurement of machine usage, it should become easier to asses, if resources allocated to a workplace really rectify their existence. To refine this measurement a specific definition dependent on device type is advisable using external data, like validated expected usage data, or independent measurements like attendance can be useful. In this work idle time of a device is counted as the amount of time where data points in the respective 15 minute window do not exceed a value that is expected to be possible with only noise ( $\pm 1$  Watt). As different operation modes of devices, like standby, could also contribute as idle time in general, the results in this work should be considered a lower bound measurement of idle time. The mathematical formal definition of idle time can be seen in formula 4.1.

$$IDLE(X) = \sum x_j \mid x_j \in X \wedge x_j < 1 \quad (4.1)$$

While in isolation this metric cannot be used to definitively determine proper usage of the device while energy is consumed, the lower bound of effective usage gained by the device can be established well.

### 4.2.2 Workday to Weekday Consumption Ratio (WWCR)

As a second step of energy cost avoidance, the amount of ineffective electricity consumption should be established. To that idea, this work proposes a metric that is usable independently of other devices, and applicable to cases where energy consumption highly correlates with workload and usage. The ratio between the mean consumption over a

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workday to the mean consumption over 24 hours will give information on the impact the user has on power consumption during working hours. In this context work hours are defined between 8am and 6pm during workdays. Appliances like emergency lights will show no notable difference in workday to weekday consumption. Although these device could contribute significantly to the energy total, no feasible direction to office staff could have a significant impact on this value. For a visual demonstration refer to figure 4.7. The specific idea is to reduce the area under the curve by reducing off work consumption, even at the cost of slight consumption increase during work hours. As electricity used while office appliances are not actively used, the identification, whether the device has potential in this regard is the value provided by this metric. Therefore a

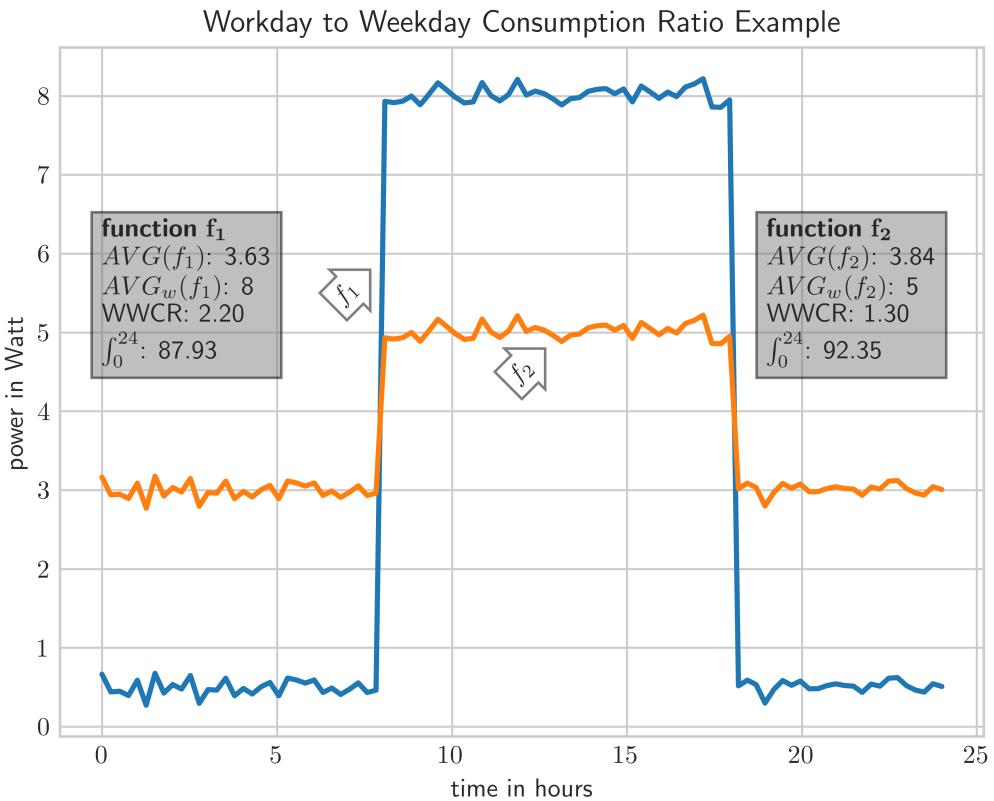


Figure 4.7: Example illustration of efficiency indication by WWCR. By reducing energy wasted during off work time, the total consumption, which is the integral of the function curve, is reduced, even if working hour consumption is higher.

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high WWCR indicates the possible impact any specific intervention on users could have. This establishes an objective possibility to rank office appliances on a sensitivity scale to avoid overwhelming staff members with diffuse worries about energy conservation. Actions taken can aim at narrow campaigns to conserve energy on specific devices, as goal specificity correlates to goal acceptance as shown in the literature [21]. Further than that, a low WWCR on unexpected devices, can give information on possibly wasted energy due to high or similar consumption outside of office hours. Refer to formula 4.2 for calculation details.

$$WCR(X) = \frac{avg(X_w)}{avg(X)} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} X \text{ is a full weekday time series,} \\ X_w \text{ subset of } X \text{ during working hours} \end{array} \right. \quad (4.2)$$

### 4.2.3 CO<sub>2</sub> Footprint

To determine an accurate CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of energy consumption a wide variety of methods can be used. One of the most widely used methods is depicted in section 2.2, which unfortunately is unfit for the experiment. This is mainly due to the multitude of possible variables determining the exact amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted for the energy consumed. The accurate estimation of the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint created by energy used is a very elaborate process with several relevant factors provided by the power plant and the respective provider corporations. These figures are reported annually, and are not independent from foreign power generation influences. Besides the obvious co2 footprint of regional/national power generation, the actual ecological costs vary due to international power trading, governmental control over renewable energy supply and many more. The specific numbers for the visualizations of this work refer to the official European Environment Agency, made public in a csv data set [1]. On a national level, these number are available until the year 2020. These values show a very stable range due to a high rate of abstraction and av-

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eraging to reduce noise. The current calculation of the evaluation tool shown in section 5.2 uses a higher base value, as given by the source, due to two main factors. In 2020 a global short-term reduction in co2 emissions was registered, due to the pandemic [12], and the previous downwards trend of co2 emissions is unlikely to persist. Furthermore persistent inflation in energy needs in Europe throughout 2022, as well as the dominance of coal-powered energy generation will further increase expected co2 emission intensity, as stated by the Statistisches Bundesamt publication "Pressrelease #233 from 8 June 2022" [3]. As power generation with renewable energy sources rise simultaneously, and the respective European electricity footprint is lower than the domestic average, in this work the mean CO2 emission intensity of the years 2018 to 2020, which amounts to 356g of  $CO_2$  per kWh, is considered a reasonable estimation, and has to be reevaluated when accurate values are available.

# 5 Results

In this chapter an overview over the different evaluations and exploration tools created in this work is given. To acquire results, a short description of the processing is provided in section 5.1. The section 5.1.1 shows several result tables and describes how to read and interpret the specific values. As a few examples of evaluating the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), in section 5.2 a collection of visualization can be seen.

## 5.1 Result Evaluation

To evaluate the data set a collection of processing was done using the sql alchemy package, similar to the insert mechanism of the measurement values in the consumer paragraph of section 4.1.2. Additionally normalized tables, containing standardized 15 min intervals were created (refer to the 'Sensor\_Meta\_tables') to visualize a longer time amount in the visualization tool (refer to section 5.2). Due to hardware and connection difficulties, data of sensor 32 did not suffice for evaluation, and has been omitted in all tables. The values of the tables in section 5.1.1 allow comparison of total consumption measurements, minima, maxima and averages, which were processed using SQL queries.

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The values are calculated similar to the equations 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 respectively.

$$MIN(X) = x_i \left| x_i, x_j \in X \wedge \nexists x_j \geq x_i \wedge i < j \right. \quad (5.1)$$

$$MAX(X) = x_i \left| x_i, x_j \in X \wedge \neg \exists x_j \geq x_i \wedge i < j \right. \quad (5.2)$$

$$AVG(X) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n} \left| x_i \in X \wedge |X|=n \right. \quad (5.3)$$

To enable quick reference, the section 5.1.2 collects key observations gathered from the results, and shows relations that were expected by related works.

### 5.1.1 Quantitative Results

As a reference, the average consumption values of user 1 per day, can be seen in table 5.1. Date values range from 1st of June to 29th of Juli, where only weekdays are considered. The respective average values give information on the consumption rate of the specific day, while the ratio of the averages show a difference in energy conservation during off work hours. The evaluation shows two levels of days with no work activity. These days are recognizable by consumption values around 0.6 to 1.4 watts of average consumption, and virtually no difference between weekday - and workday average. The small difference between the 0.6 Watt values (e.g. 12th to 15th of Juli) and the 1.4 Watt values (e.g. 6th and 7th of June) could be explained due to for example a single device in standby (e.g. the monitor). Most activity days show good WWCR values around 2, with single outliers like 21st, 22nd and 25th of Juli, that lack any consumption reduction during off hours. On the whole the average of user 1 fits the expectations of a user that is

## *5 Results*

predominantly conscious of energy efficiency, while showing signs of inconsistency.

The tables 5.2 and 5.3 show the number of available measurement days, their average values and Workday to Weekday Consumption Ratio (WWCR). The tables give an individual insight into specific average weekday consumption, which is useful to estimate electricity demands of similar devices. As the number of days approach the 55 days duration of the evaluation range, the resulting values increase in accuracy. The addition of workday averages is then used to compute the WWCR of each device respectively. This ratio can be used as an indicator to differentiate users and devices that actively reduce consumption outside of work hours. It can be clearly seen that unused sensor outlets possess a WWCR of about 1 while values from around 1.3 show little active consumption reduction during off hours. On the other extreme values around 2.3 show a great change of consumption during off hours, which either shows extremely high consumption which would be indicated by a very high workday value, or a great reduction which is mostly indicated here.

The evaluation of different workplaces gain little insight as max consumption spike way higher in Mutli devices, which indicates, that workplaces are not really comparable to each other, as consumption differs greatly. Furthermore the higher amount of false 'negative' consumption in the unused working spaces further distort the consumption data elements in the data set. As almost all the WWCRs of negative sensor averages approximate 1, the odd values can be attributed to bias of the sensor, as noise should impact the averages slightly differently. The surprising value of 0.4 WWCR returned on sensor 16 can be seen as a product of noise due to the low numeric values in the milliwatts range. Positive average measurements contain low frequency occupation of workplaces like sensor 28 and 29 due to low averages.

To examine differences in workplace organization, tables 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6 show overview values of the respective workplace type. Each table shows the corresponding Devices,

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Date	weekday average (W)	workday average (W)
2022-06-01	7.1246	6.3368
2022-06-02	62.9861	86.5046
2022-06-03	66.9280	88.5383
2022-06-06	1.3643	1.3644
2022-06-07	1.3649	1.3698
2022-06-08	41.0420	82.9115
2022-06-09	23.3274	47.8767
2022-06-10	1.3873	1.3913
2022-06-13	27.9845	58.8300
2022-06-14	25.1870	54.9713
2022-06-15	26.6638	42.9791
2022-06-16	1.4900	1.4924
2022-06-17	1.1917	1.1950
2022-06-20	27.2710	52.8197
2022-06-21	0.6530	0.6566
2022-06-22	24.2942	46.9040
2022-06-23	1.1986	1.1995
2022-06-24	1.1978	1.1989
2022-06-27	1.1941	1.1971
2022-06-28	1.1968	1.1994
2022-06-29	1.1948	1.1964
2022-06-30	26.1305	53.3058
2022-07-01	1.1950	1.1951
2022-07-04	25.0155	50.5588
2022-07-05	0.6521	0.6518
2022-07-06	16.1277	30.7782
2022-07-07	0.6357	0.6368
2022-07-08	0.6367	0.6365
2022-07-11	18.3418	42.5024
2022-07-12	0.6354	0.6352
2022-07-13	0.6340	0.6345
2022-07-14	0.6331	0.6321
2022-07-15	0.6328	0.6344
2022-07-18	21.9215	44.9616
2022-07-19	20.3028	41.4121
2022-07-20	34.3390	51.1681
2022-07-21	43.7019	43.7787
2022-07-22	43.7082	43.7739
2022-07-25	22.2650	16.1565
2022-07-26	25.6874	54.4252
2022-07-27	22.0577	45.2281
2022-07-28	28.0511	53.5048
2022-07-29	1.0874	1.0907

Table 5.1: Consumption results of user 1 in Watts.

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Sensor Number	# of days	weekday avg (W)	workday avg (W)	workday to weekday ratio
1	55	5.3293	8.8202	1.6550
2	12	8.0936	13.6496	1.6865
3	55	5.8806	9.5379	1.6219
4	55	2.0053	4.0004	1.9948
5	55	1.9414	4.0445	2.0833
6	54	2.8747	5.8710	2.0423
7	51	5.8539	10.1643	1.7363
8	55	3.5986	7.9214	2.2012
9	55	3.6589	8.1175	2.2186
10	55	1.4391	3.0190	2.098
11	55	2.2525	4.6371	2.0586
12	55	0.1333	0.1426	1.0690
13	55	6.7418	10.2663	1.5228
14	55	0.3329	0.4553	1.3676
15	55	0.0672	0.1052	1.5660
16	55	-0.0668	-0.0333	0.4980
17	55	1.6774	3.5020	2.0877
18	55	2.2333	4.6420	2.0786
19	55	-0.1789	-0.1780	0.9948
20	55	-0.0805	-0.0804	0.9990
21	55	-0.0880	-0.0878	0.9987
22	55	17.3964	18.2880	1.0512
23	55	6.8836	14.1276	2.0523
24	55	2.3189	4.8253	2.0809

Table 5.2: Result table of average workday, and weekday consumption of sensor 1 to 24 in Watts. Continuation follows in table 5.3.

their overall minimum and maximum consumption value on record, as well as the average consumption across the evaluation period. Each final row shows a 'Total' value that represents the total minimum, maximum and average of the values of the table above. This final row in each table shows the peak consumption value in them, and the respective device can be determined, and the average total consumption can again be used to estimate consumption of similar workplaces. Dual workplace evaluations contain a large number of vacant or changing occupation during the measurement period. Due to this a relevant comparison between the workplaces gives little insight in their comparison. As indicated by the maximum values, the resulting consumption should be expected to be

## 5 Results

Sensor Number	# of days	weekday avg	workday avg	workday to weekday ratio
25	55	3.5589	7.4198	2.0848
26	55	3.4856	6.9230	1.9862
27	55	0.1361	0.1875	1.3776
28	55	0.5605	1.2871	2.2964
29	55	2.2456	4.4983	2.0032
30	55	17.6872	27.9409	1.5797
31	55	-0.1473	-0.1462	0.9922
33	55	10.4353	20.2452	1.9401
34	55	4.7989	8.5369	1.7789
35	55	0.7072	0.8253	1.1670
36	55	27.0940	36.2963	1.3396
37	55	45.8122	65.0602	1.4201

Table 5.3: Result table of average workday, and weekday consumption of sensor 25 to 37 in Watts. Precursory available in result table 5.2.

comparable, a final evaluation does not provide this kind of conclusion. As total values of dual workplaces should be in similar ranges, the fact that averages differ beyond factor 2 cannot be easily ignored. This leads to the theory that workload and/or occupation frequency is very different between the workplaces, and the individual consumption of the users do not scale linearly in dual workplaces irrespective of the type of work and work frequency (like part time to full time employment or home office times).

The workplace evaluation, completed by the results in table 5.6 gives little insights when comparing absolute values. The issue is, that due to no information on the comparability of each workload in a given workplace, the reduction or increase in consumption can be explained from energy efficiency, to time efficiency with high work consumption, to normal time efficiency averaging a low work consumption. In tables 5.7 and 5.8 a direct comparison of the individual types of devices can be made. Each table consists of the collection of devices of matching type, showing all time minimum, maximum and average consumption measurements. The respective total row of each tabular can be used to determine the consumption ratio of each type of device to the total consumption. In this instance, the multiple type broadly consist of a mixture of all other device types

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Workplace 3				
Device ID	Device Type	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
14	PC	-0.3	276.4	2.0851
15	Monitor	-0.3	15.2	0.7428
16	PC	-0.2	42.7	-0.0822
17	Monitor	-0.4	13.2	0.8994
18	Monitor	-0.3	17.5	1.1453
19	PC	-0.3	15.8	-0.1230
20	Monitor	-0.2	44.6	-0.0705
21	Monitor	-0.2	0.0	-0.0885
22	Printer	-0.2	2671.0	16.4998
Total	Multiple	-0.4	2671.0	21.0078
Workplace 4				
Device ID	Device Type	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
23	PC	-0.1	89.8	2.7413
24	Monitor	-0.3	15.3	0.8937
25	Monitor	-0.4	21.3	1.3511
26	PC	-0.8	208.7	3.6216
27	Monitor	-0.2	26.7	0.9517
28	Monitor	-0.3	22.3	0.9721
29	Monitor	-0.3	22.3	1.6204
30	PC	-2.8	2152.8	10.2244
31	Monitor	-0.3	0.0	-0.1449
Total	Multiple	-2.8	2152.8	22.2318
Workplace 5				
ID	Type	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
33	PC	0.3	243.2	8.2019
Total	Multiple	0.3	243.2	8.2019

Table 5.4: Result table of Workplaces of type multiple (more than 2 potential users).

and is ignored in the type differentiation. Interestingly the sum of all recorded single devices almost exactly equals the total consumption of all Multi device sensors (sum of 86.34 to Multi measurement 86.01). The resulting mix of consumption computes to 38% PC, 37% Monitors, 6% Utilities and 19% through Printing. The average measured consumption adds up to 172.35 Watts and an hourly CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of 61.3 g of direct emission through electricity consumption. This gives a yearly footprint estimation of at least 0.38 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> using 260 working days a year and assuming zero emissions on the remaining days. By estimations of atmosfair, this equates to about a quarter of the

## 5 Results

Workplace 1				
ID	Type	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
4	PC	-0.2	20.6	1.0352
5	Monitor	-0.2	21.1	0.7207
6	Monitor	-0.2	70.2	1.7565
7	PC	-0.3	114.7	6.2446
8	Monitor	-0.3	35.9	4.1898
9	Monitor	-0.2	33.4	3.5638
Total	Multiple	-0.3	114.7	17.5104
Workplace 6				
ID	Type	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
34	Multiple	-0.3	127.9	6.1979
35	Multiple	-0.4	105.8	0.5758
Total	Multiple	-0.4	127.9	6.7738
Workplace 7				
ID	Type	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
36	Multiple	10.3	1180.5	27.7893
37	Multiple	0.7	257.4	43.2404
Total	Multiple	0.7	1180.5	72.0296

Table 5.5: Result table of workplaces of type Dual (exactly 2 potential users).

estimated allowed CO<sub>2</sub> budget of a person until 2050, to remain in alignment with the Paris agreement [2].

**Idle Time** as defined in equation 4.1 was calculated using the meta\_tables of each device, wherever available. The results can be seen in tabular 5.9 consisting of the device, the corresponding workplace, and the resulting idle time in absolute and relative terms. While working as intended with Computer and Monitoring devices, which indicate reasonable working hours of the devices of averaging to about 4 hours of usage per workday. This should be a reasonable estimate considering 7 hour workdays dispersed with home office and holiday vacancies. Devices with higher off hour consumption like the type of printer used monitored by sensor 22 show no idle time at all, which would indicate usage without interruption. This observation does not hold when comparing consumption profiles using heat maps, as seen in section 5.2.

Workplace 0				
ID	Type	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
1	PC	-0.2	91.2	5.8942
2	Monitor	-0.2	33.3	5.1298
3	Monitor	-0.1	33.5	6.6894
Total	Multiple	-0.2	91.2	17.7135
Workplace 2				
ID	Type	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
10	PC	-0.2	18.4	1.1847
11	Monitor	-0.2	83.4	1.6731
12	Printer	-0.6	289.8	0.1327
13	Utility	-0.2	2523.0	4.8885
Total	Multiple	-0.6	2523.0	7,8792

Table 5.6: Result table of workplaces of type single (exactly one potential user).

### 5.1.2 Key Insights

The device type evaluation gives parts of the expected results from the literature[28], that consumption due to monitoring is very comparable to processing consumption as seen in the average consumption values of table 5.7. Apparently the different advances in energy efficiency in screens and computer performance seem to balance nicely, as literature values are more than 10 years obsolete. The difference of a few percentage points in consumption (38% to 44% for Monitoring, 37% to 39%) do not indicate huge progression differences. From another perspective, IT workers should be sensitized to the fact that dual monitor setups increase consumption by roughly 33% compared to single monitor setups.

Evaluations in workplace contexts show no clear relations regarding energy consumption. Real work frequency(full time, part time or remote work), and classification of work for each user are likely the major contributor to determine total energy consumption than the individual workplace structure. This evaluation can change if the usage profile of the experiment is not representative of a usual working environment.

Workday to Weekday Consumption Ratio (WWCR) delivers a suitable measure to dif-

ferentiate users of similar consumption averages. This can be used to determine possible saving methodologies to increase the ratio by consumption reduction during off work hours on individuals that could harbor a greater saving potential.

Idle time is unsuitable for device agnostic measurements, and needs to be modified according to the expected usage profile of a specific device and the bias / noise effects on the used sensors.

## 5.2 Visualizations

Time series data is in many ways well suited to visualized. However, to accommodate for differences in timestamp usage, all database tables created for visualization should use epoch time in milliseconds. This format is used in the sensor\_meta tables, to ease their usage in Grafana. However, different tools can require another format to visualize the time series, and the conversions can be made accordingly using simple division constants. While different applications define epoch base up to the nanoseconds, this kind of application does not benefit from higher frequencies, as HTTP requests provide a lower temporal resolution.

### Heat maps

To visualize an overview of consumption over time, in this section a collection of comparable plots are displayed. In figure 5.1 the accumulated data for each distinct user can be seen in a row, with whole day values on the left, and data limited to workday hours on the right. A great difference in coloring between the left and right sides indicate a high WWCR for this user. If devices between users are comparable this indicates either a high consumption during work hours or an effort of energy saving after and before work

## *5 Results*

hours. This evaluation shows to be less effective with short consumption peaks, like in barely used workplaces (see fig 5.1 row 5 and 12 for reference). As expected, differences between users regarding their WWCR can be seen, as well as the less frequented working spaces due to their color extremes. User 14 shows little difference between workday and weekday values, which indicates little change of energy consumption during off hours, which means a greater potential of energy efficiency gain should be expected by reducing off hour consumption. As a counter example user 10 can be examined, which shows a bigger color change and narrower distribution. Generally a drop in consumption on Fridays can be examined. With this kind of analysis, a more directed package of intervention mechanism can be explored, to improve performance of less dedicated users with higher reduction potential. The Indication of the quantitative analysis of user 1 given in the section 5.1.1 using table 5.1 can be confirmed using the heat map, as color changes can be clearly seen in comparison of the depictions in the first row. Further of interest is the visualization of user 7 which shows high consumption on weekends. This is the result of constant negative measurements due to noise and a slight sensor bias, as weekend values were not considered, which results in a 0 value in visualization. This fact especially has to be considered when handling measurements including real "negative" measurements due to localized power generation.

Figure 5.2 shows the summation of all power consumption on weekdays. Additionally the heat maps were generated using only specific device types. The different kinds of devices that were considered are PCs (see figure 5.3), Monitors (see figure 5.4), Printer (see figure 5.5) and Utilities (see figure 5.6). As expected, the color scheme of PC consumption coincides very well with monitor usage, but not very well with printer usage. This indicates external factors to the printer usage besides attendance for example (i.e. exams or meetings/out of office gatherings). These kinds of illustrations can be useful to determine patterns in cooperation, that quantitative information does not allow.

## *5 Results*

The observation of reduced consumption on Fridays is increasingly clear using the illustration in figure 5.2. The increased attendance on Wednesday in calendar week 25, as well as Tuesday in the last week is clearly distinguishable. By comparing single user heat maps to the summation can show differentiation between quantitative consumption peaks (consumption due to a higher amount of people) and qualitative peaks (high spikes in consumption due to changes in the workload/ type of labor). As expected the consumption patterns of Monitors highly correlate the pattern given by PC measurements, which can be compared using figures 5.3 and 5.4. In comparison the consumptions of utility devices and printer do not match nearly as neatly. In the case of printers the differentiation is harder due to the pronounced consumption spike on Wednesday of CW 27.

### **Recorded Performance Motivation Tool (RPMT)**

To allow an even more interactive approach to data exploration, the Grafana service as described in the section 4.1.2 allows creation of interactive dashboards. As an example application, in this work a sample dashboard that aims to be used as a motivational tool can be examined. A full screenshot of the dashboard can be seen in figure 5.7. Besides showing overview data, Grafana can be used to send notifications if certain thresholds are crossed, for example by using telegram or discord bots. Address to access the Grafana service is shown in table 4.3 located of section 4.1.1.

## 5 Results

Device type PC			
ID	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
1	-0.2	91.2	5.8942
4	-0.2	20.6	1.0352
7	-0.3	114.7	6.2446
10	-0.2	18.4	1.1847
14	-0.3	276.4	2.0851
16	-0.2	42.7	-0.0822
19	-0.3	15.8	-0.1230
23	-0.1	89.8	2.7412
26	-0.8	208.7	3.6216
30	-2.8	2152.8	10.2244
Total	-2.8	2152.8	32.8260
Device type Monitor			
ID	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
2	-0.2	33.3	5.1298
3	-0.1	33.5	6.6894
5	-0.2	21.1	0.7207
6	-0.2	70.2	1.7565
8	-0.3	35.9	4.1898
9	-0.2	33.4	3.5638
11	-0.2	83.4	1.6731
15	-0.3	15.2	0.7428
17	-0.4	13.2	0.8993
18	-0.3	17.5	1.1453
20	-0.2	44.6	-0.0705
21	-0.2	0.0	-0.0885
24	-0.3	15.3	0.8937
25	-0.4	21.3	1.3511
27	-0.2	26.7	0.9517
28	-0.3	22.3	0.9721
29	-0.3	22.3	1.6204
31	-0.3	0.0	-0.1449
Total	-0.4	83.4	31.995

Table 5.7: Result table showing average consumption of PC and Monitor devices.

## 5 Results

Device type Utility			
ID	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
13	-0.2	2523	4.8885
Device type Printer			
ID	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
12	-0.6	289.8	0.1327
22	-0.2	2671.0	16.4998
Total	-0.6	2671.0	16.6324
Device type Multiple			
ID	min power (W)	max power (W)	avg consumption (W)
34	-0.3	127.9	6.1979
37	0.7	257.4	43.2403
36	10.3	1180.5	27.7893
33	0.3	243.2	8.2019
35	-0.4	105.8	0.5758
Total	-0.4	1180.5	86.0055

Table 5.8: Result table showing average consumption of Utility, Printer and Multi devices.

## 5 Results

Sensor	Device	Workplace	Workplace Type	Idle Time	Idle Time in %
Sensor 1	PC	0	Single	4909	84 %
Sensor 2	Monitor	0	Single	3786	83 %
Sensor 3	Monitor	0	Single	4919	84 %
Sensor 4	PC	1	Dual	5023	87 %
Sensor 5	Monitor	1	Dual	5116	87 %
Sensor 6	Monitor	1	Dual	4546	84 %
Sensor 7	PC	1	Dual	0	0 %
Sensor 8	Monitor	1	Dual	4974	85 %
Sensor 9	Monitor	1	Dual	4992	85 %
Sensor 10	PC	2	Single	5412	92 %
Sensor 11	Monitor	2	Single	5405	92 %
Sensor 12	Printer	2	Single	5845	100 %
Sensor 13	Utility	2	Single	0	0 %
Sensor 14	PC	3	Single	5612	96 %
Sensor 15	Monitor	3	Single	5706	97 %
Sensor 16	PC	3	Single	5842	100 %
Sensor 17	Monitor	3	Single	4908	84 %
Sensor 18	Monitor	3	Single	4904	84 %
Sensor 19	PC	3	Single	5856	100 %
Sensor 20	Monitor	3	Single	5843	100 %
Sensor 21	Monitor	3	Single	5856	100 %
Sensor 22	Printer	3	Single	0	00 %
Sensor 23	PC	4	Multi	4990	85 %
Sensor 24	Monitor	4	Multi	5094	87 %
Sensor 25	Monitor	4	Multi	5094	87 %
Sensor 26	PC	4	Multi	5059	86 %
Sensor 27	Monitor	4	Multi	5848	100 %
Sensor 28	Monitor	4	Multi	5826	99 %
Sensor 29	Monitor	4	Multi	5039	86 %
Sensor 30	PC	4	Multi	5019	86 %
Sensor 31	Monitor	4	Multi	5856	100 %
Sensor 33	Multiple	5	Multi	0	0 %
Sensor 34	Multiple	6	Dual	4309	74 %
Sensor 35	Multiple	6	Dual	5762	98 %
Sensor 36	Multiple	7	Dual	0	0 %
Sensor 37	Multiple	7	Dual	0	0 %

Table 5.9: Overview of the calculated idle times of each device. The Idle Time column shows the number of intervals (15 minutes) with a power reading of less than 1 Watt.

## 5 Results

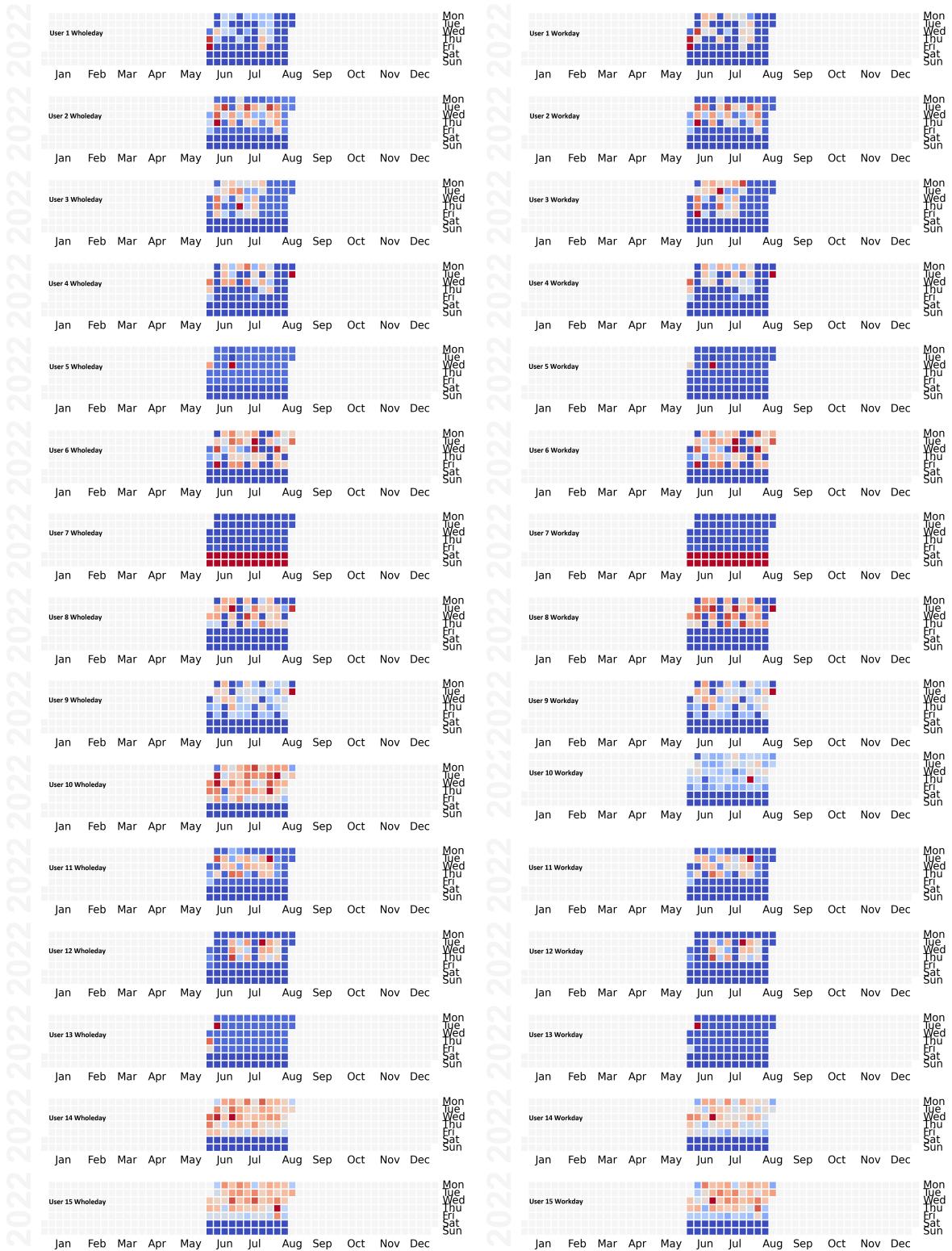


Figure 5.1: Comparison of the consumption of each user (Row 1-15) over time.  
 Consumption is only considered without weekends with averages during the  
 weekday (left) and working hours (right).

## 5 Results

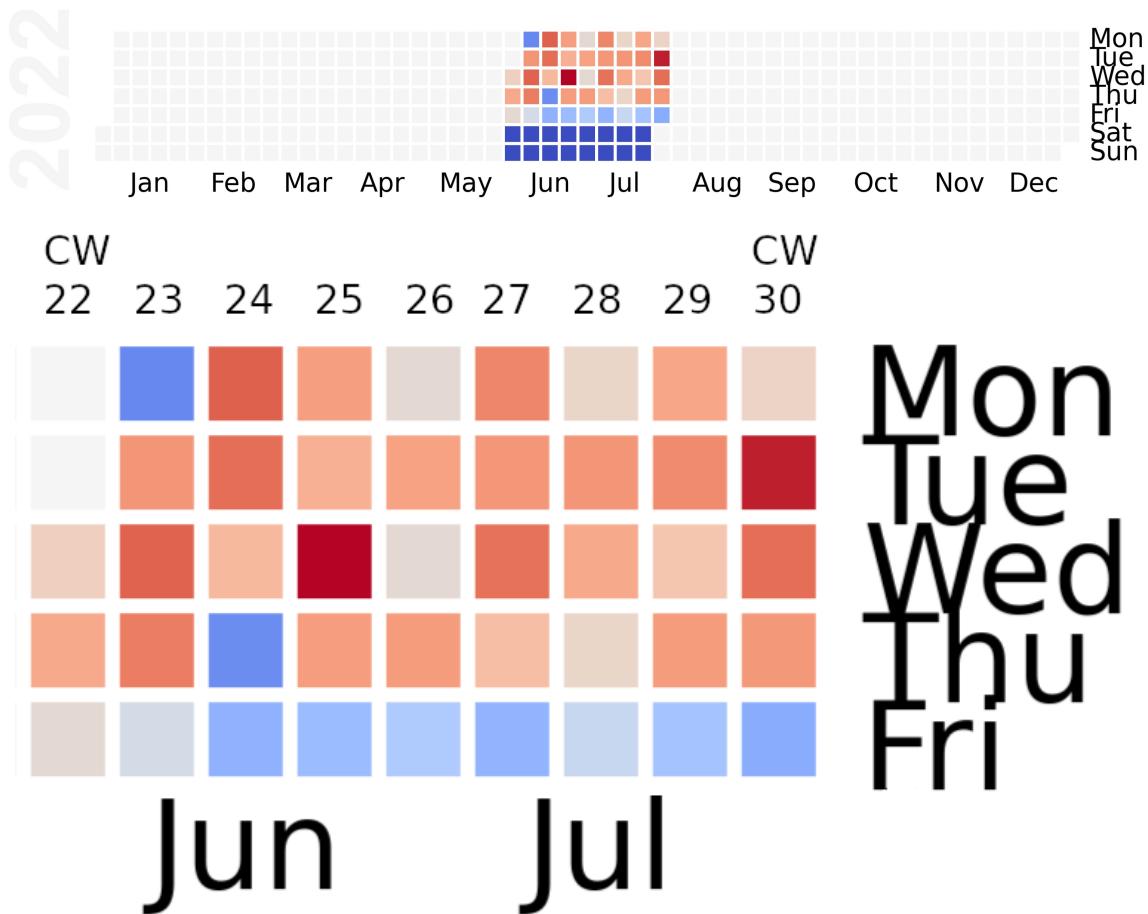


Figure 5.2: Heat map of the sum of all sensors during usual office hours (work hours on workdays). Above the unedited plot, below an edited version to improve visibility.

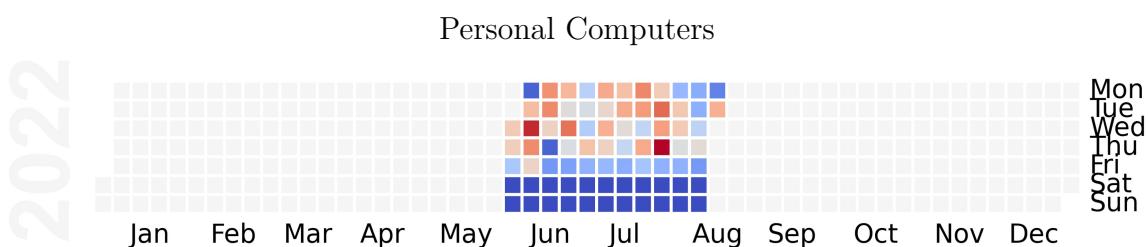


Figure 5.3: Heat map of the sum of all PC sensors during usual office hours (measured during workdays).

## 5 Results

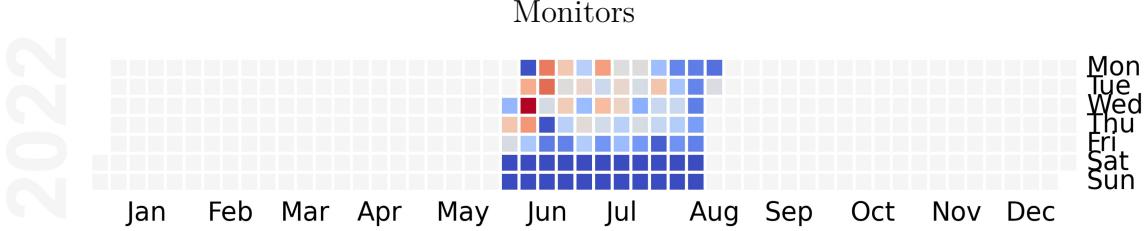


Figure 5.4: Heat map of the sum of all monitor sensors during usual office hours (measured during workdays).

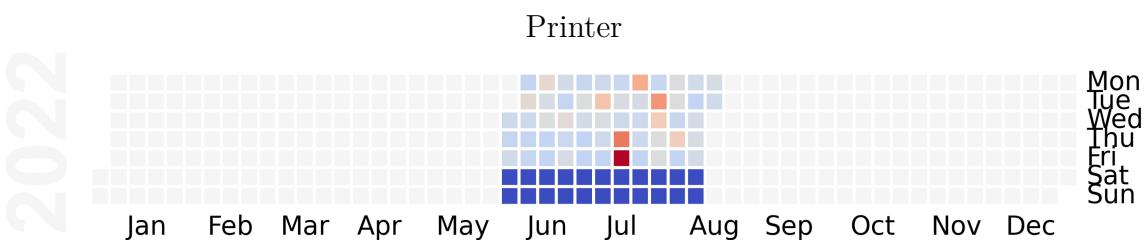


Figure 5.5: Heat map of the sum of all printer sensors during usual office hours (measured during workdays).

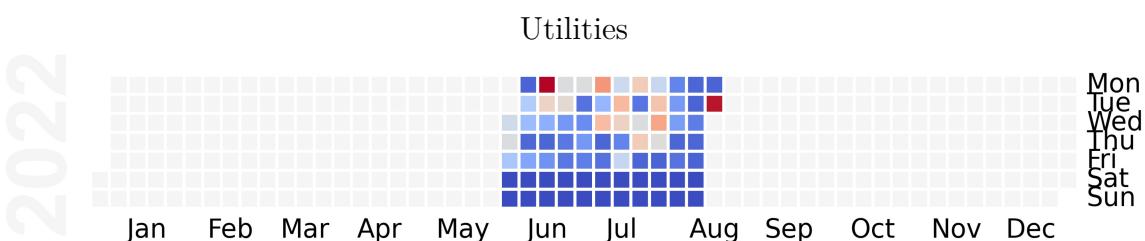


Figure 5.6: Heat map of the sum of all utility sensors during usual office hours (measured during workdays).

## 5 Results



Figure 5.7: Screenshot of the RPMT dashboard. From top left to bottom right there are panels showing 5 day comparisons to similar devices, the device type, an overview of annotations, the overview of elapsed idle time of the device, the power consumption as a time series, and the cumulative time series with the respective estimated CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.

# 6 Discussion

In this work the three specific goals stated in the introduction are recalled as:

1. Generation of a robust and reliable energy consumption data set.
2. Estimating the direct impact of consumed electricity on CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.
3. Use well defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to identify optimization potential in energy consumption.

To accomplish the first goal, in this word a methodology to create a realistic live data set of an actual office environment including hardware, software and performance indicators was defined. The goal was achieved by uniformly distribute sensing hardware into a live office environment. By an automated request and pooling program, requested data was accumulated with sufficiently high density in order to increase signal to noise ratio by averaging over fixed intervals. While basic consumption data was collected with faults, see section 6.1, the order of magnitude can be very accurately determined, and broadly match expected values from the literature.

By evaluating modern CO<sub>2</sub> estimation protocols, the risk of over fitting CO<sub>2</sub> figures through recent, but misleading values was identified, and a conservative estimation was given. By finding a better data source, like increased mandatory reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> contributions of all suppliers to the experiments devices, the average estimation should be

## *6 Discussion*

supplanted by more recent and dynamic methods.

The indications in the data using specified KPIs was defined in section 4.2. The evaluation of the idle time metric has shown valuable specific insights in PC and Monitor consumption, while showing only mixed applicability for device agnostic measurements. The modification of parameters according to device specifications is needed to increase reliable indication on energy usage by all kinds of devices. Meanwhile the introduction of Workday to Weekday Consumption Ratio (WWCR) has shown great promise in differentiating consumers of similar total energy consumption into a ranking of little to great possible potential in energy conservation. While producing multiple positive results, different approaches can be considered to improve the quality of data generation and validation. The individual limitations of the experiment that became obvious during the hardware setup process were:

**Controlled environment** is, while working against the idea of creating realistic values, a well defined environment where parameters can be changed if necessary have many benefits. From missing data due to lack of adherence to the usage of sensors, to the fluctuating quality in network capacity, up to the unavailability of certain possibilities, like access to the service behind a firewall. Components that are permanently out of reach for any type of experiment greatly hinder possibilities and have to be accounted for in advance.

**Blinding experiments** of this kind will likely increase the veracity of the data. During experimental process and measurement, multiple office workers showed aversion to the prospect of being monitored. While missuses and repercussions can be avoided using privatization and pseudonymization techniques, the knowledge and physical reminder in

## *6 Discussion*

form of a visible sensor is most likely influencing staff behavior. While this fact could be useful during interventions, a neutral data gathering will be influenced by this.

**Counter measurements** using laboratory equipment might be a useful tool to recognize and minimize faulty live data. As the experimenter has no (permanent) immediate connection or access to the devices, it is quite difficult to recognize unrealistic values without further information on the device. For example in the case of this measurement the ratios of consumption due to computation and monitoring match with the estimated ratios found in the related works in section 2, however due to the advancements in computing power and flat screen monitoring, it is unclear if this ratio should still hold.

**Improved real time CO2 footprint estimation** would be a great asset when the goal is to more accurately react to specific times where energy conservation should be prioritized, as when renewable energies are more readily available during seasons. While there are different API provider giving accurate daily information to renewable energy generation [18] in a respective region, due to the interconnected grid system it is fundamentally impossible to determine which energy you are using currently. This has to be determined by retroactively reevaluating energy balance and trade between countries(refer to section 2.2 for specifics) and can only be estimated in advance. Another possibility would be a bypass of the grid by using locally generated electricity. As this kind of power would most likely be renewable, the value of this feature in power conservation would still need to be determined.

**Incorporating independent measurements** ranging from accurate count of human traffic, self reliant ways to determine efficiency and value of work per energy consumed, or complementing electricity data, like electric bills could improve overall veracity of the key indicators that are at the core of this experiment.

## **6.1 Data Discussion**

During data collection separate evaluations seemed to result in contradicting data. As seen in the visualization of user 7 in figure 5.1 and his respective result table, an obvious sensor bias compiled to a significant error. Mixed with the expected measurement noise mainly due to voltage fluctuations, refer to section 3.2, and a completely unused workplace, the negative consumption summed to a significant reduction in power consumption overall. Utilizing more controlled environments, it needs to be evaluated if simply ignoring a biased sensor, by cutting negative values, if a production of power by the device is categorically impossible, or if adding similar noise to the signal reaches a more accurate result to actual consumption values. Overall consumption and ratios in processing vs. visualizations stayed within the expected range found in the literature. The evaluation using the proposed KPI Workday to Weekday Consumption Ratio (WWCR) gave some insight to differentiate devices and users with possible bigger efficiency gains by experiencing higher off work consumption. To find applicable intervention methods the metric should be evaluated further in future experiments. Using a simple definition of device Idle Time across device types did only prove successful, if the consumption profile of the device matched with the definitions. Especially in the case of multiple devices per sensor, and high energy intensive printer the idle time did not show useful information, as the threshold was passed seldom. The application of CO<sub>2</sub> footprint estimations gives

a rough estimate on the impact on greenhouse gas emissions, but the efficacy has to be determined using annual report data by the power provider and distributors.

## **6.2 Future Work**

While providing a solid data basis for a real office environment. The data collection is generally only the first step in making an impact in the environment. There are different possibilities to enlarge the scope of this work to improve its usefulness.

**Change of context** while office spaces contribute a proper partition of total energy consumption. The service sector only contributes 25% of overall electricity demand. This evaluates to the third most sector behind industrial 43% and residential 26% [6]. To get a chance of meeting environmental sustainability goals as described in section 1.1, all other sectors above need at least as much research to tackle the energy conservation goals.

**Widen the scope** of office context measurements, and develop concrete aids and methodologies to influence consumption behavior wherever possible. This includes on the one hand a diversification of different kinds of office spaces in different cities and environments. On the other hand, other aspects of IT, service and communications like data centers, AI research and communication infrastructure need to be included to complete the picture of electricity consumption in the office world.

**Adapt the current measurement model** to facilitate other kinds of research. A valuable contribution could be a thorough labeling of the data set to enable the use of AI models to be trained on real consumption data, with the aim to facilitate for example narrow artificial intelligence to find solutions to energy optimization problems.

**Find a way to privatize** energy consumption measurements. Modern tech companies frequently find ways to encourage individuals to gather data for a specific tech service to use. The examples range from traffic data using phone location to health data in order to receive an insurance bonus. By providing a service to the public, like a tool to enable smart grid exchange between citizens using localized renewable energy generators, when consumption data is freely given, the gathering of data could become a secondary task if a valuable incentive can be given to prospective users.

# **Acronyms**

**EMAS** Eco-Management and Audit Scheme. 7

**GHG** Greenhouse Gas Protocol. viii, 7, 8

**KPI** Key Performance Indicator. iii, 5, 30, 35, 54, 55, 57

**PTR** Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. 7

**RPMT** Recorded Performance Motivation Tool. vii, 28, 46, 53

**SDG** Sustainable Development Goal. vi, 1–3

**WWCR** Workday to Weekday Consumption Ratio. iii, vii, 31, 32, 36, 37, 43–45, 55, 57

# Glossary

**Docker** Virtualization tool, to encapsulate separate software images into single containers running on a 'clean' system. To facilitate communication the docker host system can access all images.. 21

**Europäische Norm** technical standards ratified by the CEM. CENELEC pr ETSI. To take effect, european standards have to be adopted into national standards. 11

**main repository** Github repository containing all relevant data files, the thesis, code, csv files and images referenced in this work.

Link:<https://github.com/Free2ndThought/MA>. 29

**sustainability** Is a complex attribute of various needs and activities of humanity. Broadly the subject of sustainability is fulfilled if it contributes to the goals defined by the UN [9]. 1

**workday** Section of a weekday/whole day between 8am and 6pm.. vii, viii, 32, 37, 39, 40, 44, 45, 51, 52

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# **Eidesstattliche Erklärung**

Hiermit versichere ich, dass ich diese Masterarbeit selbstständig und ohne Benutzung anderer als der angegebenen Quellen und Hilfsmittel angefertigt habe und alle Ausführungen, die wörtlich oder sinngemäß übernommen wurden, als solche gekennzeichnet sind, sowie, dass ich die Masterarbeit in gleicher oder ähnlicher Form noch keiner anderen Prüfungsbehörde vorgelegt habe.

Passau, September 20, 2022

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