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Visualization of a warehouse filled with Vapor Chambers (Image: Vapor IO)

INTERNET OF THINGS, SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Report: Internet of Things to Spur Data Center Demand Explosion

BY [YEVGENIY SVERDLIK](#) ON APRIL 27, 2015

While the tiniest of devices come to mind when thinking about the Internet of Things, the fact that the already massive amount of tiny network-connected devices is growing relentlessly will have serious implications for huge buildings where servers those devices talk to live.

Only about four years from now, the Interned of Things will need 750 percent more data center capacity in service-provider facilities than it consumes today, according to a recent report by the market-research firm IDC.

If it pans out, the forecast has huge implications for the entire data center industry, including real estate brokers, power and cooling infrastructure vendors, companies that sell servers, storage, network, racks, data center management software, and, most importantly data center service providers.

“Equal, or even greater, investments in the IoT platform services residing in the data center will be instrumental in delivering the IoT promise of anytime, anywhere, anyhow connectivity and context,” Rick Villars, vice president of data center and cloud divisions at IDC, said in a statement. “Given the number of devices connected and the amount of data generated, businesses must focus on their IoT service platform requirements at the level of the data center itself, not just the individual servers or storage devices.”

The analysts believe IoT will be the single largest driver of IT expansion in larger data centers. Because agility and scale are crucial to IoT applications, that expansion will take place primarily in service-provider data centers rather than on-premise corporate IT facilities.

IDC also predicts that new compute and storage deployments in network “edge” locations, an area of the data center market growing very quickly today, will eventually be driven by IoT more than any other kind of applications. Service providers in the edge data center space today, companies like EdgeConneX, which is [adding 10 edge data centers](#) this year alone, site web content as primary growth driver.

In addition to data center players like EdgeConneX, new vendor have emerged that see growth in demand for edge data centers as a trend to latch onto.

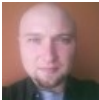
One example is Vapor IO, a startup co-founded by Cole Crawford, executive director of the Open Compute Project Foundation and one of the original creators of OpenStack, the popular open source codebase for building cloud infrastructure. Vapor IO’s unorthodox [cylindrical data center pod](#), called Vapor Chamber, is designed specifically for edge data centers, packing lots of power and server space into a relatively small footprint.

Because analytics are an important component of IoT services, hyperscale data centers will be a major component of most IoT service offerings by 2019, according to IDC. Nearly all major hyperscale data center operators, companies like Google, Microsoft, and Amazon, already provide a variety of analytics services that can be integrated into applications, and IoT is poised to spur even more demand for them.

Of course data center management is itself an area that stands to benefit from IoT applications greatly. Data centers are full of sensors, most of which are already network-connected. There is already a number of software applications on the market that use that sensor data to help operators run their facilities more efficiently.



About the Author



Yevgeniy Sverdlik (596 Posts) San Francisco-based business and technology journalist. Editor in chief at Data Center Knowledge, covering the global data center industry.

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