



Dynamic Workload Assessment and Optimization: True Peak Utilization Monitoring in Data Centers Compute Capacity involving AR/VR Applications

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Abstract This white paper explores the critical importance of monitoring true peak utilization in data centers and the challenges associated with this task. True peak utilization is a crucial metric for assessing maximum load capacity, ensuring optimal performance, and preventing bottlenecks in data center infrastructure. The paper discusses the complexities arising from dynamic workloads, diverse hardware configurations, and evolving applications, emphasizing the significance of monitoring true peak utilization for efficient resource allocation and capacity planning, while extending its insights to the unique demands imposed by AR/VR workloads.

The paper addresses difficulties in obtaining precise measurements and proposes solutions, highlighting the importance of leveraging advanced monitoring technologies. Collaboration with performance and network engineering teams is emphasized in selecting peak utilization metrics. The paper also delves into the variability in server utilization, stressing the dynamic and elusive nature of true peak utilization. Overall, it provides insights and recommendations for data center operators and IT professionals to optimize performance in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

Keywords performance engineering, network engineering, peak utilization metrics, P90, P95, P99, resilient infrastructure, failovers, server utilization variability, technological landscape, hampel

1. Introduction

This paper explores the critical importance of monitoring true peak utilization in data centers, a key metric for assessing load capacity and ensuring optimal performance. Amidst dynamic workloads and diverse hardware configurations, accurately tracking true peak utilization becomes complex. The paper highlights its significance for resource allocation, capacity planning, and preventing performance bottlenecks, proposing solutions and advocating for advanced monitoring technologies. Collaboration with performance and network engineering teams is essential in metric selection, aligning with failover points for comprehensive performance optimization. The paper addresses the challenges posed by server utilization variability and emphasizes collaborative efforts to navigate this complexity. In subsequent sections, detailed calculations and complementary methods are presented, offering a comprehensive guide for data center operators and IT professionals.



2. Performance Measures

Selecting the appropriate metric for measuring peak utilization in a data center is a critical decision that significantly impacts performance optimization and infrastructure resilience. This section explores the considerations and methodologies involved in choosing between percentiles, such as P90, P95, or P99, highlighting their distinctive roles in capturing different aspects of utilization data.

In the determination of the peak utilization metric, collaboration between performance engineering, and network engineering teams is emphasized. The choice between P90, P95, or P99 introduces a nuanced decision-making process.

A. Understanding the Trade-offs

- 1) P90: Represents a stable and less volatile utilization, suitable for scenarios where occasional peaks can be tolerated.
- 2) P95 and P99: Offer a more conservative approach by considering higher percentages data points, prioritizing a resilient and robust infrastructure.

Working in tandem with performance and network engineering teams is essential to correlate peak utilization metrics with failure rates. This collaboration ensures alignment with failover points, allowing for a comprehensive approach to optimizing data center performance and resilience.

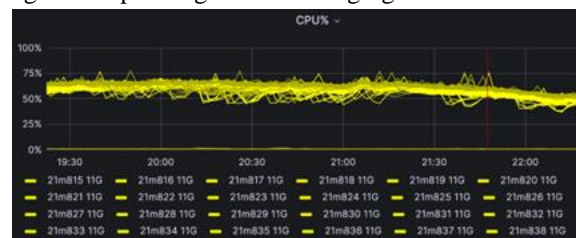
B. Variability in Server Utilization and Advanced Monitoring

The challenge of accurately monitoring true peak utilization is heightened by the variability in server utilization, especially in multi-server environments. This section explores the dynamic and elusive nature of true peak utilization and introduces advanced monitoring strategies.

Equations for Variability Analysis:

Variability = Max Utilization – Min Utilization

Traditional metrics may fall short in pinpointing the exact moment of true peak utilization. Collaborative efforts, involving performance engineering and network engineering teams, are crucial for developing effective monitoring strategies. Advanced techniques, such as predictive modeling and machine learning algorithms, can enhance accuracy in identifying and responding to ever-changing server utilization dynamics.



This section provides a comprehensive overview of the considerations, equations, and collaborative efforts involved in optimizing peak utilization metrics for resilient data centers. The nuanced approach to metric selection, correlation with failure rates, and advanced monitoring strategies contribute to a holistic framework for ensuring optimal data center performance in dynamic operational environments.

3. Quantitative Analysis

This section outlines the essential input data and the intricate calculations involved in determining native demands within the data center environment. The provided data sources and necessary manipulations are crucial for accurate analysis and decision-making. Additionally, complementary methods, such as m1 and m2, contribute to a comprehensive understanding of native utilization dynamics. The brief introduction sets the stage for a detailed exploration of the calculation process.

A. Input Data for Data Center Analysis

The accurate analysis of data center performance relies on a comprehensive set of input data. This section details the sources, notes, and manipulations required for various key parameters, providing a foundation for robust calculations. Let's delve into the specifics:



Input	Data Source	Manipulations Needed
i.1) Daily Peak Utilization (P95) by colo	Clickhouse (via BQ)	Source: cloudflare-bi.prometheus_raw.metal_usage_data_5m. Note: Excludes CPU outside FL.
i.4) Number of virtual CPUs per site	Prometheus (via BQ)	Source: cloudflare-bi.prometheus_raw.node_cpu_info. Requires normalization with (i.5).
i.6) Logical > spine mapping data	Prometheus (via Grafana)	Source: Capacity-planning-357522.model.spine_logical. Errors at MCP sites.
i.5) Efficiency factors, taking Gen 10 as the base	Prometheus (via Grafana)	Hard coded inputs in the method. Aim to obtain this data by site.
i.2) Failed-out in CPU time during the peak time	Traffic Manager (via BQ)	Source: Cloudflare-bi.trafficmanager_raw.colo_state. Note: Data in colo_state table seems off.
i.3) Fail-in in CPU time during the peak time	Traffic Manager (via BQ)	Source: Cloudflare-bi.trafficmanager_raw.colo_state. Note: Data in colo_state table seems off.

B. Calculation Process for Native Demands

The determination of native demands within a data center involves a meticulous process, incorporating historical data and capacity considerations. Here is an overview of the steps involved:

- 1) *Cut Date Identification (O.4)*: The cutDate (O.4) signifies the earliest date in the historical data of a colo/PoP. It is identified where the capacity level aligns with the latest observed capacity for that colo/PoP.
- 2) *Complementary Methods*:
 - m1 Method (to calculate O.6): The m1 Method employs the Hampel method, a statistical technique for outlier detection and replacement, with the following parameters:
 - 14-day Time Window: The method considers a specific time span to assess data points.
 - 3 as Sigma: A threshold for identifying outliers, typically set as 3 times the median absolute deviation.
 - Median as Replacing Value: Outliers are replaced with the median of non-outlying values within the specified window.

The Hampel method, also known as the Hampel identifier or filter, is a robust statistical approach used for identifying and handling outliers in a dataset. The method is particularly valuable in scenarios where traditional statistical measures may be sensitive to extreme values, and a more resilient analysis is required.

- Calculation of Medians: The method involves calculating medians for a specified time window (14 days in this case) within the dataset.
- Calculation of Deviations: Deviations are computed between each data point and the corresponding median within the window.
- Outlier Identification: Data points with deviations exceeding a predetermined threshold (in this case, 3 times the median absolute deviation) are identified as potential outliers.
- Replacement of Outliers: The identified outliers are then replaced with more robust estimators, typically the median of the non-outlying values within the specified window.

m2 Method (to calculate O.8): Utilizes the history of native utilizations per colo, considering statistical changes in the process to calculate the final expected native utilization (O.8).



This calculation process, combining historical data with complementary methodologies, forms the foundation for understanding and optimizing native demands within the data center environment. The cutDate acts as a pivotal point in aligning capacity levels, providing a clear reference for subsequent analyses.



4. Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper has thoroughly examined the critical significance of monitoring true peak utilization in data centers, emphasizing its pivotal role in assessing load capacity, ensuring optimal performance, and averting potential bottlenecks. The complex landscape of dynamic workloads, diverse hardware configurations, and evolving applications like immersive media, Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) underscores the necessity of monitoring true peak utilization for efficient resource allocation and capacity planning.

The challenges associated with obtaining precise measurements have been addressed, proposing solutions and highlighting the adoption of advanced monitoring technologies. Collaboration with performance and network engineering teams is stressed, ensuring the selection of peak utilization metrics aligns with failover points for comprehensive performance optimization. Recognizing the variability in server utilization as a considerable challenge, this paper advocates for collaborative efforts and the implementation of advanced monitoring strategies, including equations for variability analysis and predictive modeling.

In summary, the paper provides a robust framework for optimizing peak utilization metrics in data centers. It offers valuable insights to data center operators and IT professionals, equipping them to navigate the intricacies of ever-evolving technological landscapes and enhance overall performance.

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