
# Today's Data Centers

## *A brief from NECA's Electrical Design Library*

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Computer servers have become smaller and more powerful, but that doesn't mean businesses are devoting fewer square feet to them. In fact, data center construction is one of the biggest bright spots in today's commercial construction market.

While today's machines are far more efficient than earlier models, the dramatic increase in their numbers is pushing the electricity demand from groups of these machines to new highs.

***Result:*** Energy use is a critical consideration of data center design and construction.

While electrical equipment performance is vital to any facility, electrical systems are especially crucial to data center operation. Often categorized as "mission-critical," data centers are complex structures. Unique demands and requirements include:

- Extraordinary electricity consumption – up to 2,000 watts per square foot, according to some calculations
- Zero tolerance for electrical downtime – round-the-clock operations can be essential if a company is going to meet its business goals
- Dependence on uninterruptible power supply (UPS) equipment and backup power systems to protect against damage from surges, brownouts and other electrical disruptions

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