# Smart Containment

## Extending the Life of the Data Center







## The Cooling Trend



 $\rightarrow$  Need new tools to closely couple cooling to demand



## Air Mixing Lowers Efficiency

- Low  ${\boldsymbol{\Delta}}\text{-}\mathsf{T}$  impairs CRAH efficiency
- Capacity unnecessarily limited
- 60% of cold air is wasted
- Typical 3X over provisioned
- Free mixing prevents tight supply control





## **Containment Stops Mixing**

- High  $\Delta\text{-}T$  boosts CRAH efficiency
- Reduces operating expenses
- Capacity expands
- Eliminates hotspots
- Isolated airflow enables tight supply control





## How Does Containment Work?

- Airflow isolation barriers prevent hot return air from mixing with cold supply air
- The hot return air stays hot, increasing the return air temperature to the CRAH units
- The ∆-T across the CRAH increases which results in more efficient cooling
- Makes the supply air temperature more uniform across the server inlets, improving reliability







### **Containment Systems**









## The Great Debate – Which Aisle Do You Contain?

## **Hot Aisle**

- Keeps Δ-T highest by preventing cooling of the hot air
- Comfort in open area
- Switch gear
- Easy to balance zones

VS.

## **Cold Aisle**

- More direct path of cold air to servers
- Positive air pressure
- Comfort in hot aisle
- More deployment
   options



## **Containment Architectures**















## Smart Containment: The Cooling Efficiency Stack

	CONTROL
Barriers above racks	Fan speed
Doors on aisle ends	Set points
Blanking panels	<ul> <li>Chilled water flow</li> </ul>
Filling floor gaps	<ul> <li>Economizer hours</li> </ul>
Plenum returns with ducted CRAHs	CRAH on/off
	<ul> <li>CONTAIN</li> <li>Barriers above racks</li> <li>Doors on aisle ends</li> <li>Blanking panels</li> <li>Filling floor gaps</li> <li>Plenum returns with ducted CRAHs</li> </ul>



### **Monitor & Control**

#### Wireless Sensor Network





#### Adaptive Control Measures

- Automatic start/stop of CRAC units
- Adjust variable speed fans
- Change CRAC set points
- Increase chilled water set points
- Manage the usage of air side economizers



## Two Sets of Gains: 1) Containment and 2) Control

#### Baseline



- No containment
- High degree of air mixing
- High inlet temperatures

#### After Containment



- Cold aisle contained
- Higher  $\Delta$ -T
- No change to CRAHs

#### With Control



- Controlled CRAHs
- ASHRAE inlet temperatures
- Increased return temperatures



## **Published Case Studies**



#### LBNL

Fan speed reduction of 75% 12% reduction in cooling energy



#### **Altera**

Server inlet variance reduced from 14°F to 2°F 12.5% energy reduction



#### Yahoo

Supply air temperature increased 21<sup>°</sup>F 21% reduction in cooling energy

Published by Accenture/Silicon Valley Leadership Group These are not Polargy projects



### **Compelling ROI**

- Energy savings from reduced fan speeds and lower demand on chilled water plant
- Reduced heat related failures
- Power utility rebates
- More capacity out of the data center





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