Server Room Upgrades
Definition and Guidelines

These guidelines are intended to supplement Administrative Policy Statement 17.1, University of Washington Server Policy, and assist units in making decisions *in the short term* about accommodating their technology requirements.

Definition

A project is determined to be a **server room upgrade** when it requires any one (1) of the following:

- An increase in local or building-wide electrical capacity
- An increase in local or building-wide HVAC capacity
- An increase in the size of an existing server room to accommodate additional server capacity

Guidelines

Over the next 5 to 7-year time frame, Planning & Management will implement a phased plan to eliminate decentralized server spaces. Alternatives to departmental server rooms may include centrally-managed data center space, or other options such as cloud or other managed services, if appropriate and economically feasible.

UW's Capital Projects and Facilities Services Offices have been directed to not implement any server room upgrades that involve any of the above-bulleted actions without explicit approval from Planning & Management. Should your proposed server room project require any one of these actions, you must contact UW-IT to begin the process of implementing an alternative migration option.

Even if your project does not fall into one of the bulleted items defined above, if you estimate annual server purchases and/or maintenance costs of $30,000 or greater, it is recommended that you consult with UW-IT regarding other options that may be available (e.g. migration to centralized services or cloud services). Continued investment in existing local servers is not recommended, as the longer term goal of eliminating decentralized server spaces is realized in the next 5-7 years.

Benefits of Migration

In most cases, the spaces across campus that house servers today were not purpose-built to be continuously operated and are not seismically hardened or secure. In many instances, these spaces do not have not the required infrastructure, monitoring and/or controls necessary for economical and efficient operation and maintenance. They often also lack back-up power and adequate safety equipment, such as emergency power off (EPO) and/or adequate fire detection and suppression.

The UW's centrally-managed data centers contain rooms with purpose-based cooling systems that dispose of servers' waste heat much more efficiently than non-centralized server rooms do. Centralized facilities also offer an opportunity for dramatic energy savings when they host multiple, virtualized

servers on each physical machine. They provide a heightened level of security, safety and back-up support in the event of outages. They are professionally managed, maintained, and provisioned.

Contact Information

- If you believe your situation warrants an exception to the policy, please use this webform to request an exception: http://green.uw.edu/content/request-server-exception
- If you would like to schedule time with UW IT to conduct a site visit to help evaluate your IT needs, please e-mail help@uw.edu. You will be directed to a customer account manager who can help coordinate this.