What your storage array costs to run is not on any one bill

About 20 minutes, from records you already have

The number sits in four records, on different bills. Find each one, add them, and write the total next to the date.

Yes **2** Written down, with a date (a log, a screen, a document), and it meets your own plan.

Partly **1** Remembered, but not written down, or the record shows you missed your plan.

No **0** Nobody knows, or it was never done. A blank is a finding.

"None, checked on a date" counts as a record. No plan or target written down? Write your guess first, then measure: the guess is your plan.

Five questions about your own setup

1 Support

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) What does the support contract cost for a year?

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 Score 0, 1 or 2 This quarter Next quarter

How to raise it

Where to find it:
The yearly cost on the support contract, or on its last renewal.

To get it to a 2:
The yearly figure copied from the contract or renewal, with the date you read it.

2 Power and cooling

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) How much power does the array draw, and what does that cost over a year at your rate, cooling included?

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 Score 0, 1 or 2 This quarter Next quarter

How to raise it

Where to find it:
The power draw in kilowatts (the power the array uses at one moment) from the array's own management screen or the metered power strips it plugs into (add both if it has two power supplies). Multiply by the hours in a year, then by the rate per kilowatt-hour (the unit a power bill charges by) from the facilities or data center bill. If that bill lists cooling as its own line, add it.

To get it to a 2:
A power reading from the array's screen or its metered strips and a rate from a bill, both written down with their dates.

What this does not prove:
One reading is one moment. It does not show what the array draws on a busy day or a quiet one.

3 Rack space

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) What does the rack space the array takes cost for a year?

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 Score 0, 1 or 2 This quarter Next quarter

How to raise it

Where to find it:
Take the monthly space line of the rack bill and divide it by the rack units in the rack (one rack unit is one slot). Multiply by the units your array takes, then by twelve.

To get it to a 2:
A dated count of units and a monthly space line read from a bill.

4 Team hours

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) How many hours did your team log against the array over the last three months, and what does that come to for a year?

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 | Score 0, 1 or 2 | This quarter | Next quarter

> **How to raise it**
>
> **Where to find it:**
> The ticket history: alerts, patching, adding capacity. Multiply the three months by four, then by what one hour of that person's time costs you, from payroll or a rate you already use. This is the hardest one to find.
>
> **To get it to a 2:**
> Hours taken from tickets, not guessed, for a stated three months, with the hourly rate and where it came from.
>
> **What this does not prove:**
> Tickets show the hours someone logged. They do not show the quiet work nobody wrote down.

5 The total, dated

Your answer, and where it is written down (with the date) Have you added the four and written the total next to today's date?

No 0 | Partly 1 | Yes 2 | Score 0, 1 or 2 | This quarter | Next quarter

> **How to raise it**
>
> **Where to find it:**
> Rows 1 to 4.
>
> **To get it to a 2:**
> A total written with its date, inside the interval your team sets for reading it again. No interval written down? Write your guess (once a year, once a quarter) and score against it.

Your total, out of 10

9-10 **Known** Score the same page again next quarter.

5-8 **Partly known** Fix your lowest row this week.

0-4 **Assumed** Do row 1 this week.

Two rules beat the total: if row 1 scores below 2, the result is Assumed. Any row that missed your plan or guess is your next step.

> If someone asked what your storage array costs to run this year, could you answer from a record?

What this does not prove

A total with every row dated shows where the cost comes from. It does not show the total is complete, because a bill you have not seen yet can still add to it, and it does not tell you whether to keep or replace the array. It is a number to know, not a case to make.

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