

FROM DATA CENTRES TO DATA SYNDROME

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How to cite this article:

El Namaki, M. S. S. (2026). From Data Centres to Data Syndrome. *International Journal of Business Strategy and Innovation*, 1(1), 6-14.

Received: 08 May 2026 | Accepted: 29 May 2026 | Published: 05 June 2026

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.68090/IJBSIVol1Iss1-5>

Abstract

Data centres are shrouded with mystery. They constitute secure, centralized physical facilities that house IT infrastructure. They are the source of artificial intelligence wizardry and the ultimate core of civil and military prowess essential for storing, processing, and distributing digital data and applications. Their country's number, size and market capacity conceal electronic potential and, at times, civil and military supremacy. Yet data centres are a problem ridden conceptual and operational entity.

This will be the focus of this article.

The article starts with a silhouette of a data center. It then identifies core syndromes. Those include Energy supply and consumption; Scale and capacity; Defense and protection; Cost and investment and finally Environmental damage. Add to that data body syndrome and the picture is complete.

The article concludes with question marks and hypotheses for further research. Research is qualitative.

What Is a Data Centre

A modern data center is a facility that manages and stores data and applications. It resorts to a blend of physical infrastructure and virtual technologies to conduct the function. Data is processed and then channeled to different environments from resident systems and edge locations and cloud platforms. This role has expanded far beyond their original scope. Today's data centres have evolved rapidly, shifting from traditional on-premises hardware to virtualized networks that orchestrate applications and workloads across distributed pools of physical infrastructure.

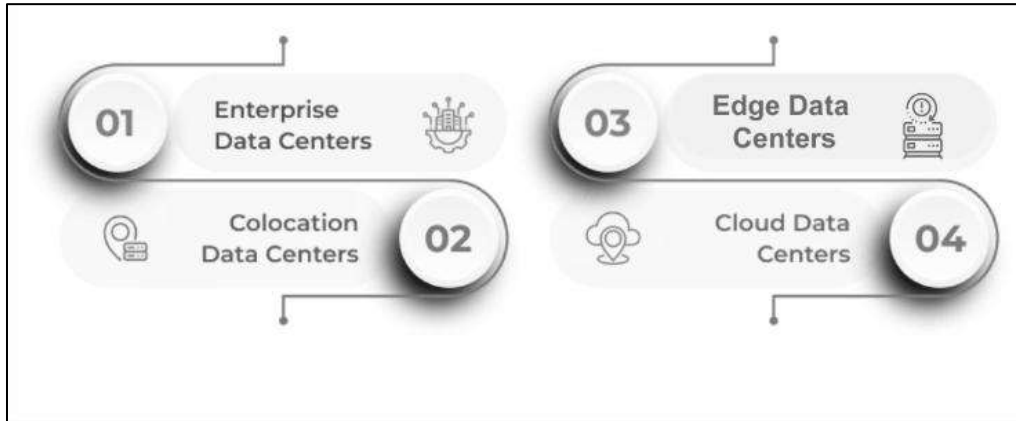


Figure 1: Types of Data Centres (Source: Data Centers Explained: Architecture, Functionality, and Business Impact. <https://www.netforchoice.com/blog/data-centers-explained/>)

A data center could belong to either of four types. There are Enterprise Data Centres or company owned and operated unit, Colocation Data Centres or third party hosted facility, Cloud Data Centres or becloud hosted facility and finally Edge Data Centres or smaller centres located near the source of data.

Data Centre Architecture

Data center architecture represents the design and layout of a computing facility that houses IT infrastructure, including servers, storage systems, and networking equipment. This architecture also covers physical infrastructure facilities, such as power distribution and cooling systems.

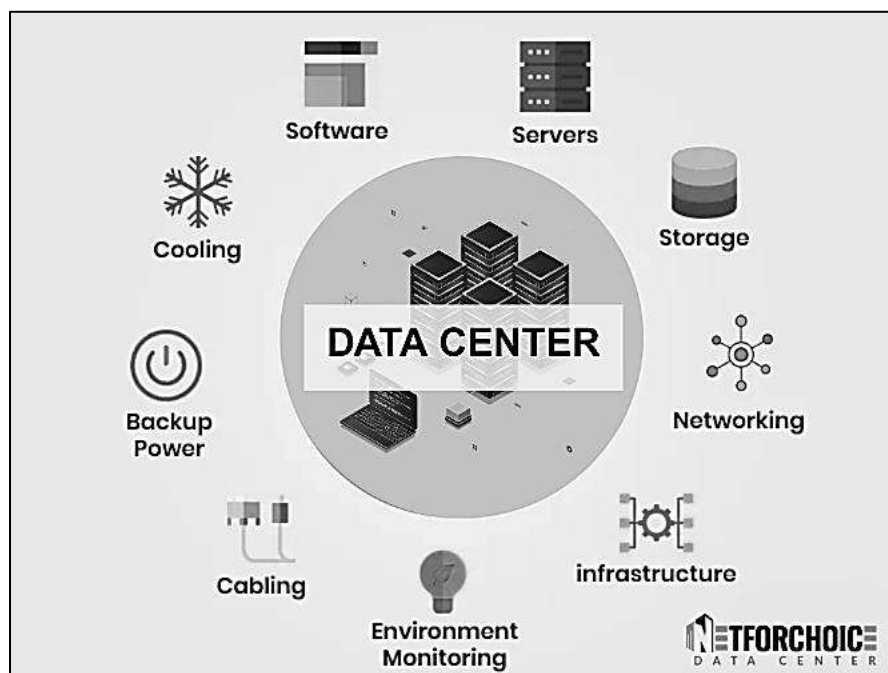


Figure 2: Data Centre Components (Source: Data Centers Explained: Architecture, Functionality, and Business Impact. <https://www.netforchoice.com/blog/data-centers-explained/>)

Servers and IT Equipment: The essential components of any data center often include cybersecurity systems, firewalls, routers, servers, storage systems, and switches. (“What is a Data Center? Meaning, Definition, Operations & Types | Fortinet”) Server or servers, provide the core and are built around a high-performance computer that is packed with memory. A server or group of servers may be dedicated to a single task, multiple applications, or a specific client.

Storage devices, such as hard-disk, solid-state, and robotic tape drives are important to helping any data center run these servers. Another vital component is networking and communication equipment, which is necessary to maintain a high-bandwidth network between servers. This is comprised of routers, switches, network interface controllers, and miles of cables that help information to flow through the data center.

Software complements this hardware. Multiple operating systems and applications that run on these servers are there.

Security and Protection Infrastructure: Data centres store valuable digital assets ranging from corporate IP to customer credit card information. These data are prime targets for hackers and cybercriminals who can resort to ransom or other tools of malignant abuse (Mallick, 2024).

Preserving these data is a vital issue in data centers. Data centres, therefore, are typically protected by multi-layered barriers combining physical security (access control, surveillance, environmental monitoring) and digital defenses (firewalls, intrusion detection, encryption) to ensure data confidentiality, integrity, and availability. Perimeter barriers, biometric scanners, 24/7 security teams, and environmental sensors are resorted to prohibiting unauthorized access to environmental threats.

Support Infrastructure

It comprises power distribution units, supplemental power subsystems, and electrical switching equipment. They help manage and distribute electricity across the data center. Key elements, such as Uses and backup generators, provide continuous power in the event of disruptions.

Besides, efficient cooling solutions like in-row cooling setups and computer room air conditioners maintain optimal temperatures. Additionally, sufficient provisioning for network carrier connectivity is crucial for consistent access to the internet and network resources.

In addition to security, data centres rely on energy-efficiency systems and equipment that keep the facility running smoothly. This includes power equipment like backup batteries and generators and uninterruptible power supplies. Cooling systems and equipment to handle air quality and temperatures, such as air handlers, chillers, fans, sensors, and water pipes and tanks, ensure servers run efficiently.

Data Storage Infrastructure

Modern data center stores data assets within a protected physical and storage framework. This setup helps maintain data confidentiality, integrity, and availability.

Typically, it includes crucial hardware, such as servers, storage subsystems, networking switches, routers, firewalls, structured cabling, and physical racks. High performance storage and computing power enable seamless operations and data-intensive processes.

Data Centre Syndrome

Data centres are problem laden entities. Yet the problems are mostly concealed within technological clouds, corporate protective curtains, or political fog. The following is an analysis of the constituents of this syndrome.

Political Rivalry: Data centres are becoming, in the United States and Europe, the focus of intense political conflict. Reasons cover a wide front from AI-driven infrastructure expansion, heavy electricity and water usage and environmental strain to limited community benefits. Proponents of data centers advance the job creation and tax enhancement arguments while critics point out that data centres use a lot of water and electricity paid for, finally, by ordinary citizens through higher utilities costs. Others stress the centers' serious impact on environment.

The issue remains controversial. While viewed as nation security asset by some, intense resistance by others leads to the cancellation of many US projects and the creation of a major political challenge for technology firms.

Energy Supply and Consumption: Intensive power use is emerging as a key disputed area of data centers. data center.

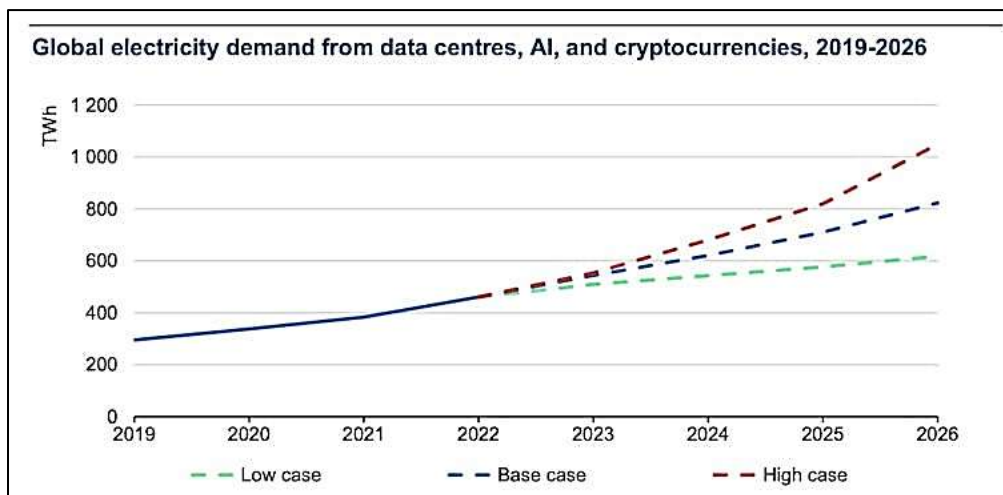


Figure 3: Data Centres Are Guzzling Up Too Much Electricity. Can We Make Them More Efficient? (Source: <https://theconversation.com/data-centres-are-guzzling-up-too-much-electricity-can-we-make-them-more-efficient-235591>)

"Insatiable demand for digital content and services has been driving a rise in energy-hungry data centres." ("Data centres are guzzling up too much electricity. Can we make them ...") Even once trained, the use of AI-enabled applications represents significant power usage. One estimate suggests AI searches use ten times the power of a more typical Google search.

The International Energy Agency reports global data center electricity consumption could double in a few short years, reaching 1,000 terawatt hours (TWh) by 2026. That is the same as generated by the whole of Japan per year. Some predictions estimate 8–10% of the planet's electricity production will be needed to sustain the relentless growth in data centres.

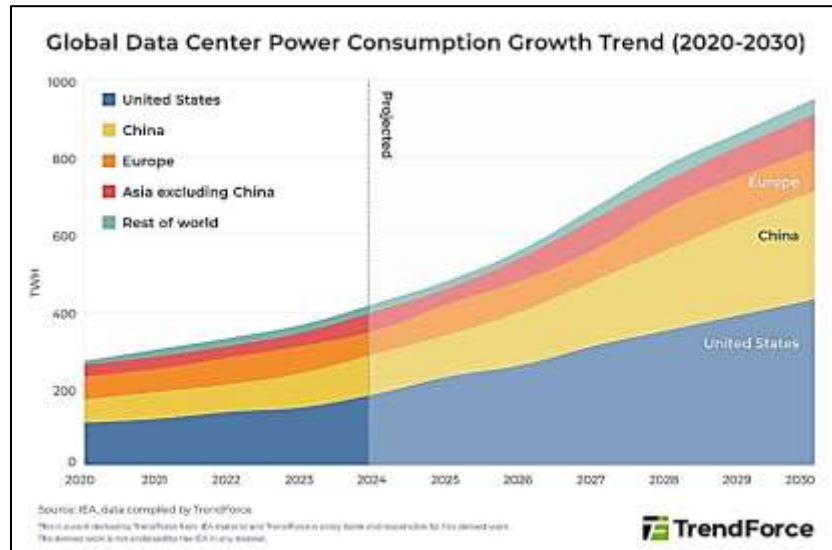


Figure 4: Global Data Centre Energy Consumption 2000-2030 (Source: IEA)

Scale and Capacity: Scale and capacity are becoming a crucial bottleneck in data center framework. This is especially the case with regards to future developments.

Adding load to circuits, cooling zones, or UPS feeds that are already at or near rated capacity is a pervasive problem in data centers. Each individual decision is made without awareness of cumulative load, and the facility gradually moves from safe operating margin to dangerously overloaded without any single dramatic event. Discovery typically occurs when a minor power disturbance causes a UPS to transfer at full load — and the overcurrent protection trips circuits that the team did not know were overloaded (“Common Data Centre Problems 2026: Root Causes, Downtime Costs & Proven ...”).

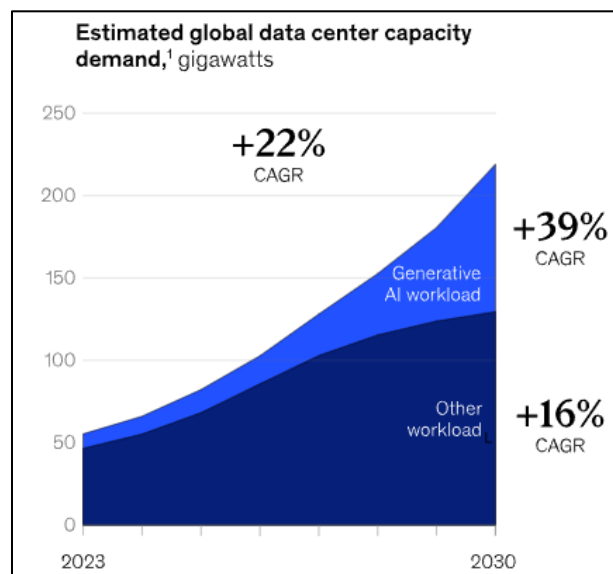


Figure 5: Future Demand for Data Centre Capacity. (Gigawatts) (Source: <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4785341-aaon-the-ai-gold-rush-drives-revenue-growth>)

Debt: The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence has triggered a historic wave of debt-financed data center construction. Billions of dollars are raised through bank syndicates, private credit, and asset-backed securities to fund this massive infrastructure. Analysts at Morgan Stanley estimate that AI-related data center construction will require \$2.9 trillion between 2025 and 2028, with most of this capital-intensive building relying on debt rather than internal cash flow.

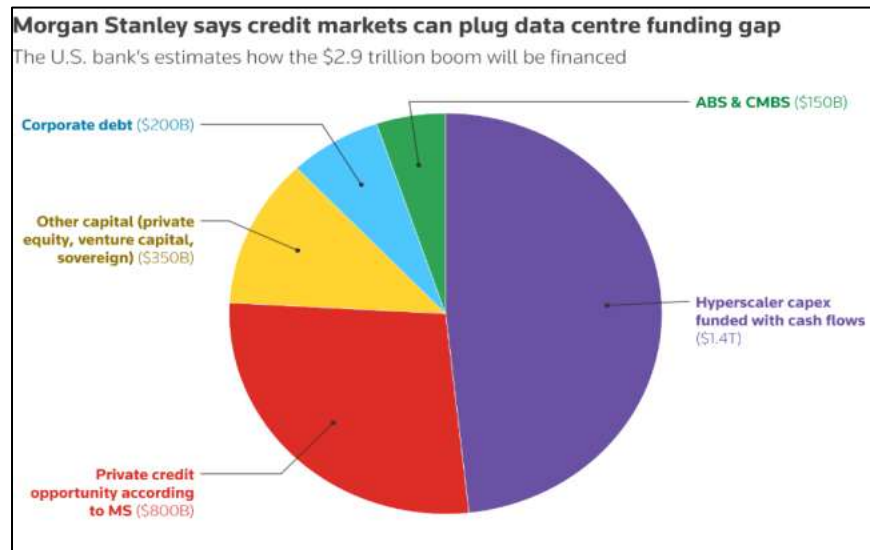


Figure 5: Capital Markets and Data Centre Debt Gaps (Source: <https://www.consultancy.uk/news/38057/data-centres-could-attract-large-amounts-of-fdi>)

U.S. secured debt tied to data centers reached about \$25.4 billion in 2025, up 112% from 2024. Tech giants like Meta, Oracle, and Alphabet issued \$75 billion in bonds and loans in September and October 2025 — more than double the sector’s average for an entire year over the previous decade. (“No, the AI Data Center Debt Boom Isn’t Crazy - Medium”) The Economic Time.

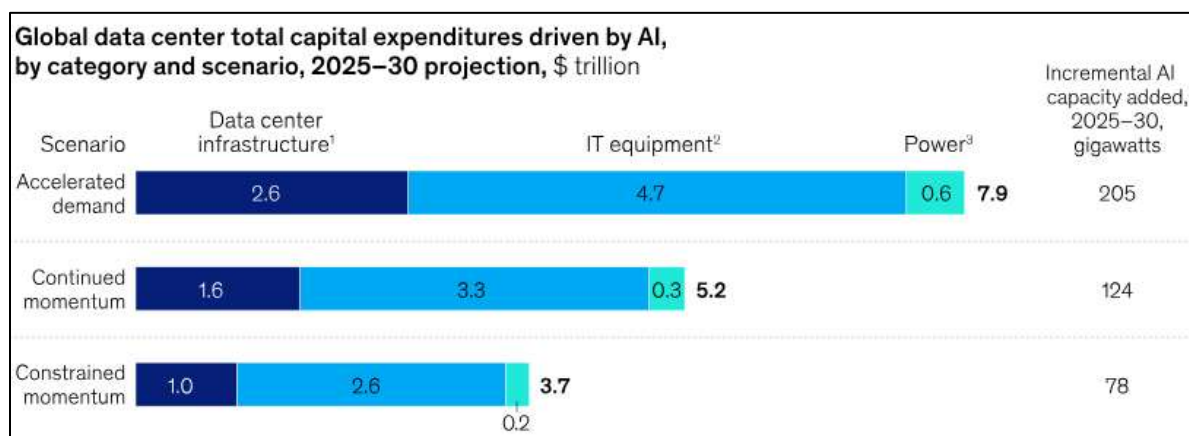


Figure 5: Capital Data Centre Input Reaching Eight Trillion by 2030 (Source: McKinsey & Company)

The conclusion is that capital market inflows are one of the primary drivers of AI industry thus accelerating the development of AI infrastructure, particularly in data centers and cloud computing. Capital market participants are moreover aggressively integrating AI into their operations, using it for trading algorithms, risk management, and regulatory compliance. Gen AI is moving beyond simple

automation to deeply impact research, portfolio management, and trading strategies. The focus is shifting toward autonomous "agents" that can monitor, analyze, and execute actions, increasing the speed of market operations.

Environmental Damage: Data centers' negative environmental impact is widely discussed. The core elements relate to high energy use, carbon emissions, water consumption, and e-waste. Stress is placed on excessive power usage and damaging emissions, e waste disposal, inefficient water usage, and cooling system constraints. Few running on renewable energy and optimized design minimize the negative footprint but those are a precious few (Data centers are booming. But there are big energy and environmental risks).

Some analysts have gone as far as expressing concerns about overbuilding of AI data centers, warning that their infrastructure risks obsolescence due to changes in artificial intelligence demand and technology change.

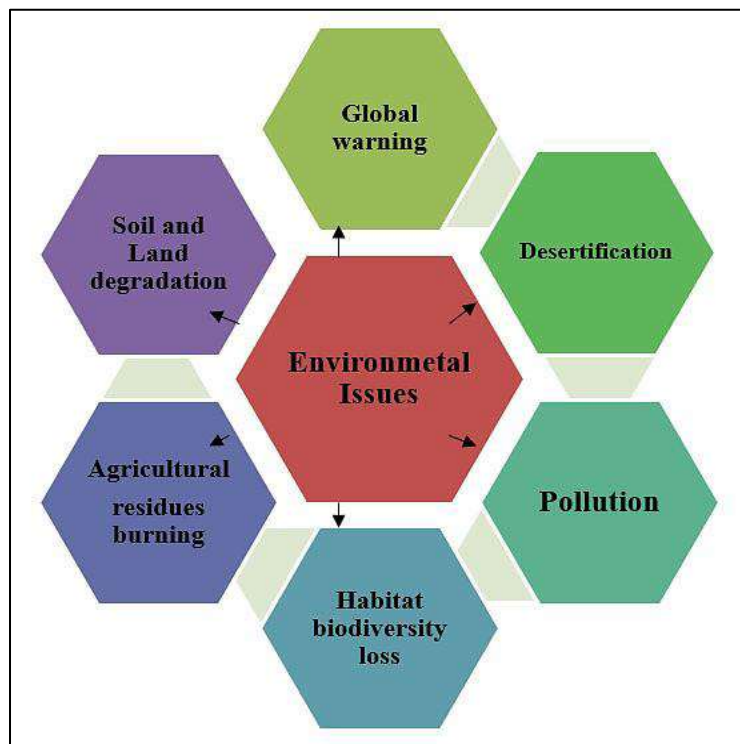


Figure 6: Data Centre Environmental Issues (Source: https://www.cwejournal.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Vol_17_No_3_Env_Sun_fig1.jpg)

How Data Syndrome Adds to Data Center Syndrome?

Data is the prime input in data centers and lies at the heart of our artificial intelligence revolution. "Massive volumes of data hold the key to the analytical processes that induce artificial intelligence outcomes." ("International Journal of Education, Business and Economics Research ...") Data drawn from a wide variety of sources. And this is the data that ends in data centers.

Yet this data is neither homogeneous, generic nor mailable! Data are amorphous whole and carry with it a myriad of problems. This could and does induce "data malfunctions". Sources of this data malfunction can

go all the way from data deluge and data synthetics to the multi science roots of data, the poisoning of data and ultimate data hallucination.

And it could contribute to data center syndrome.

Research Hypotheses

Above analysis could lead to a number of hypotheses including the following:

- Do data center parameters provide an early life cycle symptom?
- Do data center infrastructures suffer from fundamental technology flaws.
- Would data center debt financing pose existential threat to the AI industry.
- Would data center politics undermine several countries' political stability?

Those could provide a base for further research in a very dynamic and demanding artificial intelligence area

Summary and Conclusions

Data centres are shrouded with mystery. They constitute secure, centralized physical facilities that house IT infrastructure. They are the source of artificial intelligence wizardly and the ultimate core of civil and military prowess essential for storing, processing, and distributing digital data and applications. Their country's number, size and market capacity conceal electronic potential and, at times, civil and military supremacy. Yet data centres are a problem ridden conceptual and operational entity.

The article starts with a silhouette of a data center. It then identifies core syndromes. Those include Energy supply and consumption; Scale and capacity; Defense and protection; Cost and investment and finally Environmental damage. Add to that data body syndrome and the picture is complete.

The article concludes with question marks and hypotheses for further research. These focus on four issues: do data center parameters provide an early life cycle symptom, do data center infrastructures suffer from fundamental technology flaws, does data center debt pose existential threat to the AI industry and, could data center politics undermine several country political stabilities.

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