

Is the Cloud ***Actually*** Better?

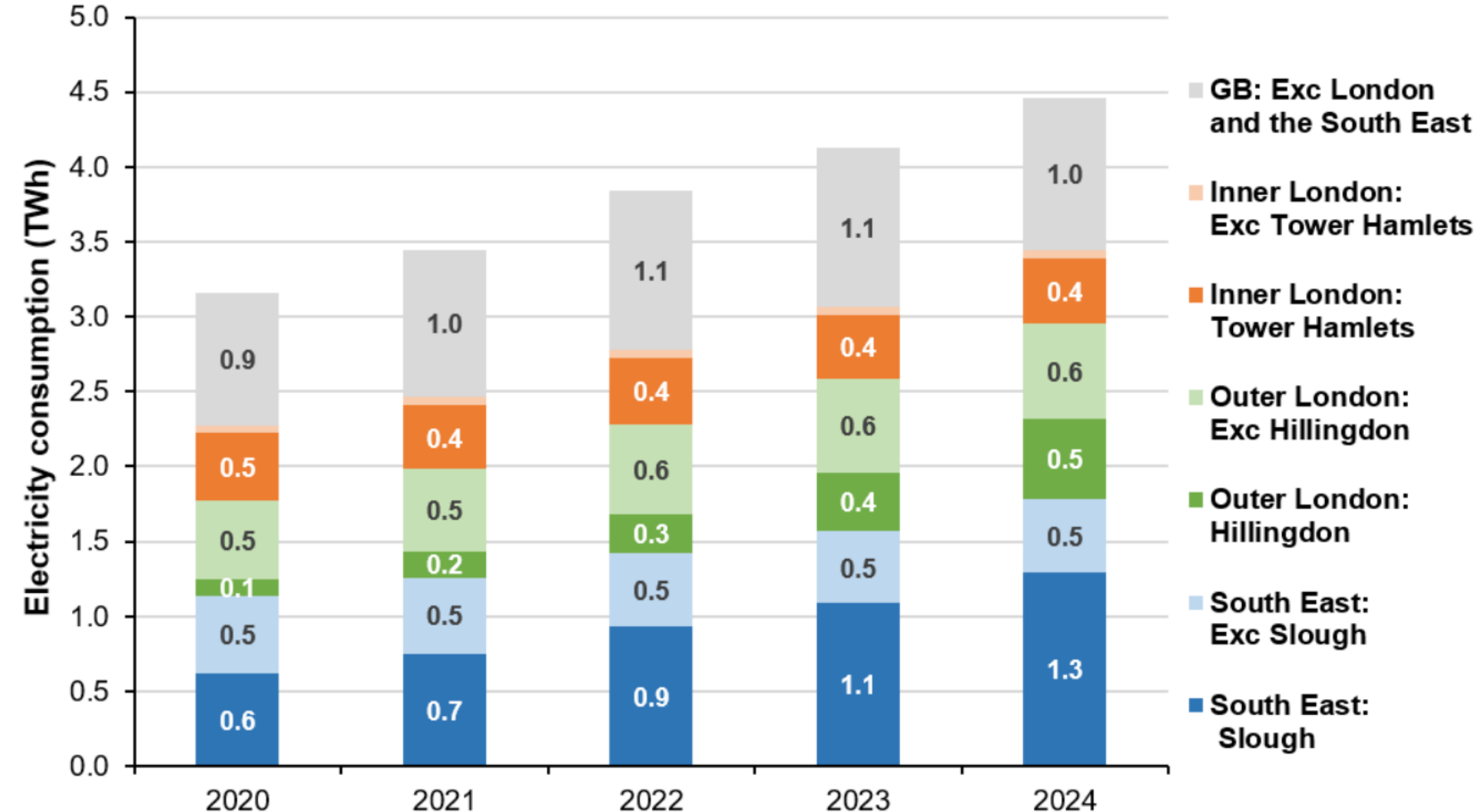
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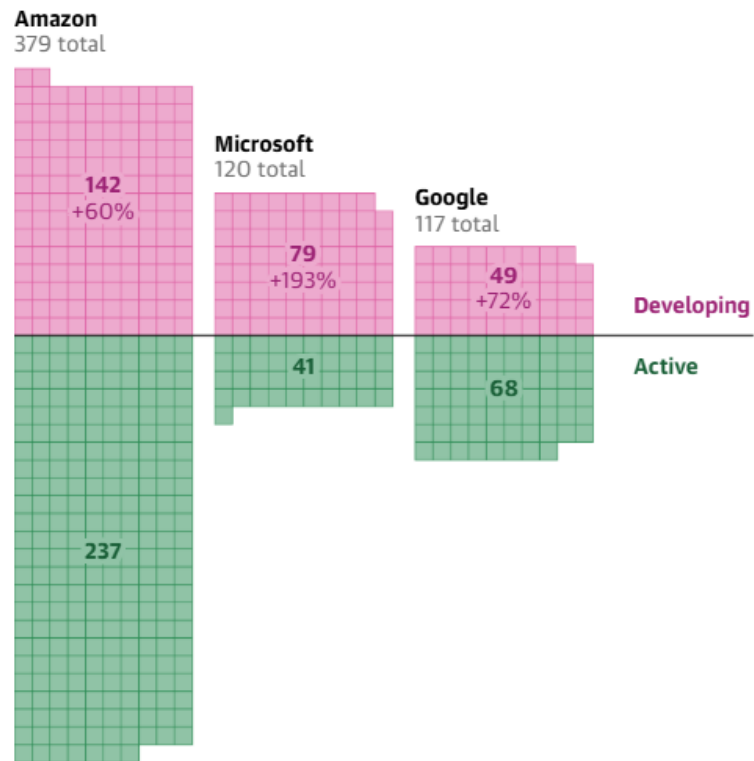
Chart 1: Data centre electricity consumption in Great Britain, 2020-2024



[Data centre electricity consumption in Great Britain, 2020 to 2024](#)

Opposition mounts to 'monster' data centre in Borders hills

Tech giants' datacentres to expand by a combined 78%



Guardian graphic. Note: Sixteen centres' development status were unable to be determined.

Will our peaceful rural life be destroyed by a huge AI data centre?

A massive data centre and battery storage site is planned for a site in the north Devon countryside.

The scheme is attracting considerable opposition from residents concerned about noise, water supplies, power usage and the impact on the landscape.

38

Data centers constructed with lower-carbon concrete, in addition to 36 data centers in 2023

36

Data centers with lower-carbon steel in 2024, in addition to 31 in 2023

Goal

AWS will be water positive by 2030, returning more water to communities than it uses in its direct operations

53%

Of the way toward meeting its water positive goal

[2024 Amazon Sustainability Report, AWS Summary](#)

AI



Announcements

Statement on the US government directive to suspend access to Fable 5 and Mythos 5

12 Jun 2026

No Easy Way Out: the Effectiveness of Deplatforming an Extremist Forum to Suppress Hate and Harassment

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Amendment text

To move the following Clause—

“Digital Sovereignty Strategy on risks posed by foreign interference and reliance on foreign technologies

(1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the passing of this Act, publish a strategy (“a Digital Sovereignty Strategy”)

Antitrust cases against Google by the European Union

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Yes, I know the Cloud is also useful)

A Beter Way: Decentralisation?

- Induced Demand and Infinite Growth?
 - Scaling friction
- Excessive data centre development?
 - Reuse existing infrastructure
 - Reuse existing hardware
- Social consequences?
 - Democratic/Sovereign Control

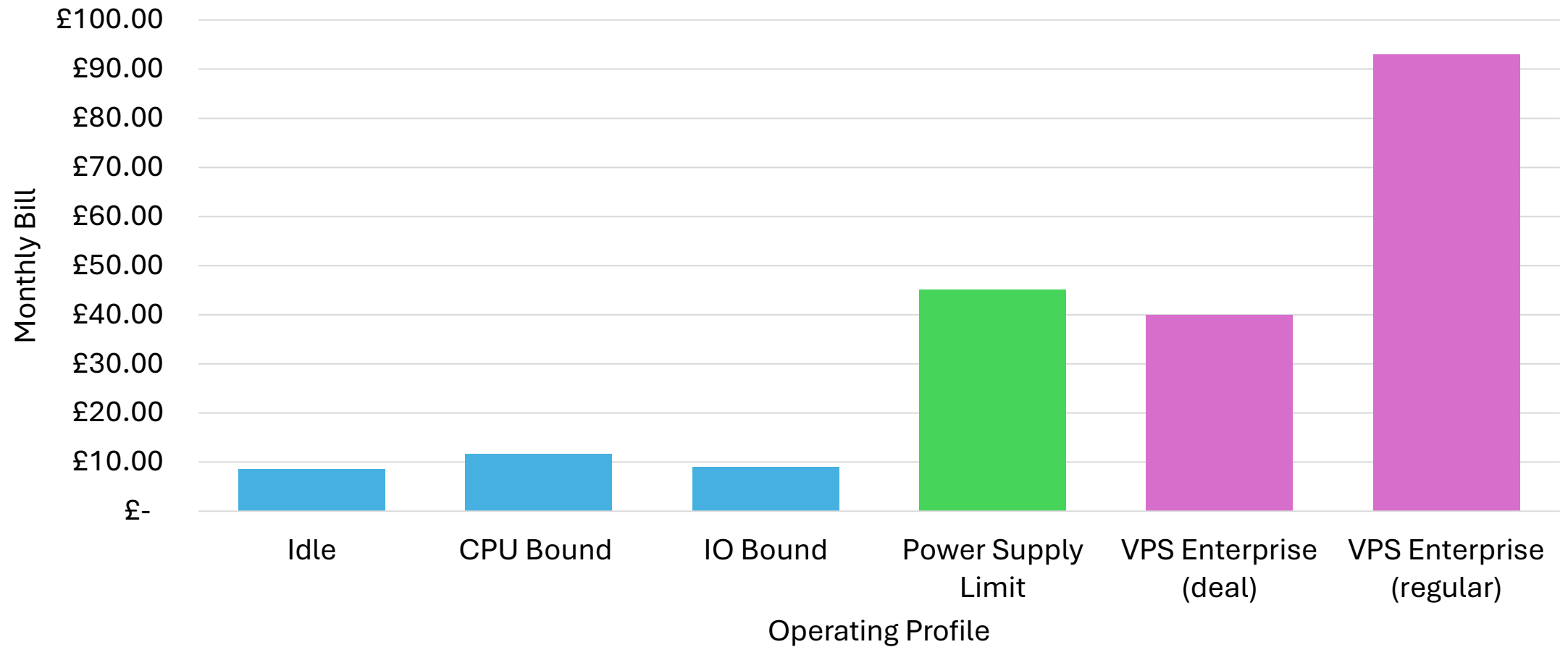
Local Server

- 4 Cores
- 16GB RAM
- 2x 500GB HDDs
- No network included
- No hardware included
- No OS provided
- No other users!
- Clear Sovereignty
- Operational Cost Unknown!

“Enterprise” VPS

- 4 Cores
- 8GB RAM
- 240GB SSD
- Network included
- Specific Hardware included
- Specific OS installed
- Multi-tenancy
- Use bound by policy
- £40 or £92.99 / month

Operating Costs



Conclusion and Next Steps

- **The Cloud is not the only way!**
- Decentralisation of end systems is promising
 - Where is all that power going?
 - Performance under more complex hosting loads?
- Decentralisation of networks?

Questions?