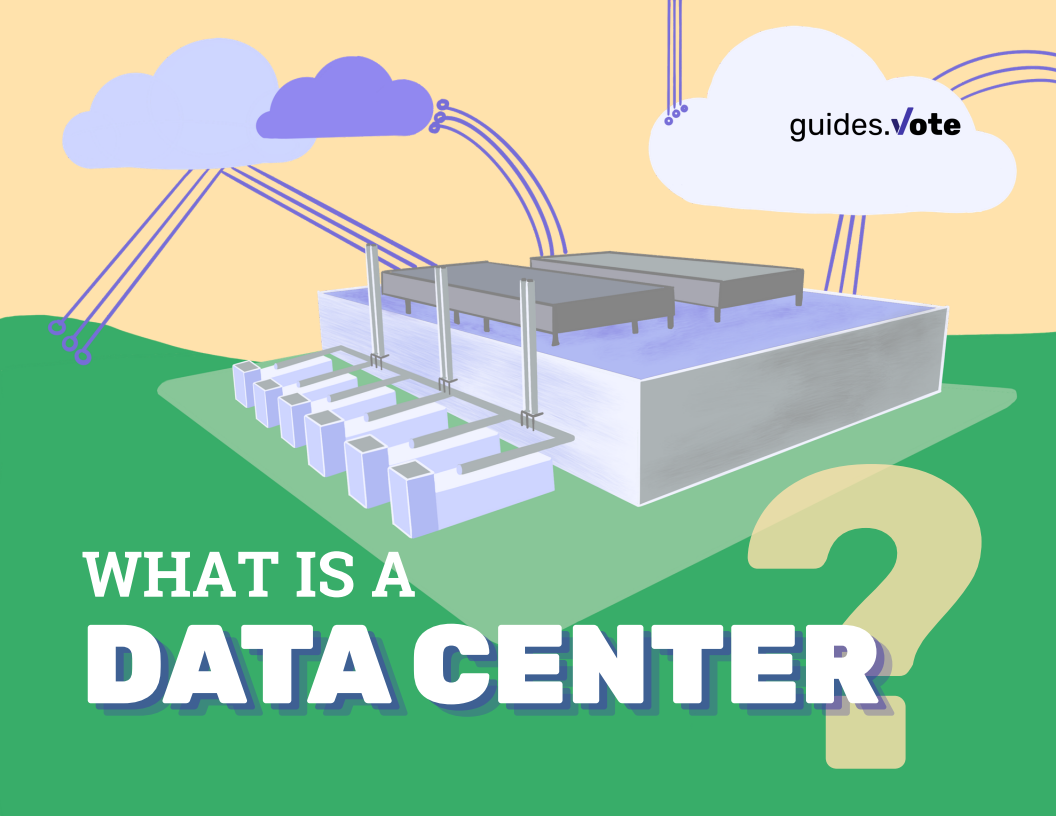


An illustration of a data center. In the foreground, there are several rows of server racks on a green floor. Behind them is a large, grey, rectangular structure representing a server room or cooling system. Above the server room, there are two stylized clouds. The cloud on the right is white and contains the text 'guides.vote'. The cloud on the left is light blue. Several blue lines, representing data connections, arc from the clouds down to the server racks and the server room. The background is a solid orange color.

guides.**vote**

WHAT IS A **DATA CENTER**

A large, stylized yellow question mark is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the text 'DATA CENTER'.

What is a Data Center?



A Data Center is a building that contains powerful computers that store, process, and protect digital information. When any information, such as messages, streaming, GPS, online banking, and AI, is sent or accessed digitally, the information will travel through servers inside a Data Center.

Data Centers are sometimes called “server farms” as they are a large physical facility that contains servers, networking equipment, power backup, and support systems such as cooling and fire suppression under one roof. Data Centers range in size, from enterprise hubs to huge hyperscale facilities.

While Data Centers support the digital needs of individuals and organizations, there are some concerns about energy consumption, grid strain, noise, and rising utility costs for consumers.

As reliance on digital access continues to grow, Data Centers are becoming an essential part of the infrastructure that supports secure and effective access to these tools.

Discussion Question:

What comes to mind when you hear “Data Center”?

Source: www.aaas.org/programs/epi-center/datacenters

