IS THERE A MAGICAL, UNIVERSAL TOOL?

We all dream of a magic button that will provide us with all the elements we need to measure the impacts of the service that we are building or evaluating. Sorry to disappoint you but this universal tool does not exist. It is therefore your intelligence and your knowledge that will fill the gaps between our expectations and what is currently available.

Scientific research doesn't always give us the figures and data sources we need to measure our impacts. Some scientific approaches are subject to expert debate. On the other hand, we are urged to produce indicators to promote and sometimes justify the sustainable IT approaches launched by our organization.

This uncertainty is not new to us, in every phase of a project (from ideation to end of life) there are many topics where metrics are heuristic. How many concurrent users should be expected? How much data will be exchanged and stored over the lifetime of the service? Which security risks are the most sensitive? What are the most and least used features? What hardware will be used and in which context? What are the peak activity times? A question such as; "what will the greenhouse gas impact of the service be?" is roughly of the same order.

We can always be challenged by the data source used; there is a huge difference between the 600 kg of CO_2 equivalent (C.O.2.) for a generic server given by ADEME's carbon database (ADEME) and the 8600 kg of CO_2 equivalent provided by a manufacturer for a high-performance server.

Many different sources, but the impacts on the environment and on human beings are well known and we can reduce them, they are related to:

- The volume, bloatware or "digital fat",
- The efficiency of our implementation choices,
- The anticipating of end of life,
- The usability that we offer to our users.

Our practices and our collective experience allow us to always do better.

ISIT presents more than 280 tools on its website and as you will have understood, none of them are intended to be universal or applicable in all cases, but the diversity of the tools proposed will allow you to meet your needs.

So, whatever the reference source of data we choose, we can always measure variations, display the gains and through the figures produced, value the design intelligence that we have deployed to make IT more sustainable. You can always be challenged on the values used but not on the value of the gains you have made.