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Analysis of Data Center Electrical Architectures Supporting OCP



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Schneider Electric

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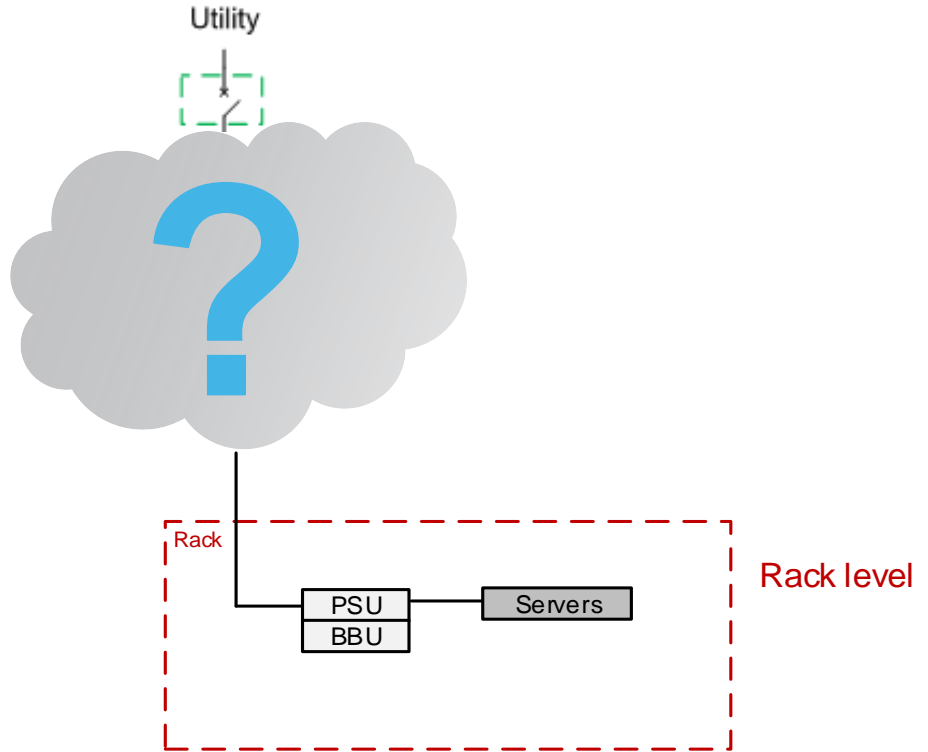


Critical questions arise about what is upstream of the rack...

- If I adopt Open Compute, what does my power architecture look like?
- Can I get N+1, 2N, 2(N+1) (i.e. tier 3) redundancy levels like I have today?
- How do I support traditional and Open Compute IT loads in the same data center?



Answering these questions will broaden adoption...



Important to understand the cost trade-offs

Analysis Assumptions

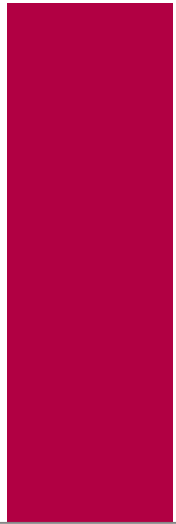
- Analyzed capital cost (material cost only)
- Compared traditional and Open Compute specific architectures
- From MV switchgear down to (and including) IT power supply
- Key assumptions:
 - OCP PSU/BBU/shelf costs based on design by Schneider Electric
 - Traditional server PSU costs & sizing based on various IT vendors/suppliers
 - Models based on 9.6MW data center, 10 kW/rack
 - Costs normalized to €/Watt



Based on the content of white paper 228, [Analysis of Data Center Architectures Supporting Open Compute Project \(OCP\)](#)

Traditional vs. OCP-based designs

2.52€/watt



Traditional
2N

1.46€/watt



Open Compute Specific
1N

1.85€/watt



Open Compute Specific
2N

We think most will want to maintain 2N (Tier 3) redundancy

"Tiers" in a nutshell

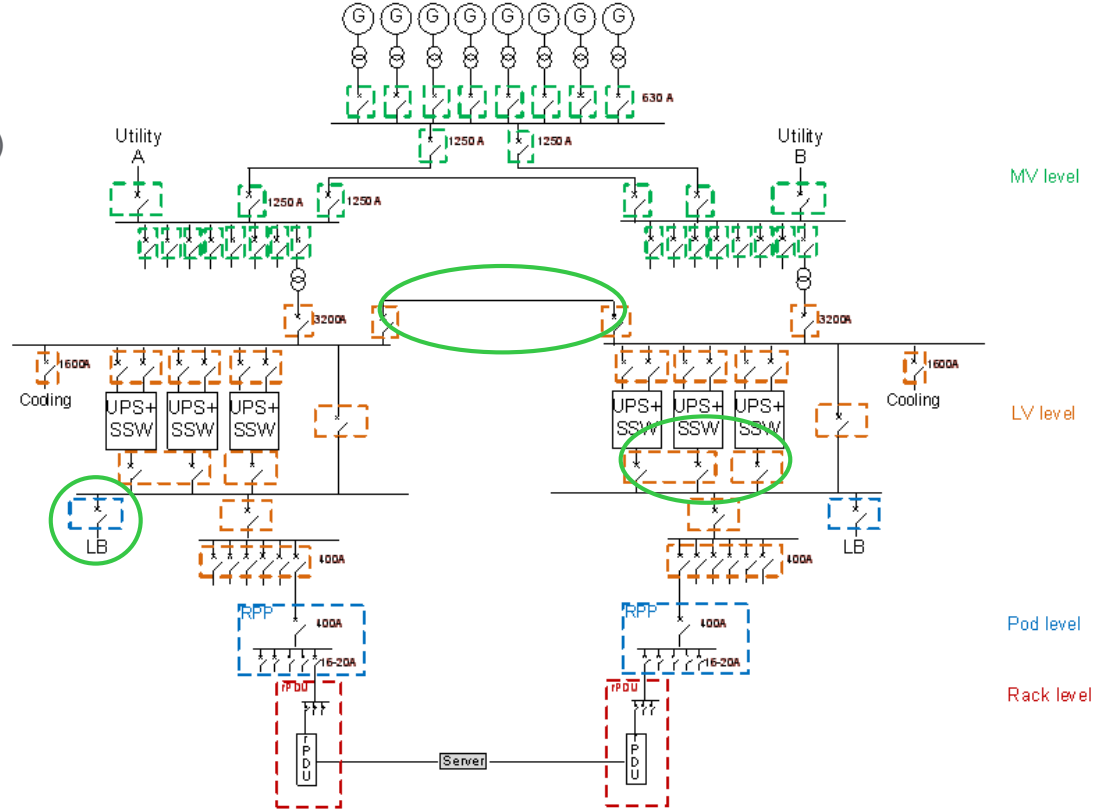
Tier 1: Single power path to IT load; single points of failure

Tier 3: Dual (redundant) power paths to IT load, concurrently maintainable

Traditional 2N power architecture today...

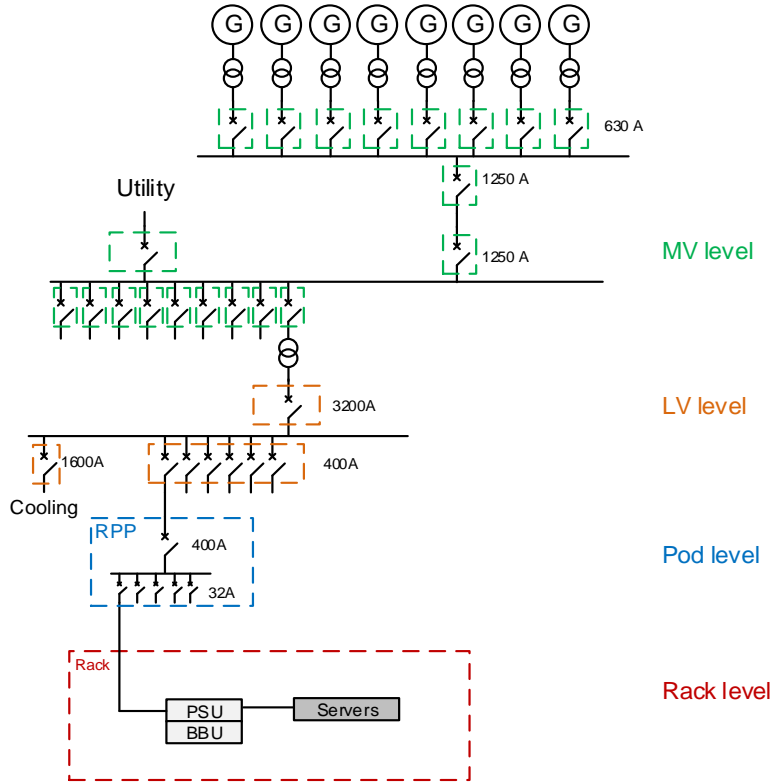
Typical 2N design for traditional IT loads

- 2N power paths from utility to load, Tier 3(ish)
- Adds complexities (“Belts & suspenders”):
 - Load bank
 - Ties
 - Additional UPS output breakers
- Concurrently maintainable



Open Compute Specific 1N architecture

An example of a **cost-reduced** architecture to support OCP loads



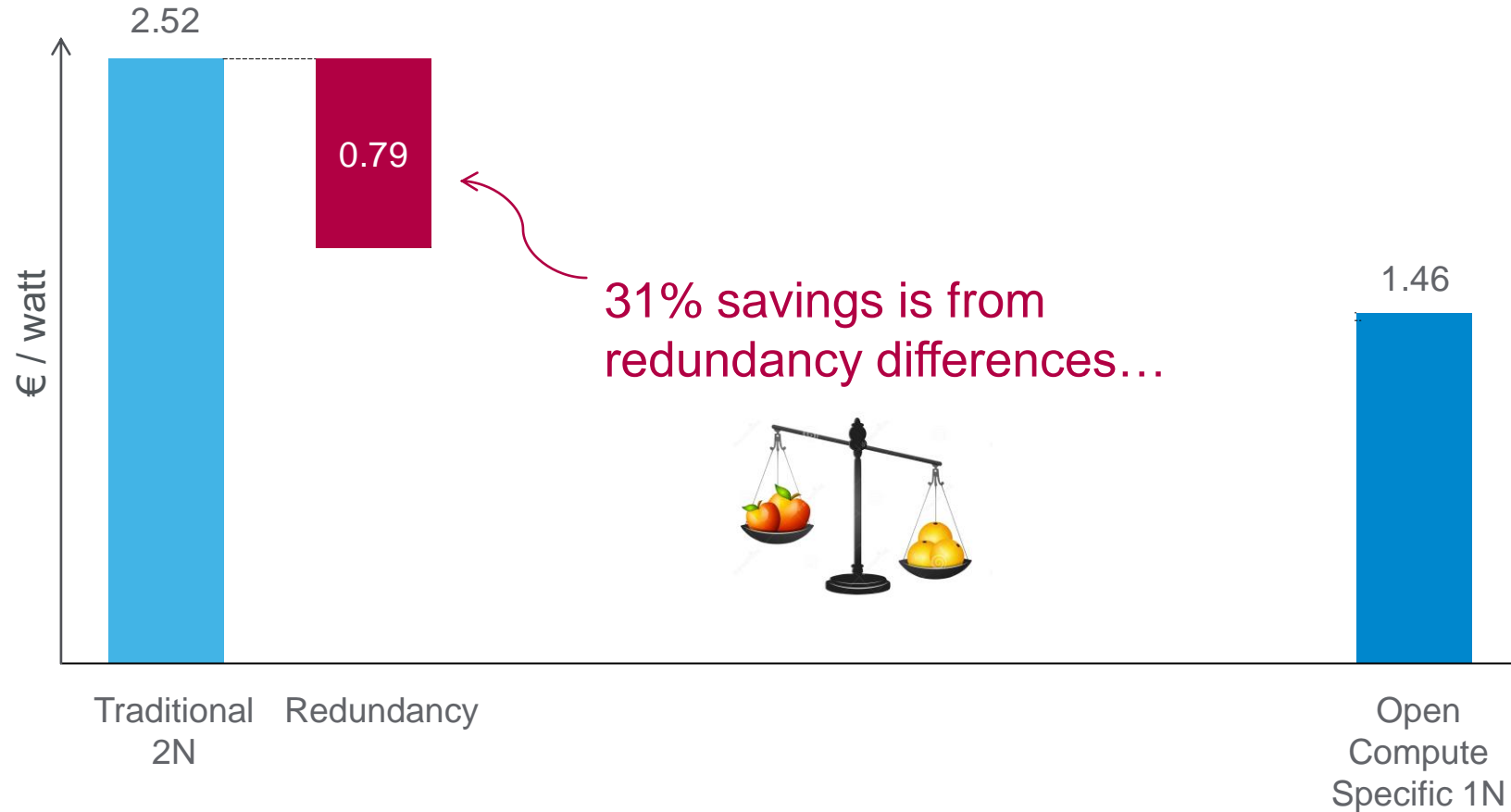
- Aligns with the **simplicity** and **cost-reduction mindset** of OCP
- Open Compute servers with one PSU path
- Single path to the IT load
 - with rack-based battery backup
 - no centralized UPS
- Minimal breaker count

Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 1N

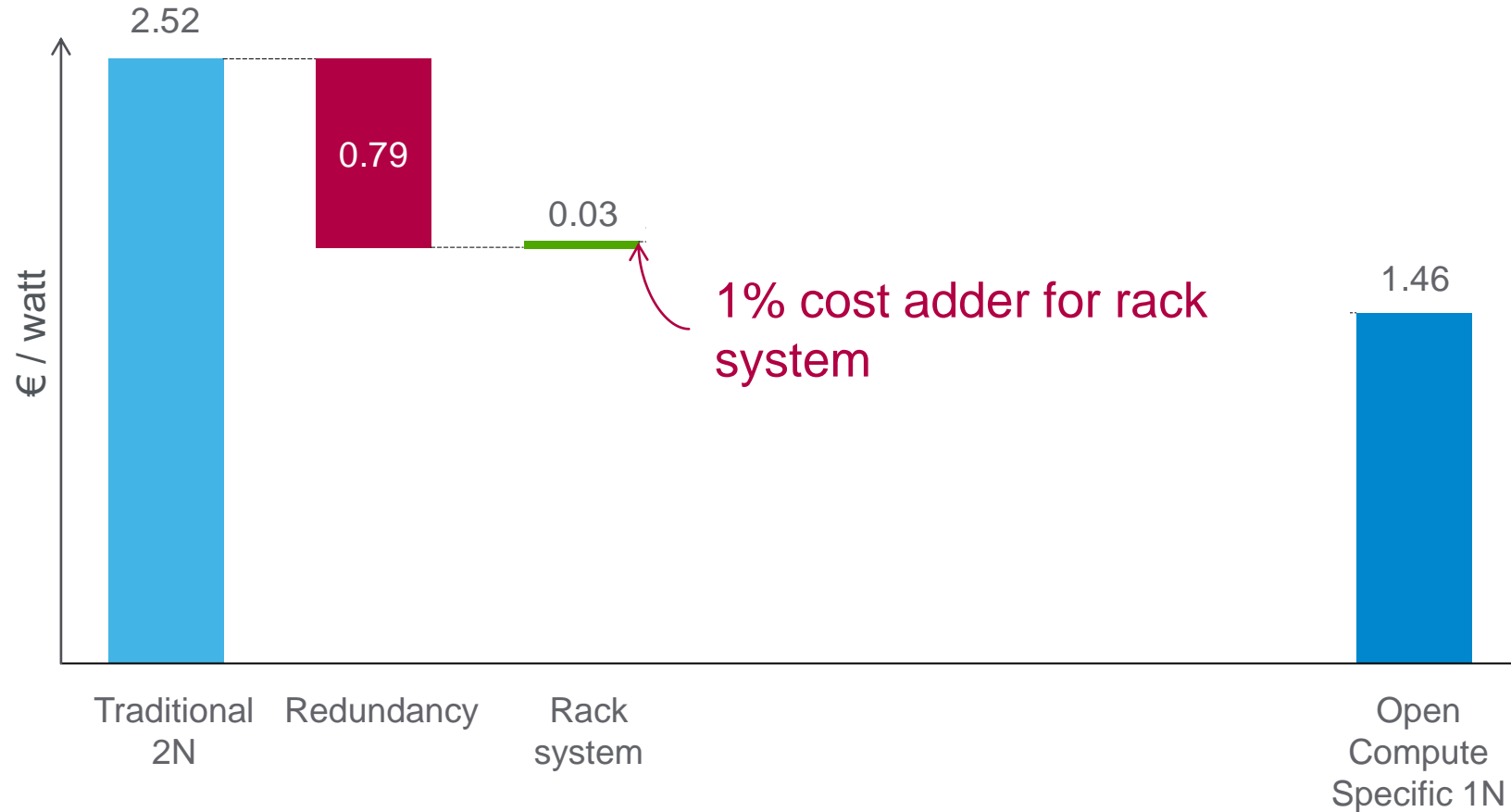


42% capex savings...
but where do these savings
come from?

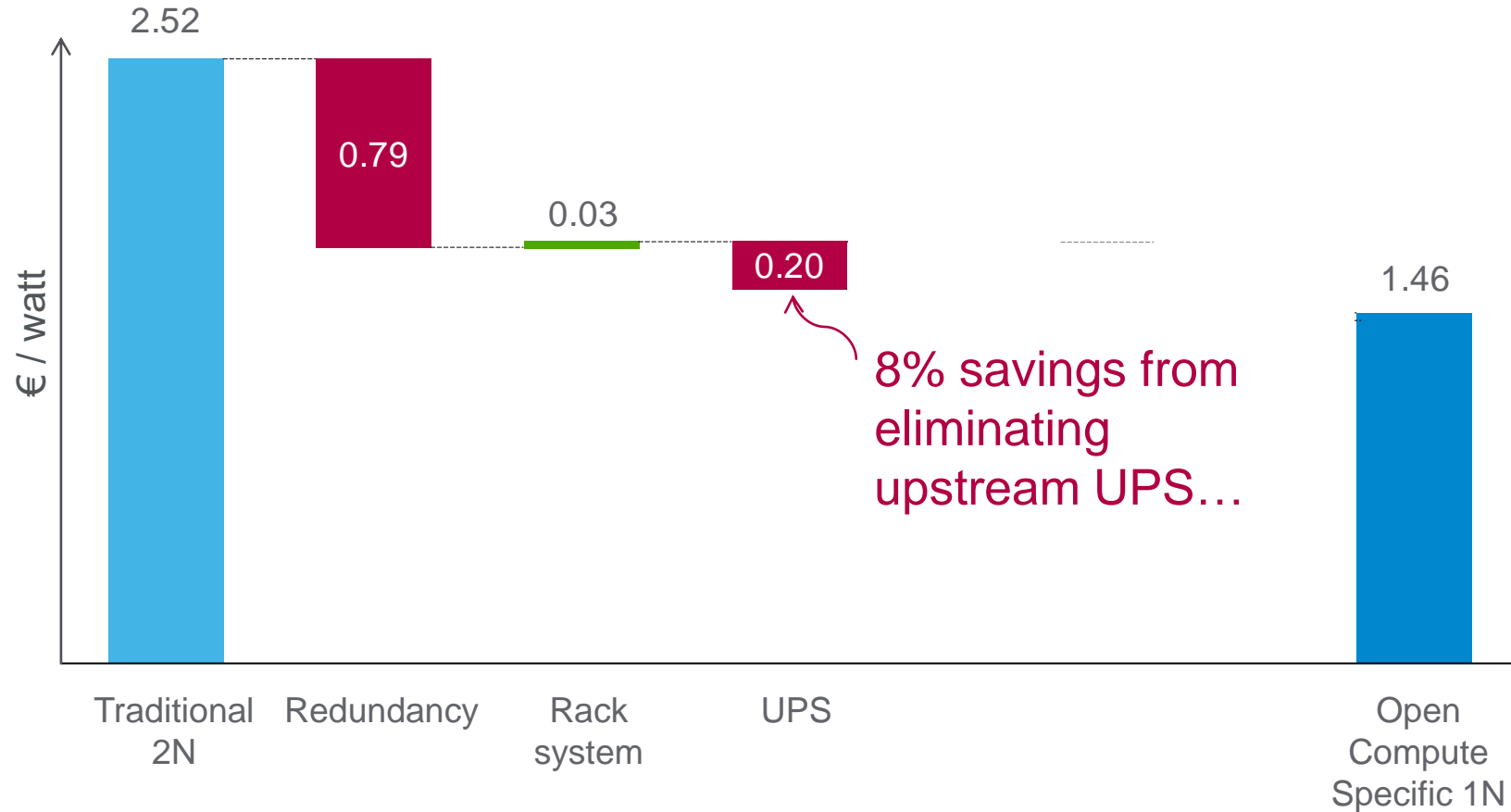
Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 1N



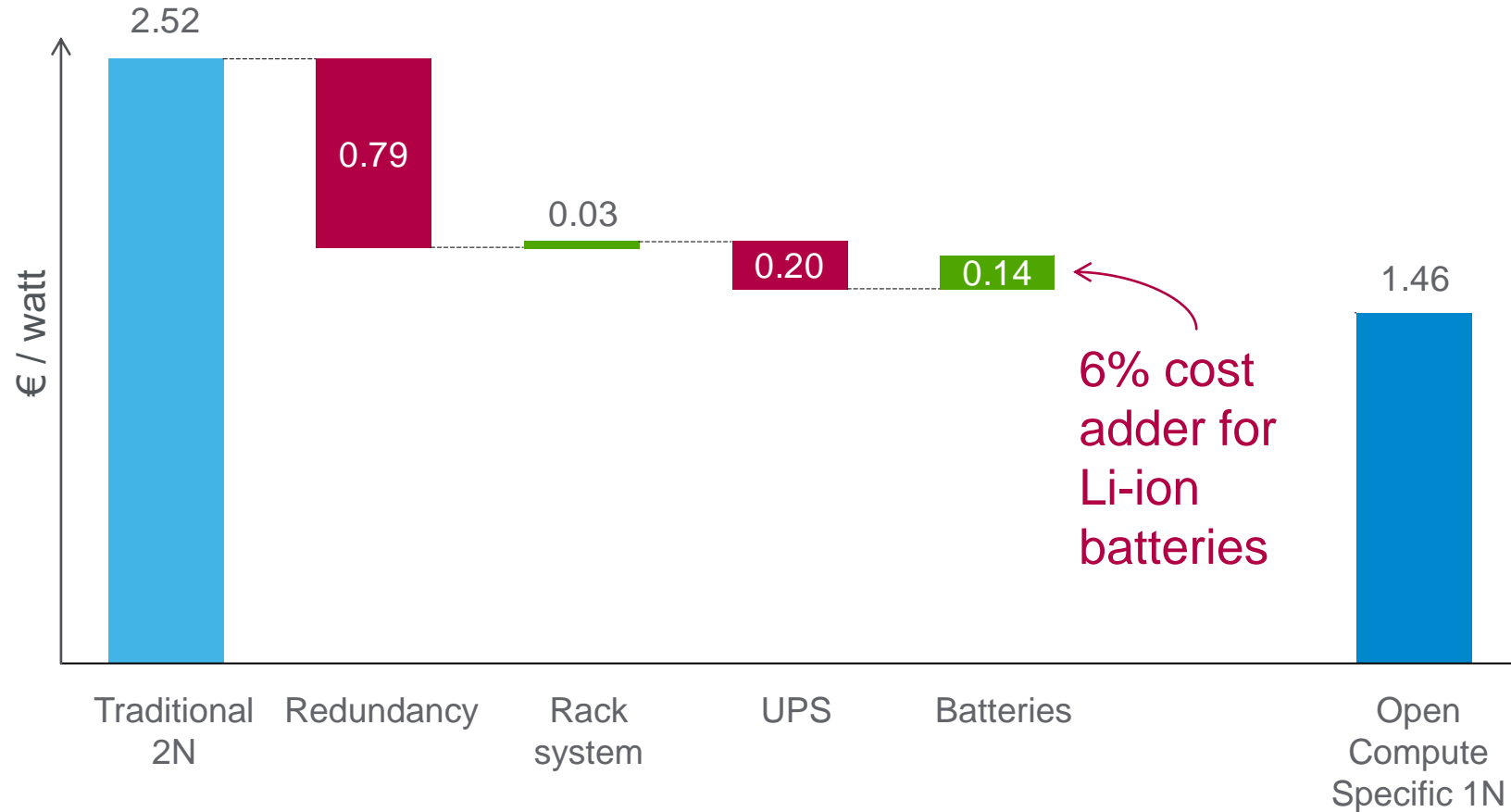
Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 1N



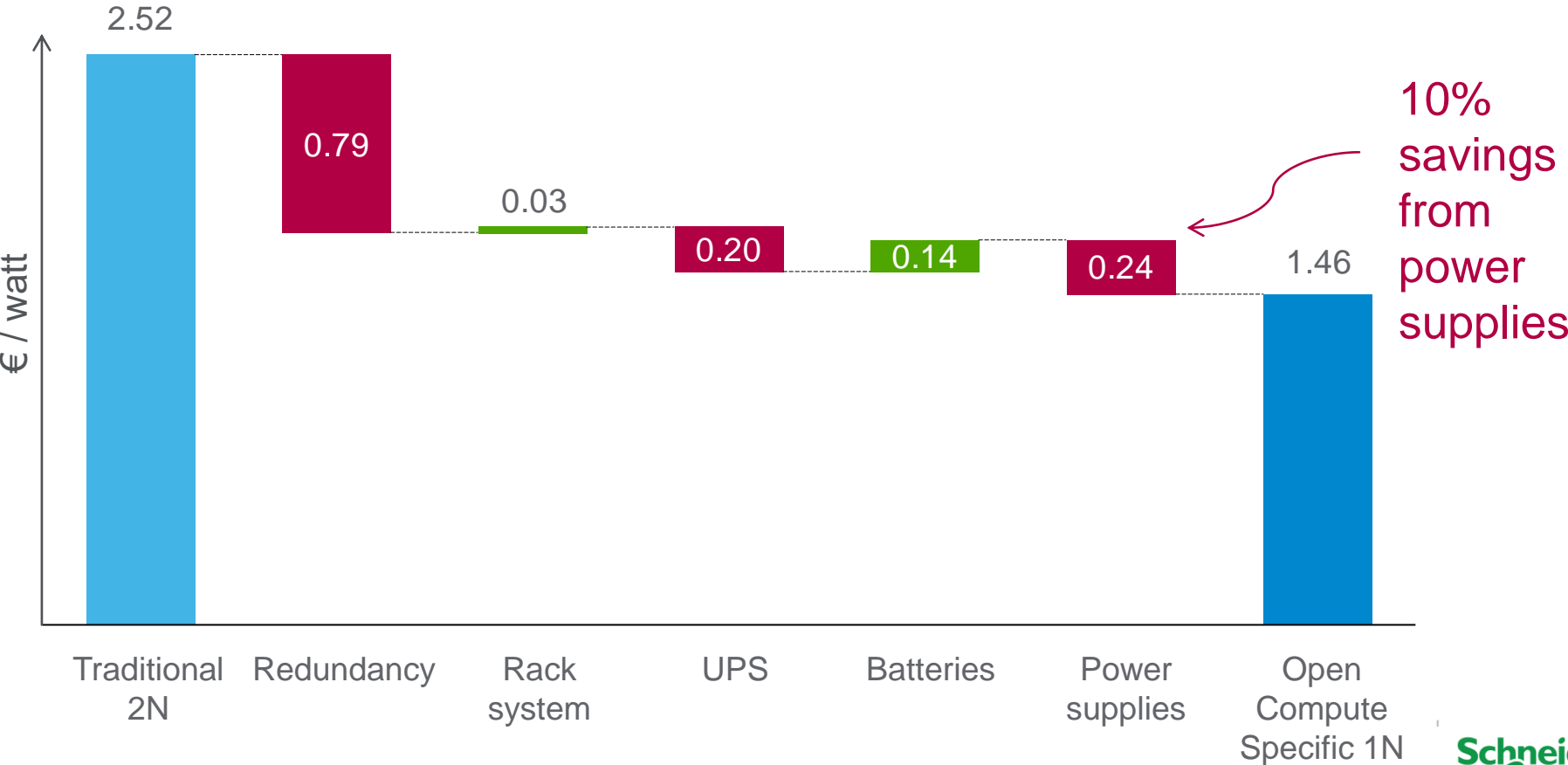
Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 1N



Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 1N



Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 1N



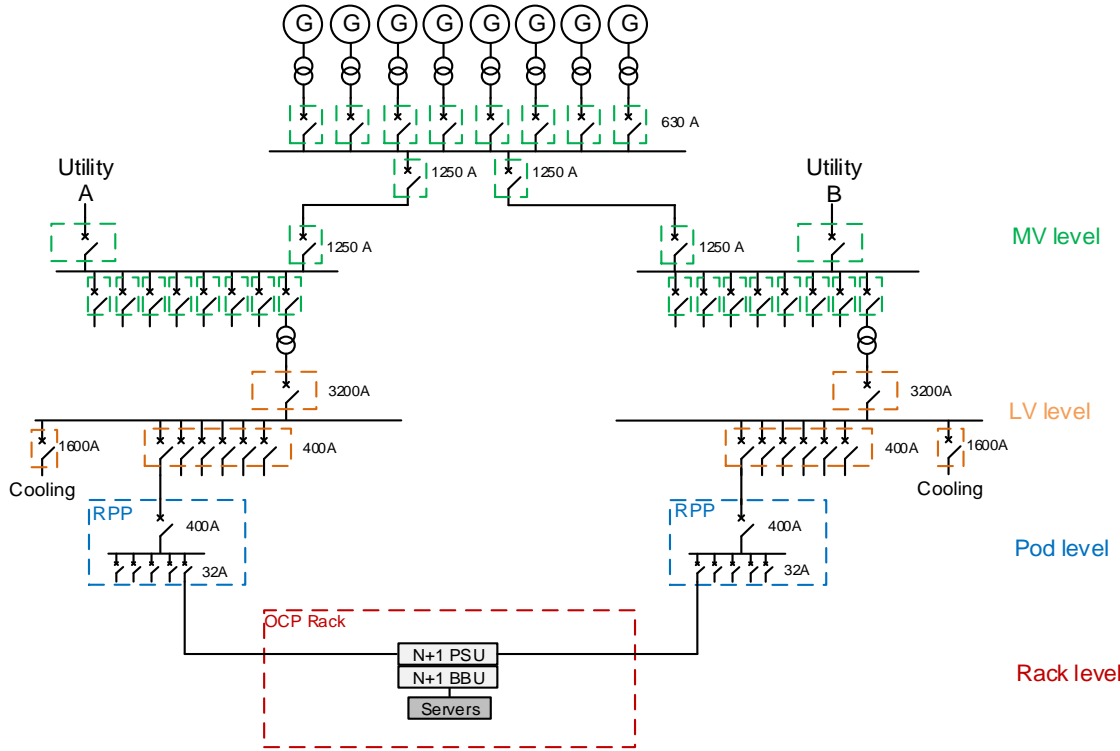
2N (or tier 3) is still important to many data centers

- Redundancy
- Concurrent maintainability



Open Compute Specific 2N architecture

2N simple design to support OCP IT loads



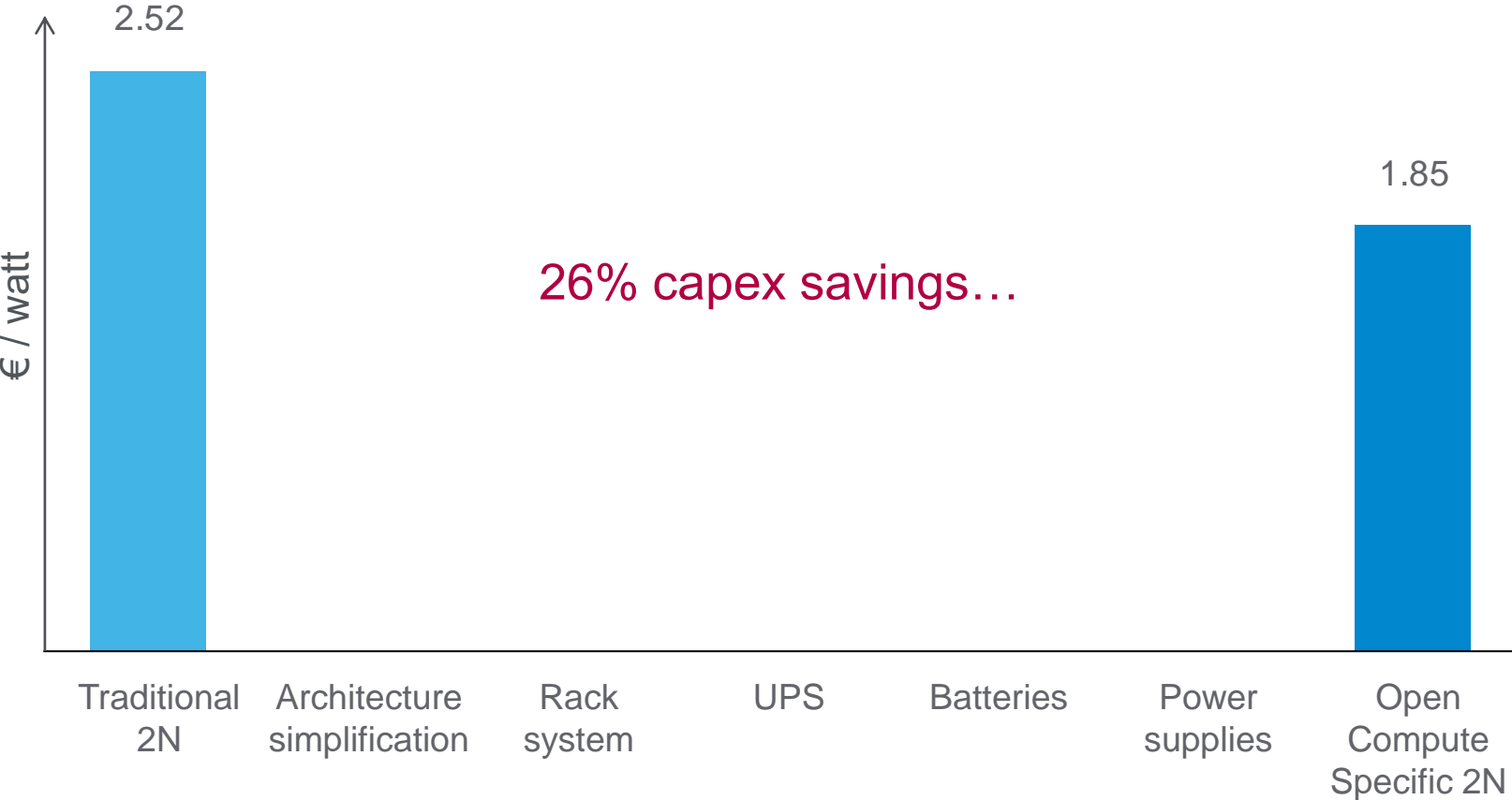
Compared to traditional 2N, this architecture....

→ reduces complexity by eliminating unnecessary cross-ties, additional breakers

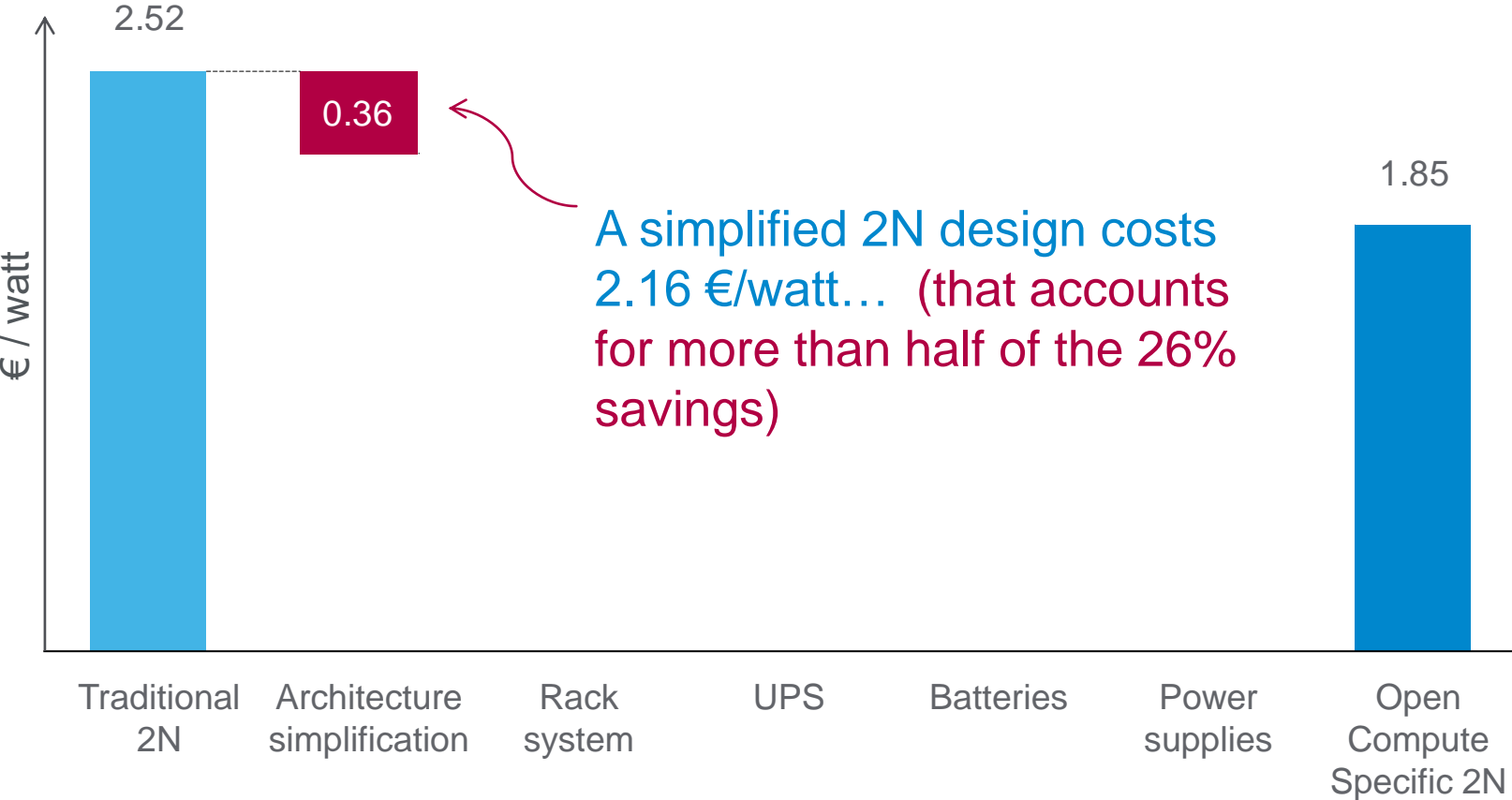
→ saves cost with N+1 batteries and PSUs

→ trusts the redundant server power supplies

Cost difference of Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 2N

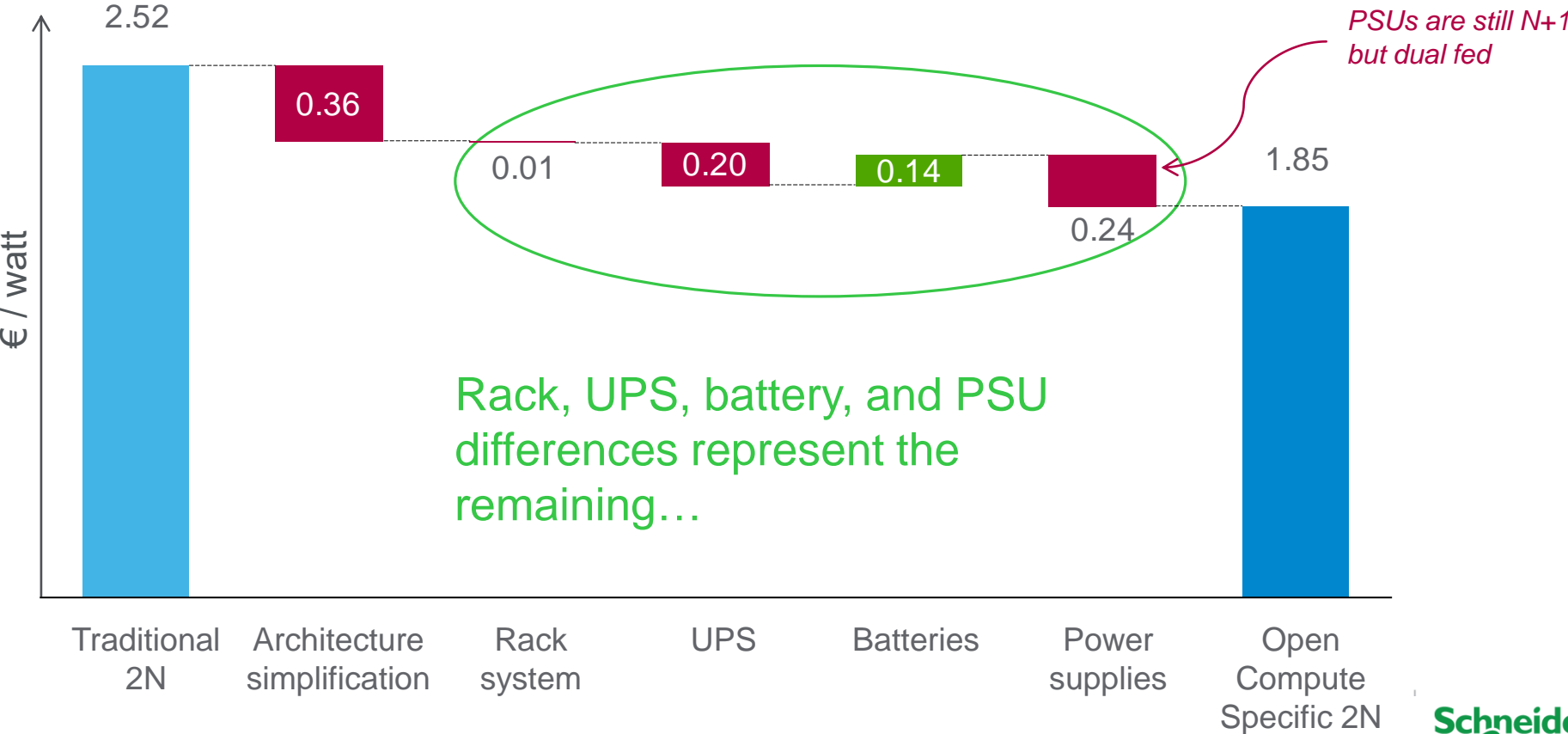


Cost difference of Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 2N

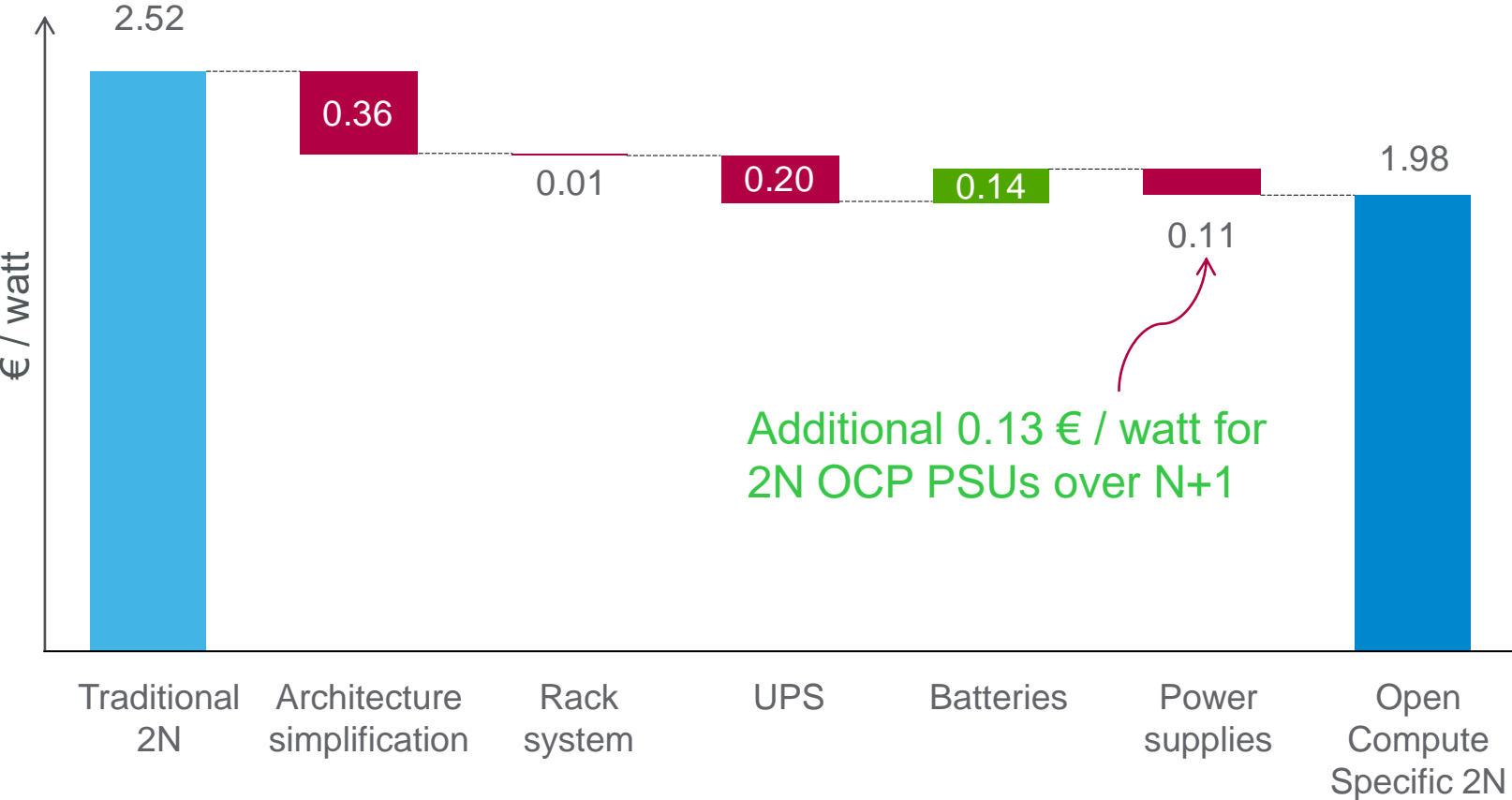


A simplified 2N design costs 2.16 €/watt... (that accounts for more than half of the 26% savings)

Cost difference of Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 2N

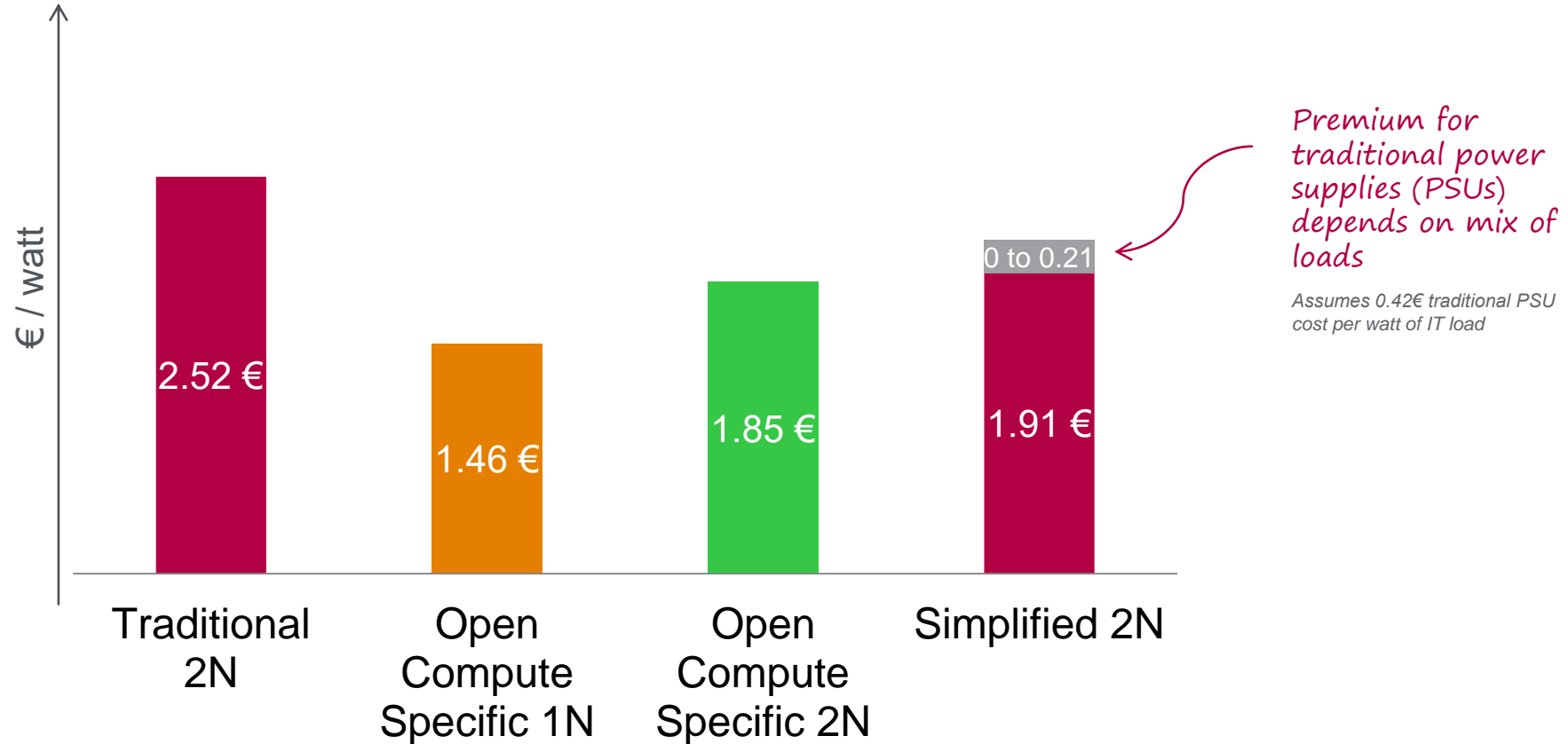


Cost difference of Traditional 2N vs. Open Compute Specific 2N



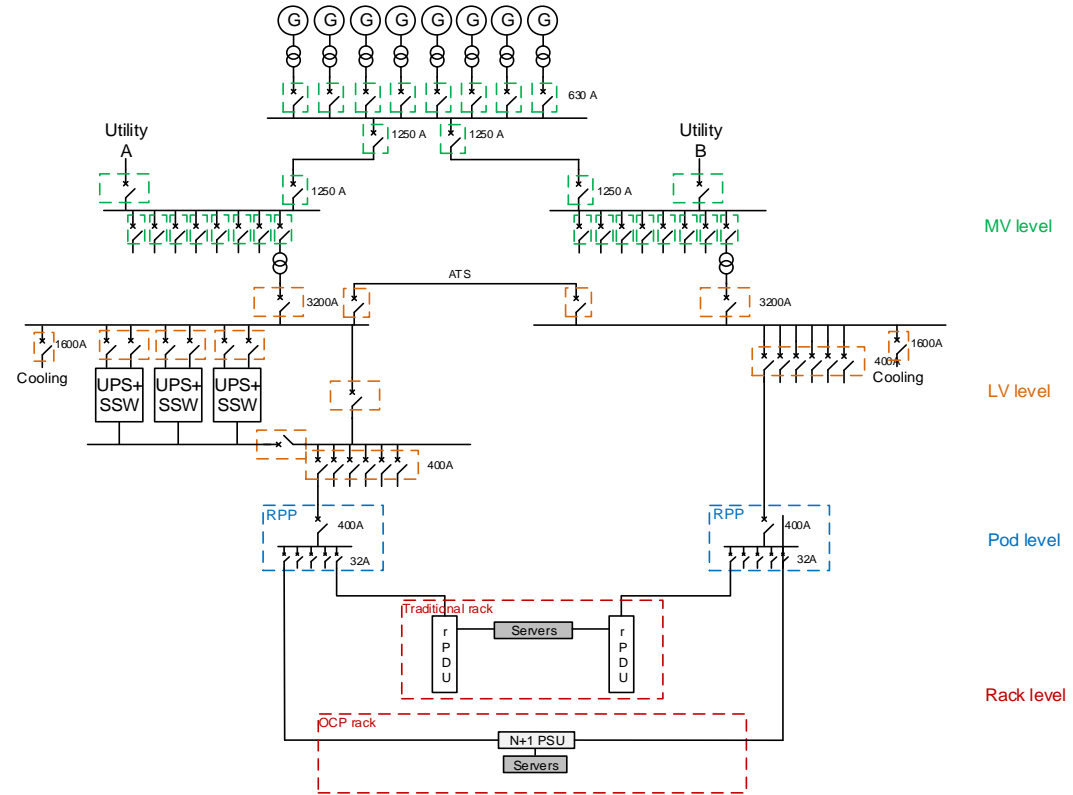
What if I have a mix of Open Compute and traditional IT loads?

A design that accommodates both types of loads



Example of a Simplified 2N design that accommodates both types of loads

- Flexible architecture that allows for mix of traditional IT loads and OCP loads
- UPS is upstream to support both traditional and OCP loads
- To minimize cost, one power path with UPS, one without
- OCP loads have dual PSUs without BBUs, but this could be an N+1 PSU with dual input.

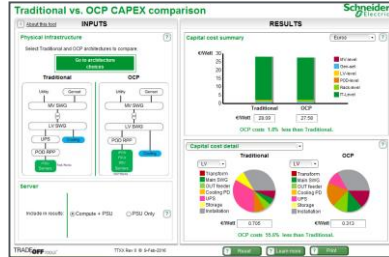


Freely available resources to help with planning decisions



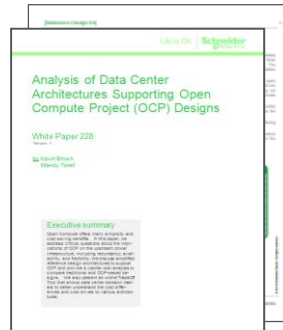
Reference Designs

- Designs to support OCP (Ref Design 101.0, 56MW)
- One-line diagrams, bill of materials, layout drawings
- www.schneider-electric.com/datacenterdesigns



TradeOff Tools

- OCP vs. traditional cost comparison tool
- Li-ion vs. VRLA TCO tool
- tools.apc.com



White Papers

- WP228, Analysis of Data Center Architectures Supporting OCP Designs
- WP229, Battery Technology for Data Centers: VRLA vs. Li-Ion
- whitepapers.apc.com

Life Is On



Key takeaways...

- Today's traditional 2N architectures have opportunity for simplification and cost reduction
- Centralized rack based PSUs provide significant cost savings
- Simplified 2N represents a small premium and gives flexibility for mixed-loads

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PSU Assumptions

Variable	Traditional data center	OCP-style data center
PSU price per PSU watt	0.07€	0.08€
PSU shelf price per PSU watt	Not applicable	0.05€
PSU redundancy factor	2	1.17 (5+1) for 1N OCP and mixed-loads 2 for 2N OCP
PSU oversizing factor	3	1.2
PSU price per IT load watt	$0.07 \times 2 \times 3 = 0.42\text{€}$	$(0.08+0.05) \times 1.17 \times 1.2 = 0.18\text{€}$ $(0.08+0.05) \times 2 \times 1.2 = 0.31\text{€}$

Battery Assumptions

Variable	Traditional data center	OCP-style data center
Battery type	VRLA	Lithium-ion
Battery run time	5 minutes	4 minutes
Battery placement	Centralized UPS	Rack-based
Battery cost per watt	0.06€ for 1N UPS 0.11€ for 2N UPS	0.17€
Battery shelf watt	Not applicable	0.03€
Operating temperature	25°C	25°C



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