



# UPTIME Institute Guidelines Summary

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# Availability

Uptime Institute Data Centre Site Infrastructure Tier Standard Classification method widely referenced in data center construction industry

## Four Tier Levels (Revision 5)

- Tier I – **Basic** Data Center Site Infrastructure
- Tier II – **Redundant** Site Infrastructure Capacity Components
- Tier III – **Concurrently Maintainable** Site Infrastructure
- Tier IV – **Fault Tolerant** Site Infrastructure

All tiering assessment builds on the previous tier level.

Final tier assessed is **progressively** and is based on the **weakest point** of overall design considering both **power** and **cooling**.



# Availability

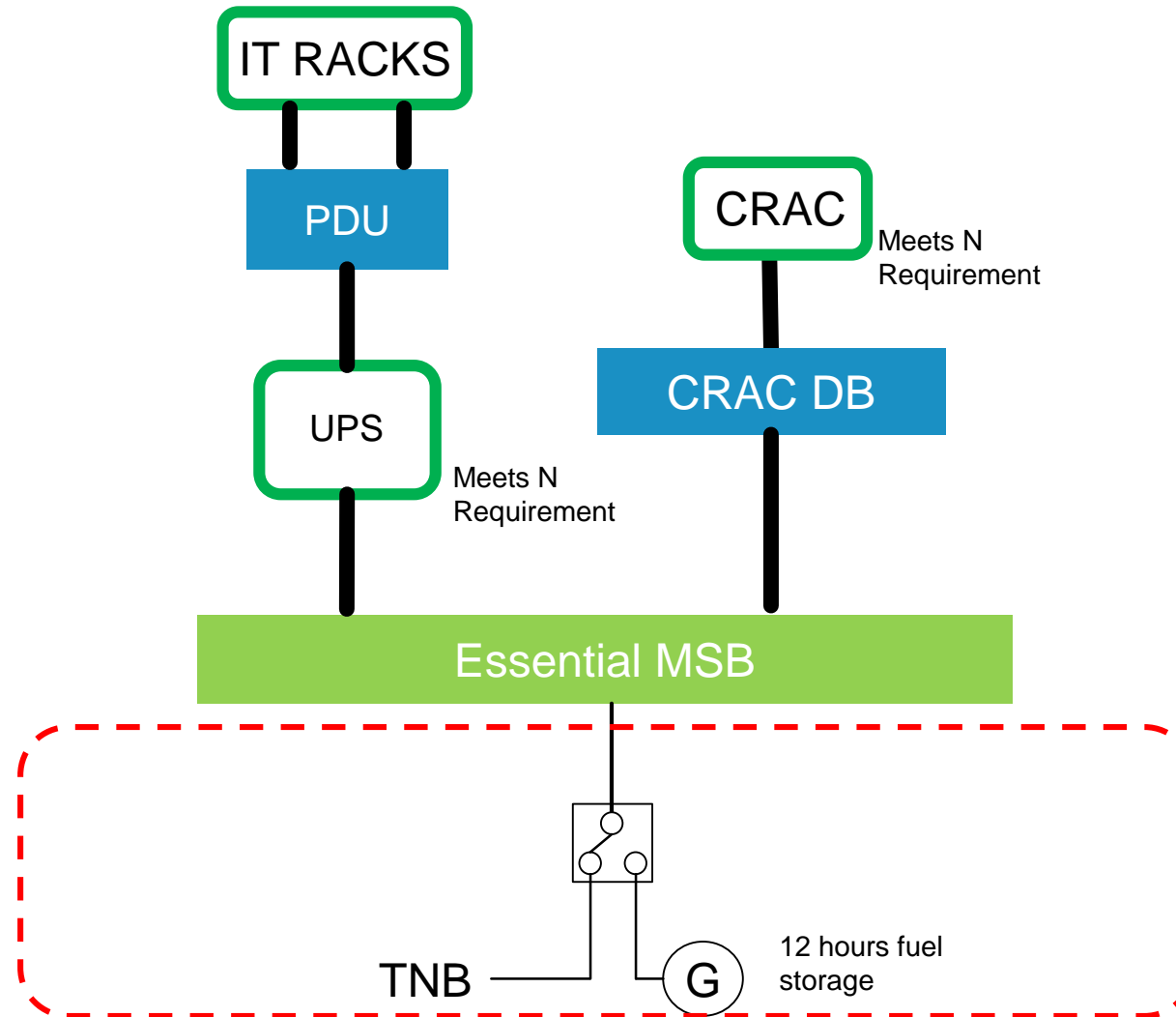
Criticality	Business characteristics	Effect of system design
1. (Lowest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Typically small businesses</li> <li>•Mostly cash-based</li> <li>•Limited online presence</li> <li>•Low dependence on IT</li> <li>•Perceive downtime as a tolerable inconvenience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Numerous single points of failure in all aspects of design</li> <li>•No generator if UPS has 8 minutes of backup time</li> <li>•Extremely vulnerable to inclement weather conditions</li> <li>•Generally unable to sustain more than a 10 minute power outage</li> </ul>
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Some amount of online revenue generation</li> <li>•Multiple servers</li> <li>•Phone system vital to business</li> <li>•Dependent on email</li> <li>•Some tolerance to scheduled downtime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Some redundancy in power and cooling systems</li> <li>•Generator backup</li> <li>•Able to sustain 24 hour power outage</li> <li>•Minimal thought to site selection</li> <li>•Vapor barrier</li> <li>•Formal data room separate from other areas</li> </ul>
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•World-wide presence</li> <li>•Majority of revenue from online business</li> <li>•VoIP phone system</li> <li>•High dependence on IT</li> <li>•High cost of downtime</li> <li>•Highly recognized brand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Two utility paths (active and passive)</li> <li>•Redundant power and cooling systems</li> <li>•Redundant service providers</li> <li>•Able to sustain 72-hour power outage</li> <li>•Careful site selection planning</li> <li>•One-hour fire rating</li> <li>•Allows for concurrent maintenance</li> </ul>
4. (Highest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Multi-million dollar business</li> <li>•Majority of revenues from electronic transactions</li> <li>•Business model entirely dependent on IT</li> <li>•Extremely high cost of downtime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Two independent utility paths</li> <li>•2N power and cooling systems</li> <li>•Able to sustain 96 hour power outage</li> <li>•Stringent site selection criteria</li> <li>•Minimum two-hour fire rating</li> <li>•High level of physical security</li> <li>•24/7 onsite maintenance staff</li> </ul>

# Tier I Requirements

## Tier I Fundamental Requirements

- Non-redundant capacity components.
- Single non-dedicated power distribution path.
- 12 hours of on-site fuel for Generator Set (GENSET).
- Dedicated space for IT
- UPS to filter out power quality issues and accommodate TNB and Genset.
- Dedicated cooling equipment.
- On-Site power production (GENSET).

# Tier I Requirements (Example)

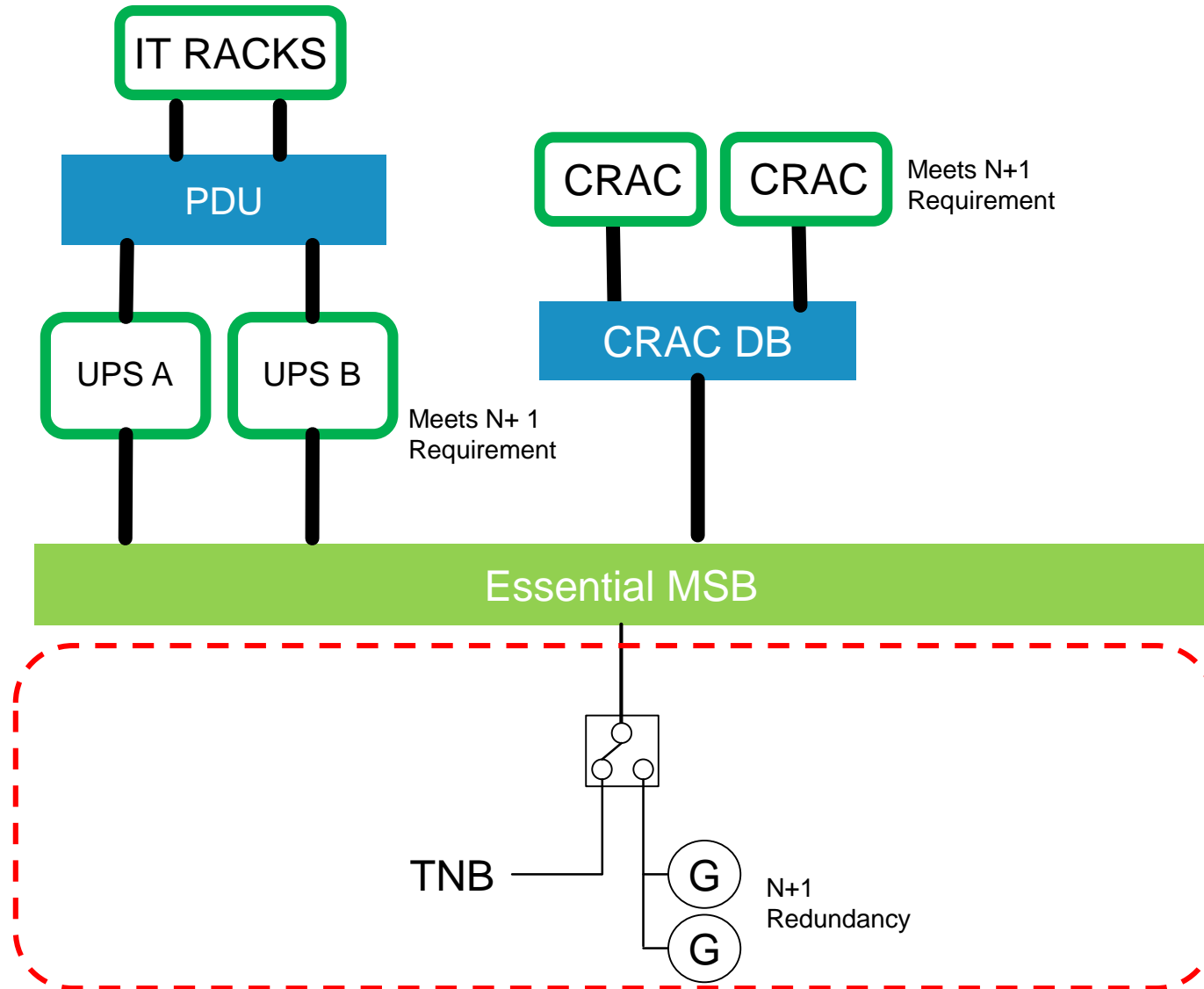


# Tier II Requirements

## Tier II Fundamental Requirements

- Redundant capacity **components** and a single at least N+1.
- Single non-dedicated power distribution path.
- 12 hours of on-site fuel for Generator Set (GENSET) for N capacity.
- Dedicated space for IT
- UPS to filter out power quality issues and accommodate TNB and Genset.
- Dedicated cooling equipment.
- On-Site power production (GENSET).

# Tier II Requirements (Example)



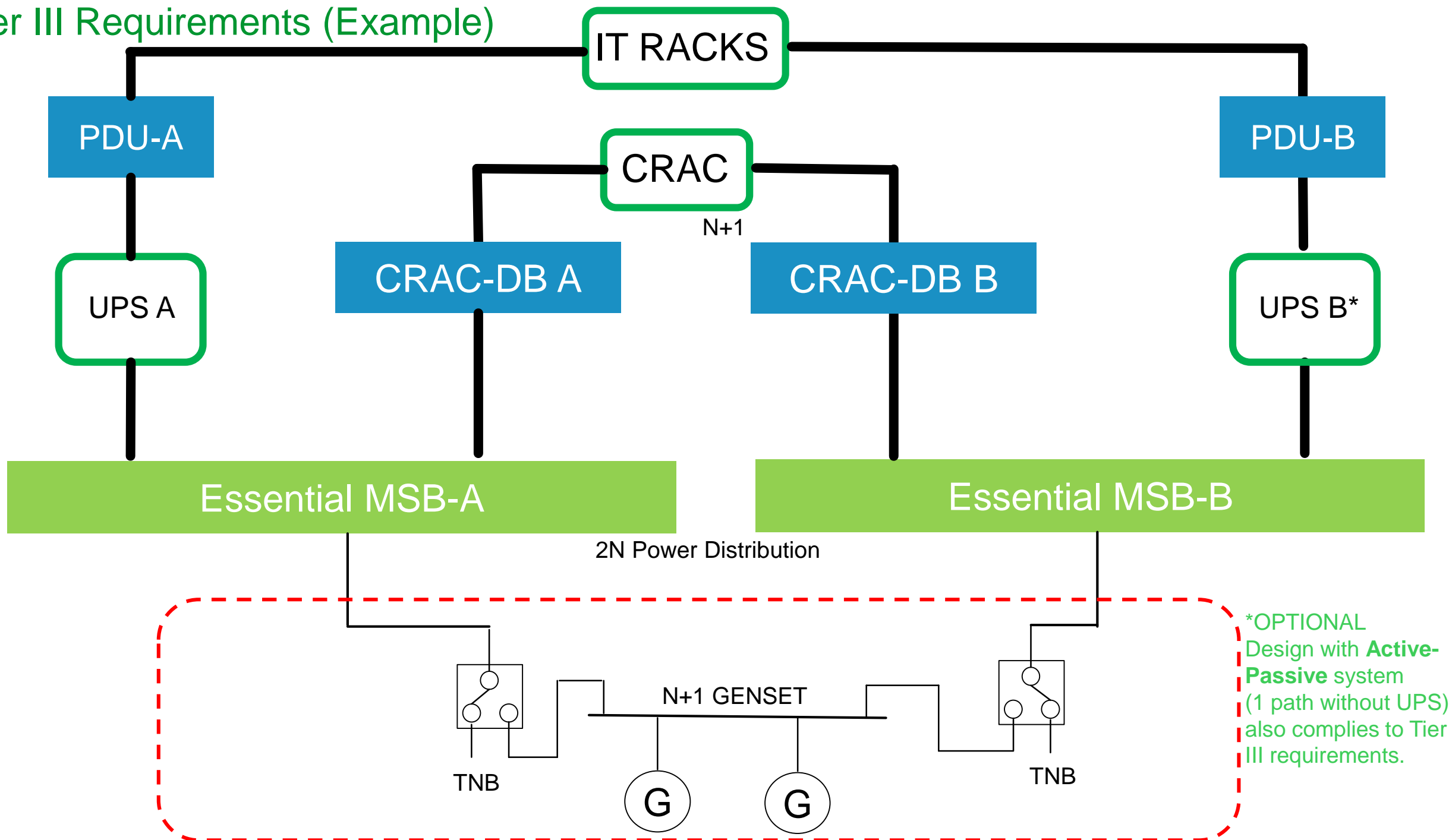
# Tier III Requirements

## Tier III Fundamental Requirements

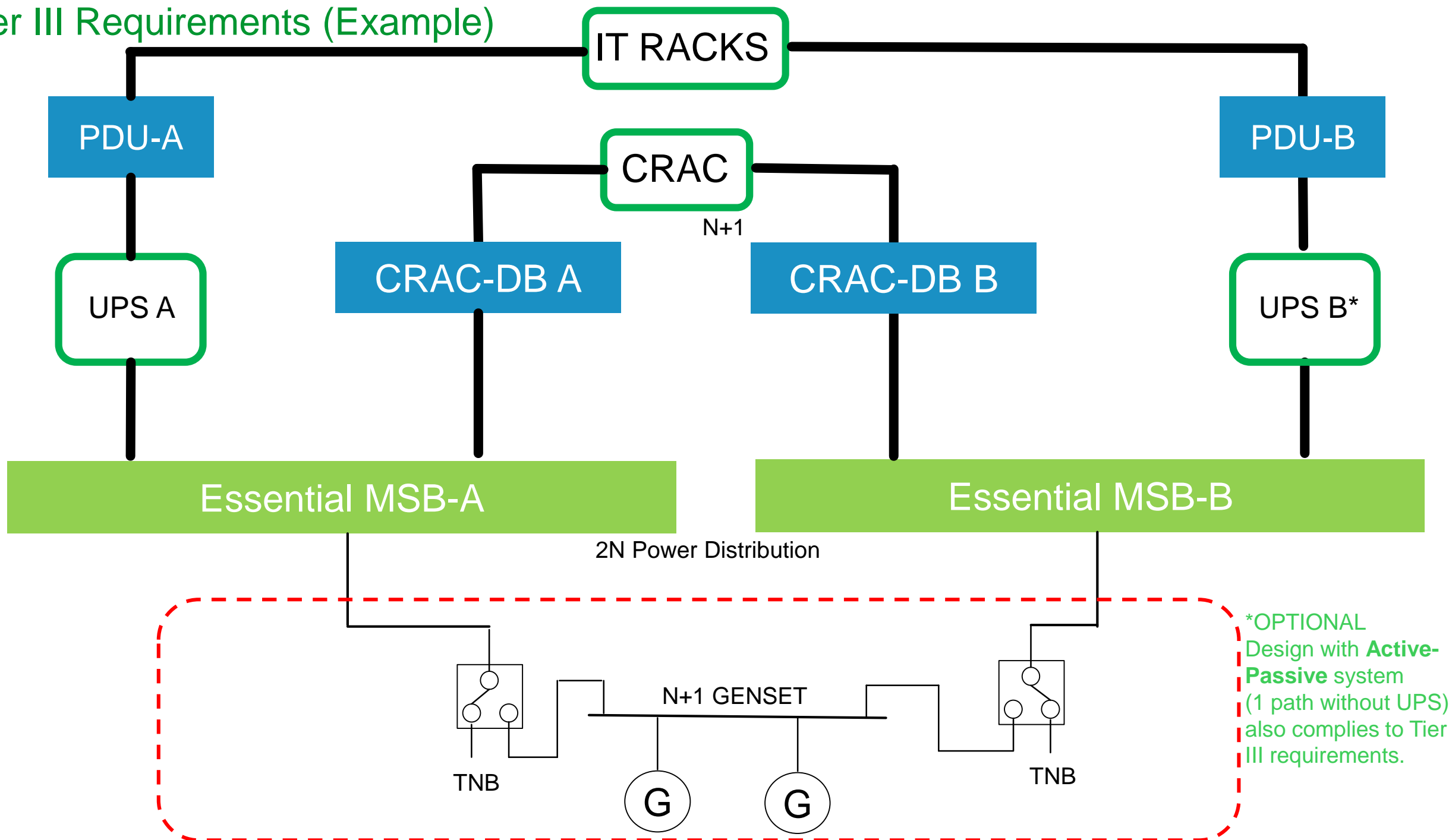
- **Concurrent Maintainable** data centre that has **redundant capacity** and **multiple independent distribution paths**.
- Minimum two power distribution paths. Minimum **one active** path.
- **Each and every** component can be removed (planned) from service without impact to the critical load.
- Every IT equipment is dual powered or equipped with point-of-use power switches.
- 12 hours of on-site fuel for Generator Set (GENSET) for N capacity.
- Dedicated space for IT
- UPS to filter out power quality issues and accommodate TNB and Genset.
- Dedicated cooling equipment meeting N+1 requirement.
- On-Site dedicated power production (GENSET). Utility power (TNB) is not recognized as a power source. Reliable and automatic transfer between TNB and GENSET is required.



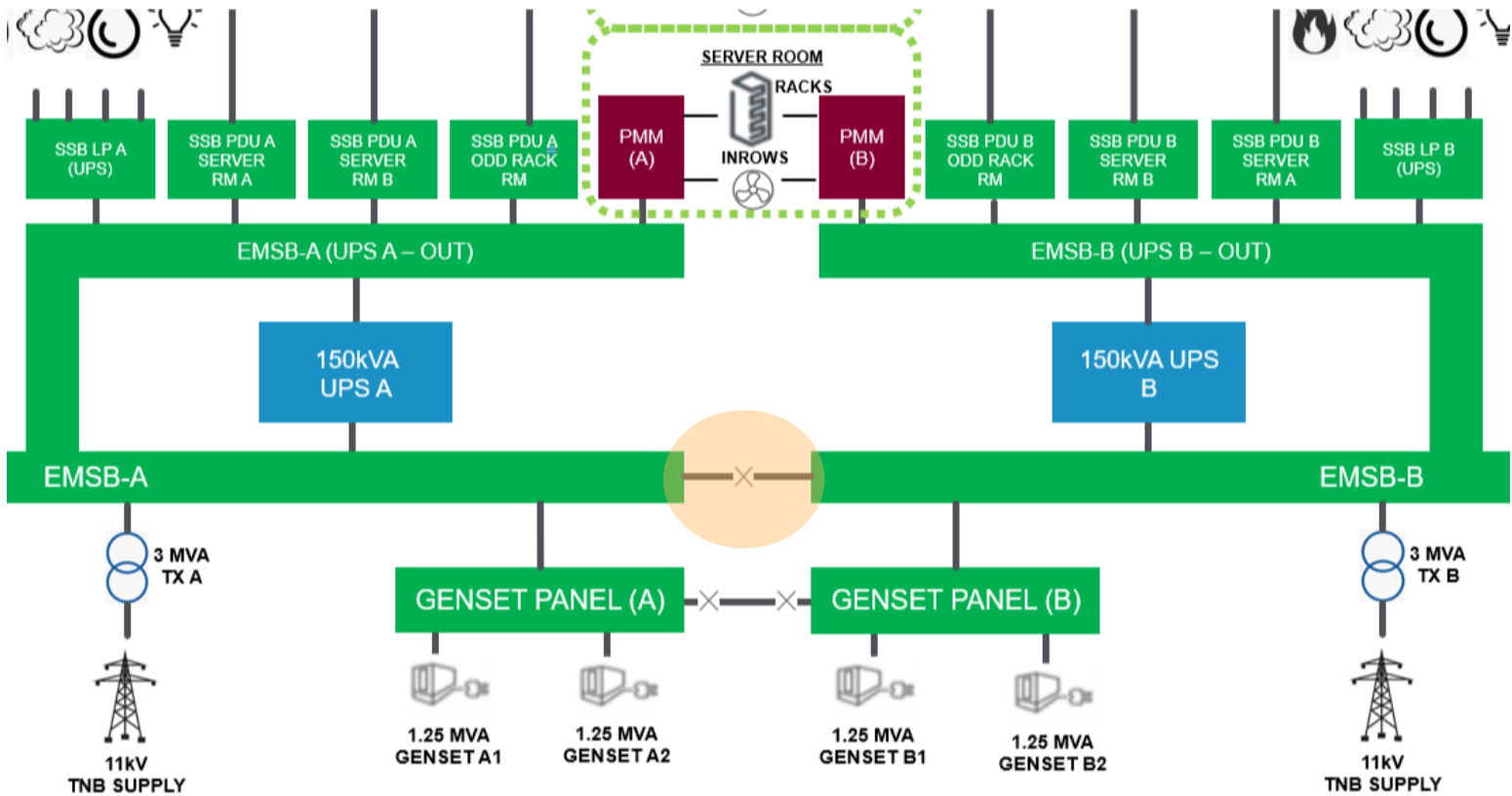
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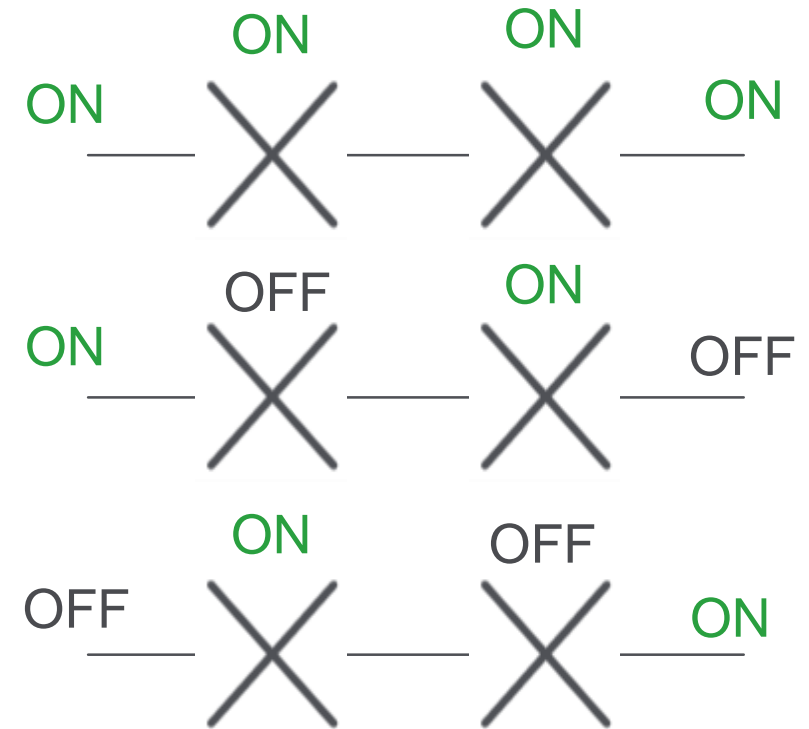
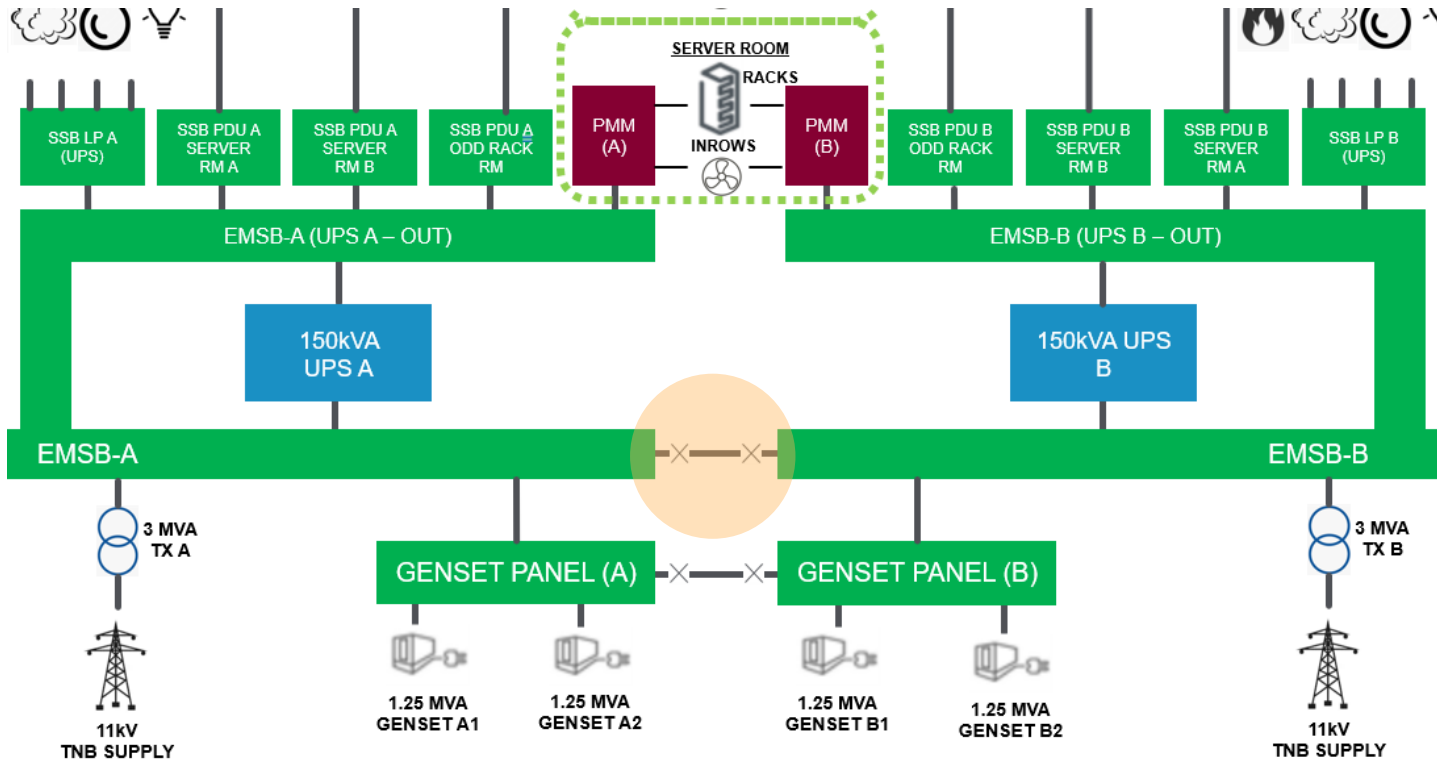
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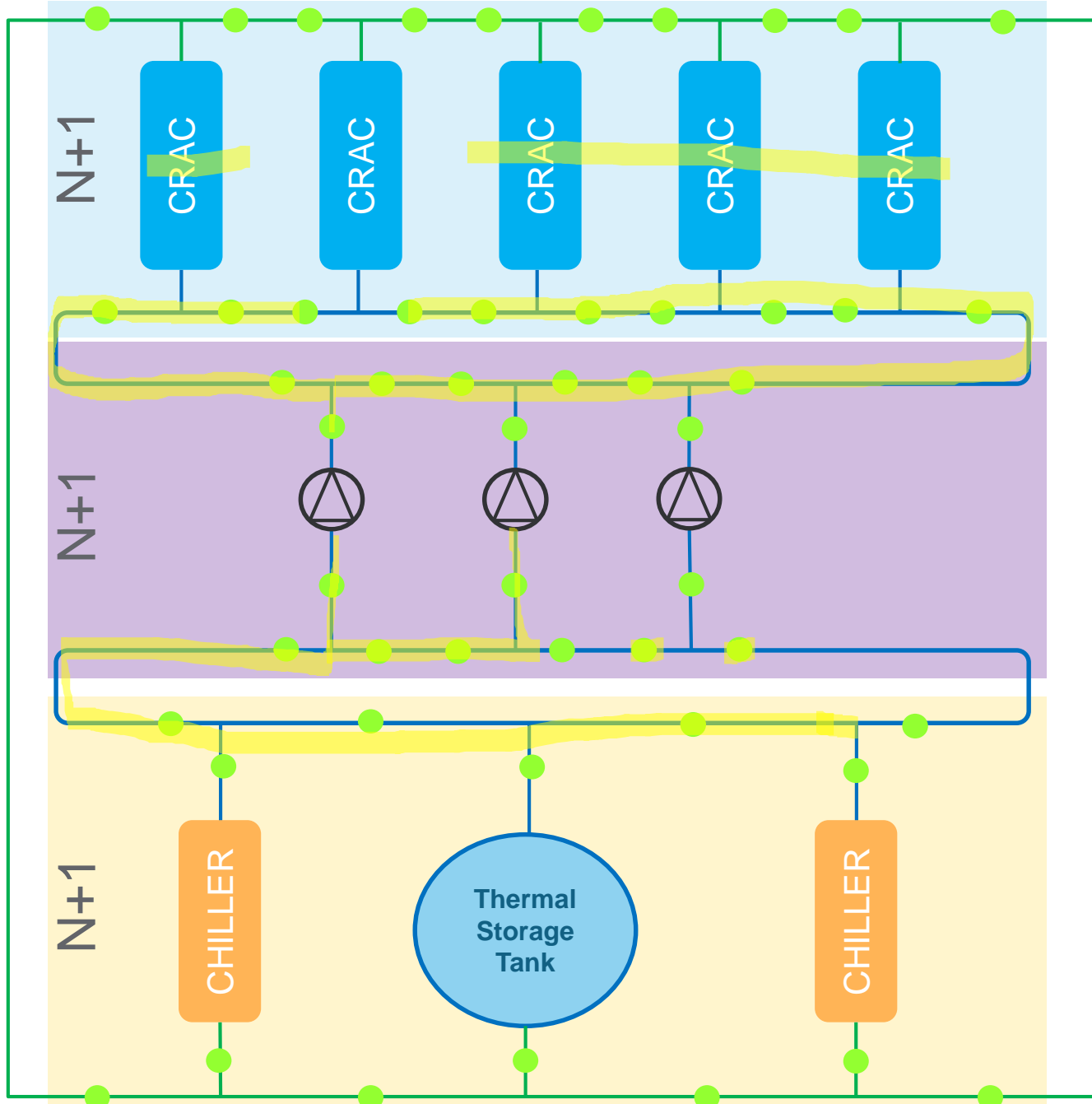
# Main-Tie-Main



# Main-Tie-Tie-Main



# Overall Chilled Water Design Concept



## Legend

- Chilled Water Pumps
- Isolation Valves
- Chilled Water Supply
- Chilled Water Return

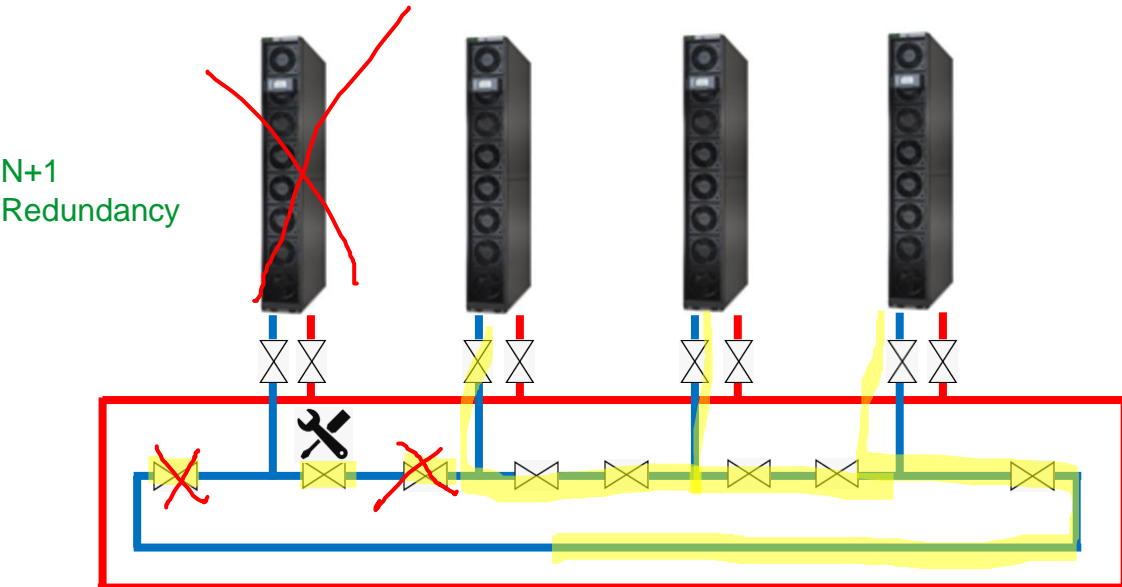
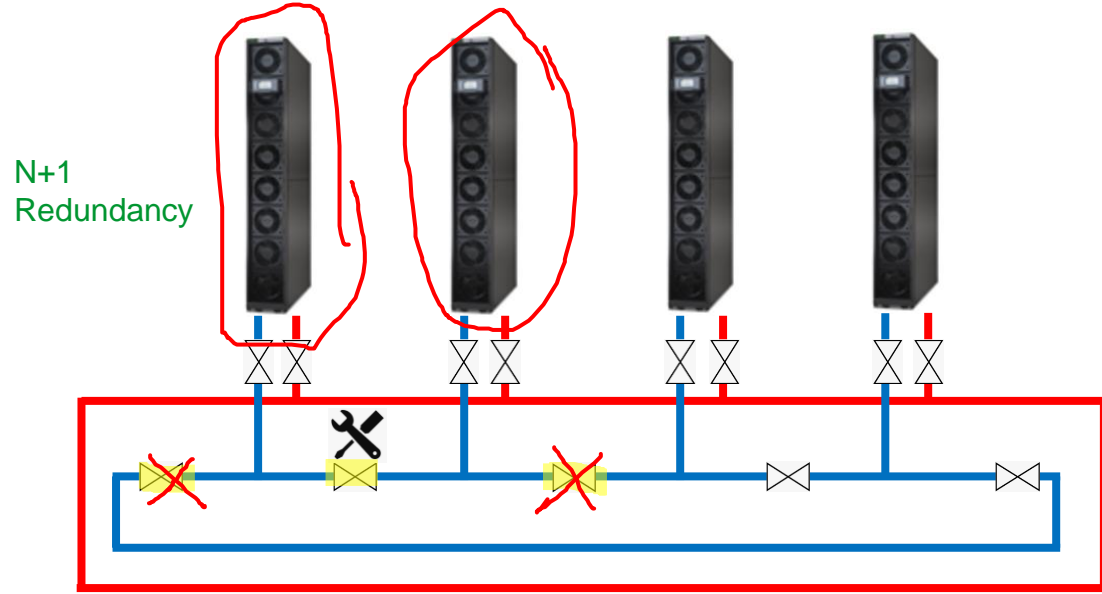
## Tier III Design:

- > Redundant Components
- > Concurrent Maintainable

## Proposed Design:

- > Each pod InRow with N+1 redundancy
- > Pump designed with N+1 redundancy
- > Chillers designed with N+1 redundancy
- > Chilled water pipe follows ring circuit design for dual distribution path (concurrent maintainability)
- > Valve placement for concurrent maintainability

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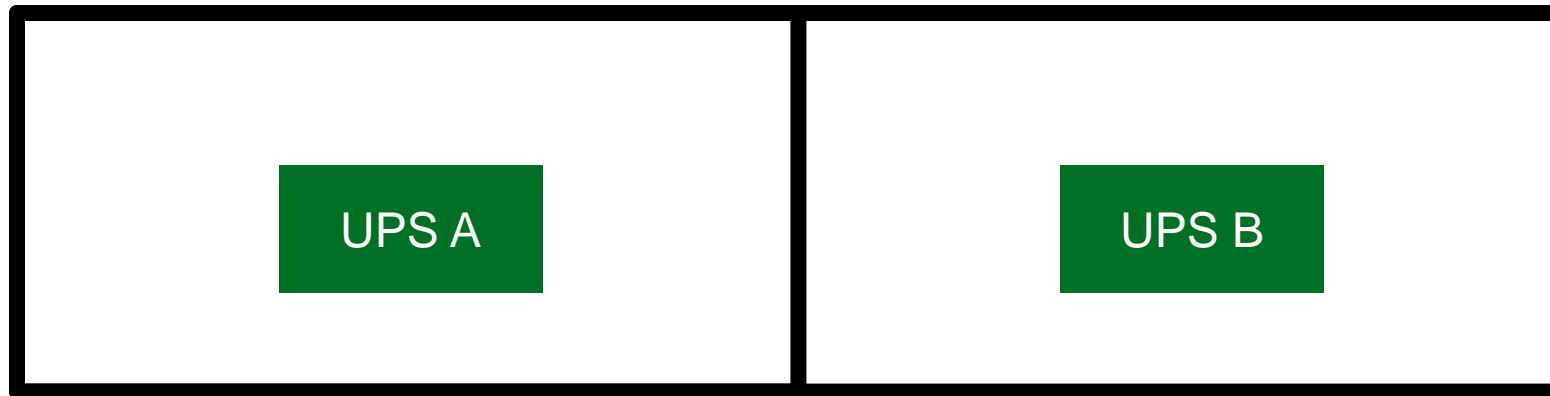
# Tier IV Requirements

## Tier II Fundamental Requirements

- **Fault Tolerant** data centre that has **multiple, independent, physically isolated systems** that provide **redundant capacity components**.
- Not susceptible to disruption from a single planned/unplanned event.
- **Compartmentalization - Complementary systems and distribution paths** that are **physically isolated from each other**.
- **Continuous cooling** is required as per ASHRAE requirements.
- Every IT equipment is dual powered or equipped with point-of-use power switches.
- 12 hours of on-site fuel for Generator Set (GENSET) for N capacity.
- Dedicated space for IT
- UPS to filter out power quality issues and accommodate TNB and Genset.
- Dedicated cooling equipment.
- On-Site power production (GENSET). TNB is not recognized as a power source. Reliable and automatic transfer between TNB and GENSET is required.

# Compartmentalization

- Applies to complementary systems and distribution paths in Tier IV topology.
- Tier IV **requires** physical isolation to prevent a **single event** from simultaneously impacting more than the number of redundant components or systems
- Each component shall contain **no more than the number of redundant components**.

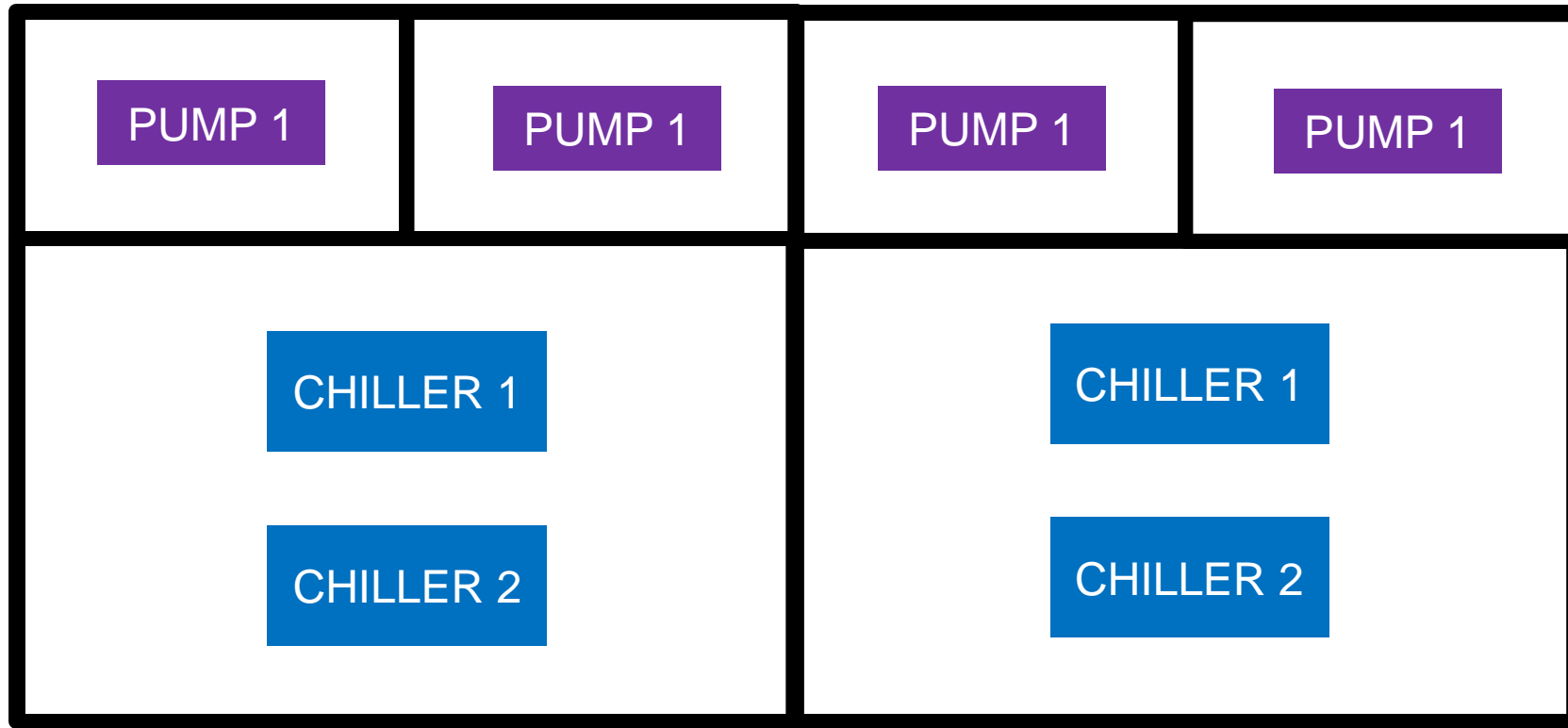


Redundancy  
N+1



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Pump Redundancy  
N+1

Chiller Redundancy  
N+2

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Electrical  
Redundancy  
2N

# Compartmentalization

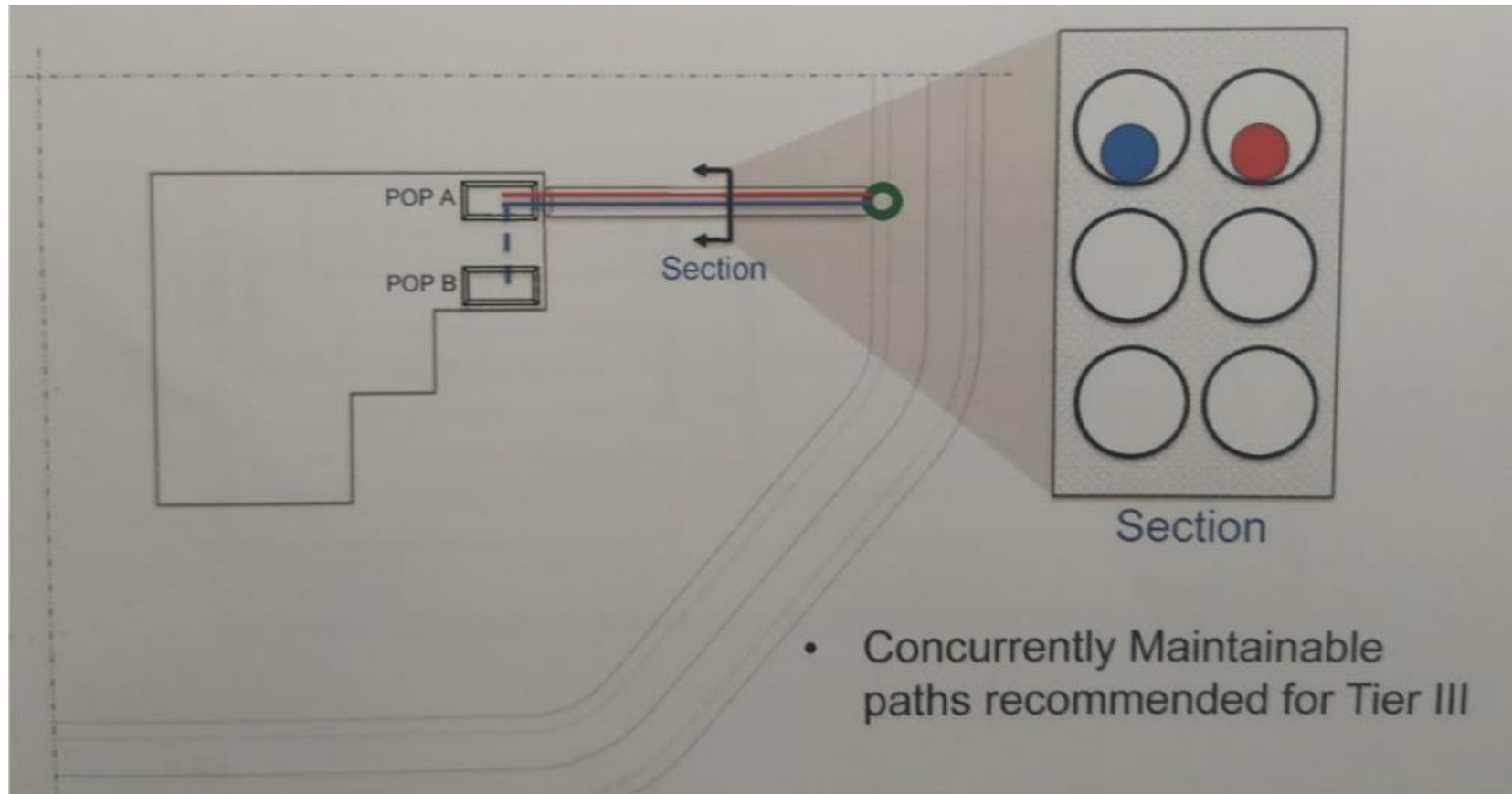
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Electrical  
Redundancy  
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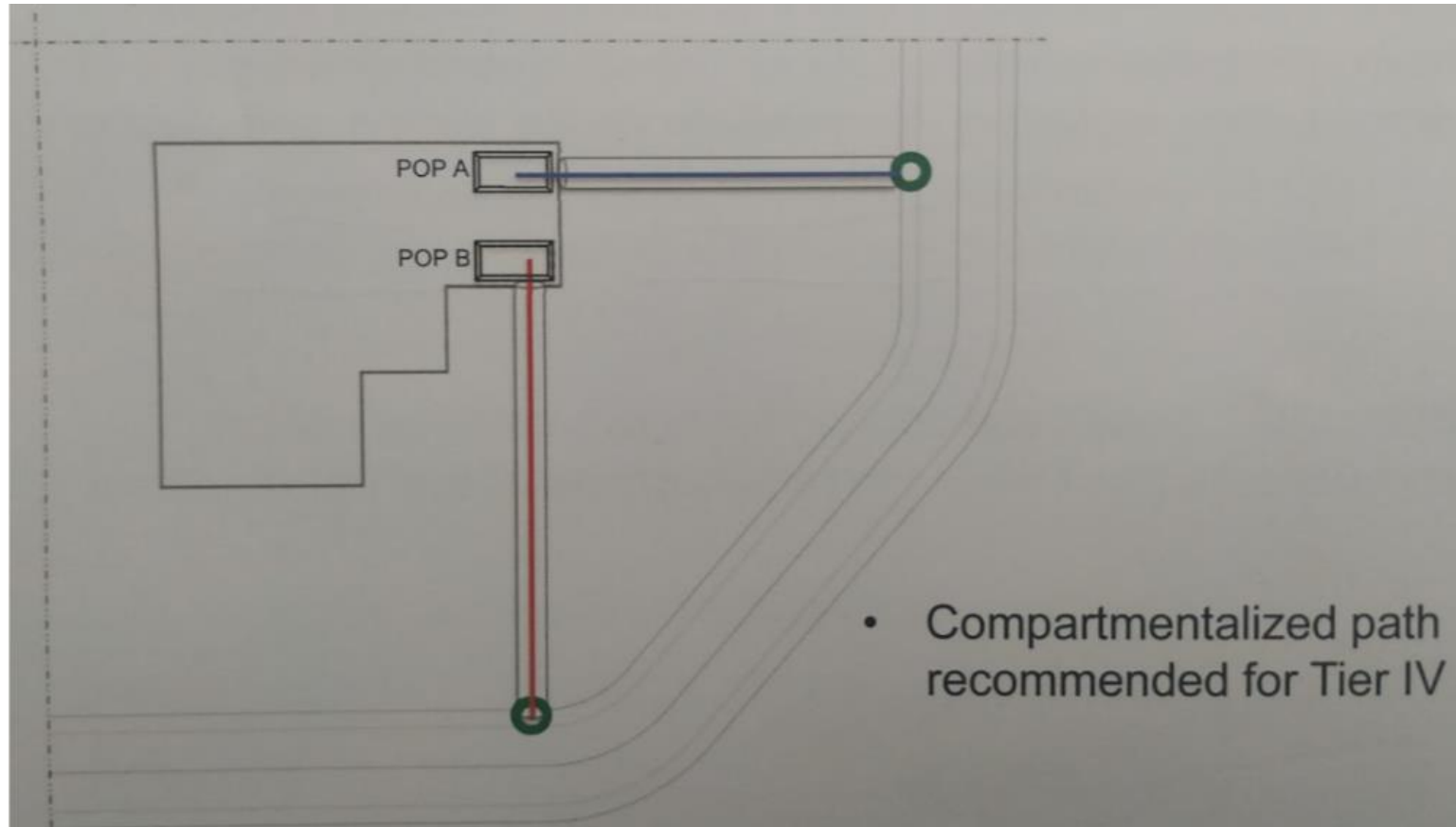
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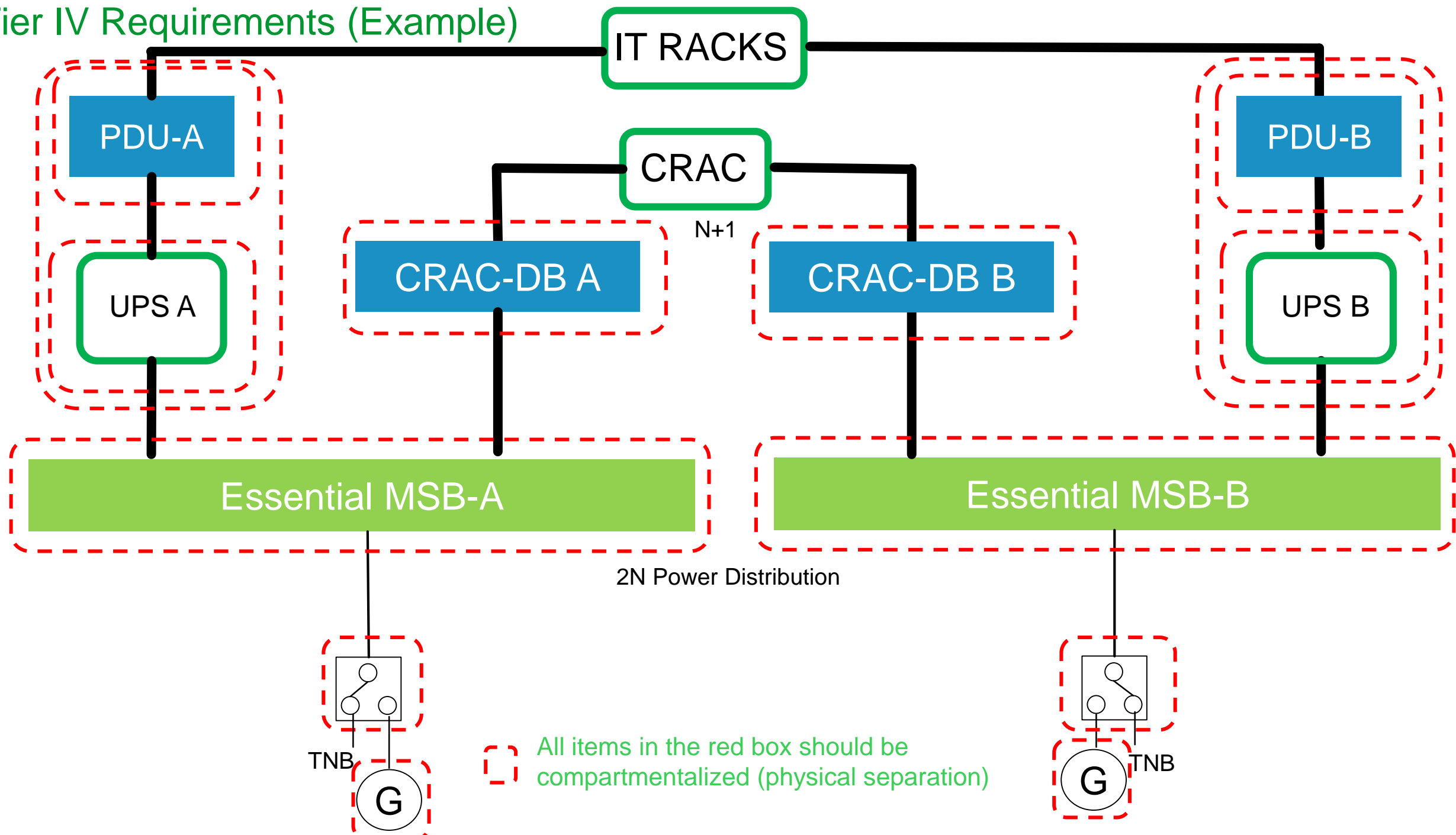


# Compartmentalization

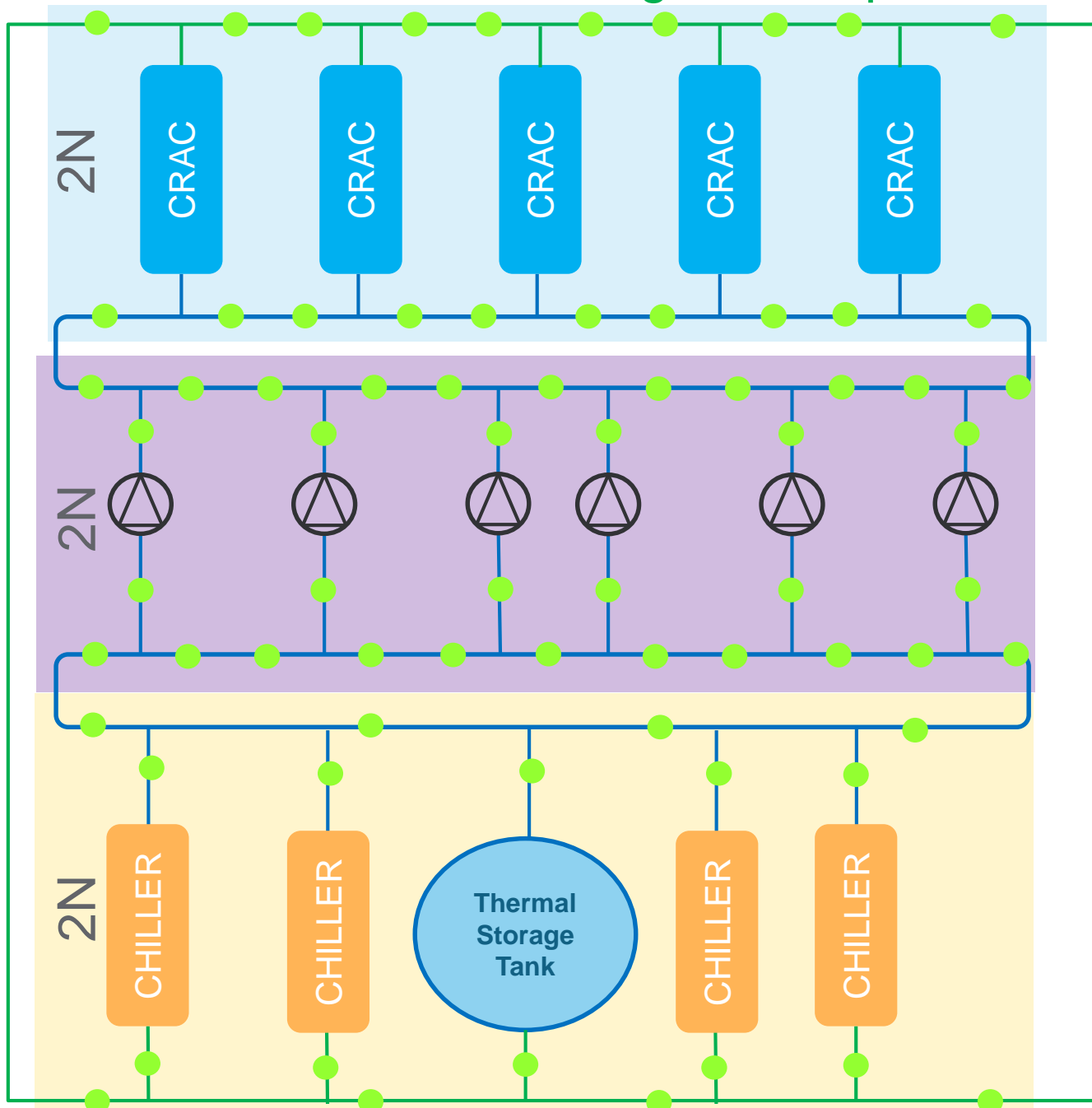
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# Tier IV Requirements (Example)



# Overall Chilled Water Design Concept



## Legend

- Chilled Water Pumps
- Isolation Valves
- Chilled Water Supply
- Chilled Water Return

## Tier IV Design:

- > Fault Tolerant
- > Continuous Cooling
- > Compartmentalization

## Proposed Design:

- > Each pod CRAC with 2N redundancy or C/over
- > Pump designed with 2N redundancy
- > Chillers designed with 2N redundancy
- > Chilled water pipe follows ring circuit design for dual distribution path
- > Valve placement for concurrent maintainability

# Misconceptions on Tier Rating

- “My data centre is Tier 2.5 or Tier 2+.”
- “For Tier III, I will need 2 separate incoming from the utility power/TNB.”
- “I will need two separate UPS systems on each distribution path for a Tier III rating.”
- “I will need chilled water cooling system in the design to have a Tier III rating.”
- “I must have a high level of physical security or disaster recovery measures in the data centre to achieve a high tier rating.”
- Uptime Institutes assessment of a sites tier readiness is based on the **weakest point**.
- Tier III does not consider utility power as a power supply. Only GENSETs. However, utility power is considered an economical temporary substitute.
- Tier III can be achieved by having an “Active-Passive” design.
- It is possible to use direct expansion cooling to have a Tier III design. Redundancy of the cooling units must be available to meet concurrent maintainability.
- Uptime Institute does not consider security levels or environmental conditions outside the data centre for Tier ratings. Security levels are dictated by:
  - Industry best practices.
  - Criticality of IT functions.
  - Owner’s security policies.



Life Is On

**Schneider**  
Electric