

Edge Environment

[Go to Terms and Definitions](#)

Discussion

An Edge Environment is an [Infrastructure Environment](#) located near a source or consumer of data, an operational process, a physical location, or another subject for which local computing provides an architectural benefit.

An Edge Environment may operate near:

- Sensors
- Industrial equipment
- Vehicles
- Communication infrastructure
- Users
- Facilities
- Data sources
- Operational processes
- Remote locations

An Edge Environment may have:

- Limited computing capacity
- Limited storage capacity
- Limited network bandwidth
- Intermittent connectivity
- Restricted external connectivity
- Location-specific security controls
- Local operational authority
- Low-latency processing requirements
- Environmental or physical constraints

An Edge Environment differs from a central Infrastructure Environment:

- An Edge Environment places computing capability near a relevant data source, consumer, process, or physical location
- A central Infrastructure Environment consolidates computing capability within a centralized facility or service

An Edge Environment differs from an [Air-Gapped Environment](#):

- An Edge Environment is distinguished by its location and operational relationship to another subject
- An Air-Gapped Environment is distinguished by controlled network isolation

An Edge Environment may be connected, disconnected, or air-gapped.

Definition

infrastructure environment located near a source or consumer of data, an operational process, a physical location, or another subject for which local computing provides an architectural benefit

Source

Dido Solutions, Inc. and Jackrabbit Consulting, Inc.

Note

An Edge Environment does not by itself establish:

- Disconnected operation
- Network isolation
- Limited resource capacity
- A particular physical distance
- A particular device class
- A particular provider
- A particular deployment technology
- A particular security classification

The applicable architecture identifies the reason the environment qualifies as an Edge Environment.

Example

An Infrastructure Environment located within a manufacturing facility processes equipment telemetry locally to reduce latency and continued dependence on a remote cloud service.

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