



Virtualization - Part 2

There are a number of key areas in which virtualization offers companies of all sizes important benefits. For those of us who have fully adopted it, it has become virtually impossible to live with out it (no pun intended):

Go Green with Energy Efficiency: By stacking multiple Operating Systems and applications on a single server and sharing resources among them, virtualization optimizes server utilization and cuts waste. It eliminates single-application servers that use up exponential amounts of energy in processing and cooling. For larger organizations, lessening the physical size of their datacenters also results in energy efficiency, decreased hardware costs, and maintenance savings.

Improve server utilization: Consolidating multiple operating systems on a single piece of hardware maximizes server usage. Removing the physical relationship between an OS and its native hardware with virtualization greatly expands server capacity and avoids under-utilization where, in some instances, single servers use less than 30 percent of their processing power.

Extend the life of your older applications: Let's be honest. You probably have old legacy applications still running in your environment. These applications probably fit into one or more of these categories: It doesn't run on a modern operating system, it may be out of warranty or the person or company who created it is no longer around to update it. By simply virtualizing that old application and its environment, you can extend its life, maintain

Server Virtualization?cont...

Gain architecture control: Virtualization allows larger organization to simplify their server architecture. For example, eliminating inefficient servers and co-location centers enables a re-definition of the datacenter. Virtualization not only provides built-in redundancy by spreading computing power across multiple inexpensive machines, it also ensures a server resource pool. This offers larger performance capacity over a single, mid-range system and combined with virtualized networks and storage significantly changes today's datacenter architecture.

Automation: The role of automation means that VMs can be copied, administered, and restored easily. Tasks, such as patch management, are simplified and administrators are freed up for other IT projects. Single-console management of VMs adds another layer of efficiency and increases response times during emergencies. The ability to shift VMs or other resources to a different server is another key feature. People like us can conduct maintenance without interrupting service, disabling a system, or having to work off-hours!

Increase uptime: Most server virtualization platforms now offer a number of advanced features that just aren't found on physical servers, which helps with business continuity and increased uptime. Though the vendor feature names may be different, they usually offer capabilities such as live migration, storage migration, fault tolerance, high availability, and distributed resource scheduling. These technologies keep virtual machines plugging along

uptime, and finally get rid of that old Pentium machine hidden in the corner of the server room.

or give them the ability to quickly recover from unplanned outages.

To sum it all up, the ability to quickly and easily move a virtual machine from one server to another is perhaps one of the greatest single benefits of virtualization with far-reaching uses. As the technology continues to mature to the point where it can do long-distance migrations, such as being able to move a virtual machine from one data center to another-- no matter the network latency involved--the virtual world will continue to exponentially grow.

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