



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRY: **BANKING****CHALLENGE**

The Portman Building Society, a regulated financial institution, needed a flexible IT environment that would support disaster recovery.

SOLUTION

The society implemented VMware technology to virtualize its servers, thus quickly gaining a robust recovery model.

VMWARE AT WORK

VMware Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

- ESX Server 3 with VMFS
- VirtualCenter 2
- VMotion
- High Availability (HA)
- Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- ESX Server 3.0.1 and VirtualCenter 2.0 on 4-CPU HP ProLiant DL580G2 with 32 GB of RAM
- Network Appliance FAS 940 for DR site
- Guest operating systems: Microsoft Windows NT, Microsoft Windows 2000 Server, Windows Server 2003 variants, and Windows XP
- Applications: Microsoft SQL Server 2005 and SQL Server 2000; Microsoft Internet Information Services 4.0, 5.0, and 6.0; WebSphere; intranet; print servers; specialized third-party applications

"We couldn't do a disaster recovery. We'd come too far too quickly. But now with VMware technology, we can do a same-site machine recovery in minutes. That was a massive win for us."

Darren Woollard,

Technical Specialist (Infrastructure), Portman Building Society

Portman Building Society

The Portman Building Society, based in Bournemouth, United Kingdom, is a financial institution specializing in savings and home finance, similar to an American savings & loan association. With 1.8 million members and £18.7 billion (U.S.\$34 billion) in assets, Portman is one of the largest such institutions in the U.K. The society's 150-person Information Services department supports 2,700 employees spread among about 150 branches.

Amid massive expansion in 2005, Portman had to face up to gaps in its business continuity and disaster recovery procedures. The gaps were all in the Intel Server environment and Portman needed to fix those gaps quickly.

Results

When Portman installed VMware ESX Server 2.5 in late 2005, it gained a quick-recovery mechanism that solved its problems. "Now we can do a site failover in minutes," says Technical Specialist Darren Woollard.

Furthermore, through virtualization, Portman made the data portable, so that recovery does not require matching hardware. "We could go to another site if necessary and recover," says Woollard. "We never had any of this at all before."

With a recent upgrade to VMware Infrastructure 3, Portman has gained additional benefits such as dynamic resource allocation. "Originally it was a quick fix," says Woollard, "but we're evolving under the same model because nothing else can match what we do with VMware."