



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRY: TECHNOLOGY



CHALLENGE

Quickly growing software company needed to make the most of limited QA resources, hardware, and space.

SOLUTION

VMware Lab Manager has helped STC compress test cycles, drastically shrink testing hardware requirements, and efficiently support a rapidly growing development organization without increasing support headcount.

VMWARE AT WORK

- VMware Lab Manager
- VMware Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:
 - ESX Server 3 with VMFS

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- ESX Servers on Dell 1855 Blade Servers.
- Storage solution is a Dell PowerVault MD1000 3 TB SCSI JBOD used as an NFS mount.
- Guest operating systems: Windows 2000 Server, Windows XP, Windows 2003 Server Standard, CentOS 4.4 Linux
- Applications: Websphere 5 and 6 AS, Tomcat 5.028, Oracle 10gAS, SQL Server 2000 and 2005

"VMware Lab Manager has allowed our test and development team to simulate multiple client environments with a very small server footprint. We can also very quickly deploy new setups in a few minutes that normally could take hours to a full work day."

Chris Heil, Senior QA Engineer and Team Lead

Scientific Technologies Corporation

Scientific Technologies Corporation (STC) is an international public health informatics company with nearly two decades of experience. STC's public health solutions include over 80 established products covering such mission critical uses as pandemic tracking to vaccination records.

As a growing company, STC often needs to be as efficient as possible with their resources, including hardware, space, and development and QA support resources. STC's physical test lab was causing wait times of up to a week for testers to get properly configured test hardware against which to test their software.

Using VMware Lab Manager, STC has built a world-class test lab to support their testers and developers. The company's virtual test lab has provided a level of agility and efficiency to support the company as it continues to grow, while shrinking the physical space occupied by the lab.

Results

- Entire test lab of 150 virtual machines lab housed in the footprint of two blade server racks.
- Provisioning times dropped from days to minutes with self-provisioning.
- 35 development and test users are now supported by a single test administrator
- IT can now focus on core IT issues, rather than building test machines.
- Help desk uses Lab Manager to troubleshoot tickets in precise replicas of customers' environments.
- Substantially reduced power consumption, and avoided laying more power lines to test lab
- 9x reduction in server-to-staff ratio
- NFS support saved the cost of a fiber-channel SAN
- Automatic VM de-provisioning feature controls virtual test lab resources
- Support for Solaris 10 operating systems to better simulate clients environments
- Support for Vista operating system to support testing efforts prior to customer rollouts