



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRY: TECHNOLOGY



CHALLENGE

Create a scalable, highly available and flexible IT environment that provides on-demand infrastructure for clients.

SOLUTION

VMware Infrastructure 3 combines with LeftHand Networks open iSCSI SAN powered by SAN/iQ® to create a 100-percent virtual platform that scales easily and cost efficiently.

VMWARE AT WORK

VMware Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

- VMware® ESX Server 3 with VMFS
- VMware® VirtualCenter 2
- VMware® vMotion™ technology
- VMware® Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)
- VMware® High Availability (HA)
- VMware® Consolidated Backup (VCB)
- VMware® Converter

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- ESX Server running on HP c7000 and c3000 blades
- Guest operating systems: Windows® Server® 2003, Red Hat® Enterprise Linux
- Applications: Microsoft® IIS®, Microsoft® SQL™, Microsoft® Exchange®, Microsoft® Active Directory®, Autodesk® Maya®, Ontario Systems Call Center Software, DataSystems Double-Take, Adobe® Cold Fusion®, Symantec Veritas Backup Exec, Symantec Endpoint Protection

“Using a combination of VMware technology and LeftHand Networks iSCSI SANs, we’re able to clone a bootable copy of a client’s production environment and move it hundreds of miles away to a disaster recovery site. When they declare a disaster or want to test their recovery plan, we simply boot them into production. You just can’t do that without virtualization.”

Pat O’Day

Chief Technology Officer, BlueLock

BlueLock, LLC

BlueLock LLC (BlueLock) is a managed technology services provider that is redefining how companies provision and manage their technology infrastructures. As a leading provider of infrastructure as a service (IaaS), BlueLock delivers pre-configured, virtual IT environments that are secure, resilient and scale on-demand.

“We build one of two things for our clients,” says Pat O’Day, chief technology officer at BlueLock. “We either build a dedicated hosting environment to run an online application, or we build a disaster recovery target for an environment that’s running somewhere else. In either case, a combination of VMware and LeftHand solutions provides the behind-the-scenes technology for our operations.”

VMware® Infrastructure 3 works with LeftHand Network’s iSCSI SAN architecture to create a highly available and flexible IT environment. “Since our servers are 100 percent virtualized through VMware technology, we need to have a storage solution that is also virtual—and LeftHand is one of the only truly virtualized SANs out there today. The two solutions work together to provide performance on demand so that we can readily adjust to our clients’ infrastructure needs.”

Results

• Halve costs of creating and maintaining a disaster recovery site.

“Historically, creating a disaster recovery site involved replicating your production environment and then finding a way to move data back and forth between the two sites, usually with a fibre channel,” says O’Day. “By using VMware technology and LeftHand iSCSI SANs, we can give our clients a 100 percent virtual disaster recovery site and screaming fast data speeds—and it usually costs half as much.”

• Provision servers in hours rather than weeks.

“Rapid server provisioning is one of the biggest benefits of VMware technology,” says O’Day. “We can add new servers to someone’s environment almost instantly without having to order new hardware and wait for it to arrive.”

• Reduce recovery time from hours to minutes.

“We have full fault tolerance and redundancy on all our disk volumes,” says O’Day. “If we lose one disk system, it switches over without interruption. That’s a priceless benefit.”