



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRY: PUBLIC SECTOR

**CHALLENGE**

The IT department at Nurses Board of Victoria wanted to provide high availability for its users and, at the same time, consolidate servers.

SOLUTION

The Nurses Board of Victoria adopted VMware® Infrastructure products to virtualize 90 percent of its IT environment.

VMWARE AT WORK

• VMware Infrastructure 3, featuring:

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

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- Host operating system: VMware Infrastructure 3 / VMware ESX Server 3
- Guest operating systems: Windows Server 2003, Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- Applications: Microsoft Exchange Server 2003, Microsoft SQL Server 2005, DB2, Altiris, Blackberry Services, Quest Spotlight, proprietary applications
- Hardware: HP/Compaq Proliant series, Pentium Xeon

“VMware is simply the most feature-rich of all [virtualization solutions]. It has the widest range of client and virtual machine operating systems. Without a doubt, it has the highest support for high availability across hardware platforms, for disaster recovery and for automatic failover for any modern data center.”

Michael Hoffmann, Chief Information Officer,
Nurses Board of Victoria

Nurses Board of Victoria

The Nurses Board of Victoria, a government agency for the state of Victoria in Australia, is in charge of registering professional nurses, accrediting educational institutions and investigating professional conduct cases.

Nurses must annually renew their registrations through the Board, so the IT department wanted to ensure that its registration systems are always accessible. It needed a solution that was scalable and reliable and that would allow for server consolidation. The IT department had been successfully using VMware® Workstation for development and testing when it decided to adopt VMware Infrastructure 3 products for its production systems.

Today, the Board uses VMware ESX Server, VMotion™, Distributed Resource Scheduler and High Availability for all of its mission-critical systems. “We employ all these [products] in a close-knit fashion to get maximum uptime and to allow us to do maintenance during business hours, with minimal impact to users,” says Michael Hoffmann, Chief Information Officer at the Nurses Board of Victoria. “VMware intelligently decides how to balance the load across the servers, depending on the need at the moment, without us having to interfere.”

Hoffmann says that VMware provides fast, reliable disaster recovery and helps the group to deploy new production code quickly. “We take a snapshot of a production system, and if there are any problems, we can go back to a stable production code in minutes.”

Results

- Cut hardware costs by 60 percent
- Reduced server provisioning time from half a day to minutes
- Virtually eliminated downtime
- Consolidated servers
- Reduced power usage by 25 percent
- Improved disaster recovery
- Enabled maintenance during business hours; eliminated employee “after hours” work