

ZIMMER·GUNSUL·FRASCA ARCHITECTS·LLP

*"I found ESXi to be extremely robust and easy to use."*

— Ron Pike  
Associate,  
Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

**Challenge**

Incorporate virtualization into select IT functions within company

**Solution**

VMware ESXi provides a free, lightweight solution for experiencing the benefits of server virtualization and consolidation.

**VMware at Work**

VMware ESXi, featuring:

- Bare metal architecture
- 32 MB footprint
- Shared storage and SAN transparency

**Deployment environment**

- HP DL360's attached to EqualLogic PS5000 SAN
- Guest operating systems: Windows 2003, Linux Ubuntu
- Virtualized Production Applications: Specops Deploy, Jive Software instant messaging, HP System Insight Manager, HP Web Jetadmin server
- Virtualized Pre-Production Applications: MS Exchange

## Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects (ZGF) is a nationally recognized architecture, planning and interior design firm, with five locations throughout the United States.

The IT staff at ZGF is constantly staying abreast of new products for its IT environment. When they heard about VMware ESXi, they decided it would be the perfect tool for its Exchange migration prototype lab.

Available as a free download, the stand-alone ESXi hypervisor provides the same functionality and performance as VMware ESX but with just a 32 MB disk footprint. "It was like deploying a lightweight operating system that included all of the drivers you needed," says Ron Pike, an associate at ZGF. "It was very straightforward."

ZGF uses virtual machines on ESXi in conjunction with SAN snapshots to effectively conduct test deployments of Microsoft Exchange. "We can easily create a duplicate environment and test new releases before we run through a migration," says Pike. "It's been very useful in that regard, so we've expanded our use of ESXi to include virtualization of some production servers in our Seattle office. We can manage these machines manually right now, but as our infrastructure gets more complex, we'll definitely investigate products like VMware Infrastructure 3 that can help us manage our infrastructure in a more automated fashion."

### Results

- Deploy servers in minutes. "With physical hardware, there's a somewhat complicated server preparation process that entails setting up a utility partition, installing the drivers for the physical hardware and laying down the operating system," says Pike. "With ESXi, there's none of that. I really appreciate the speed and the ease of use it provides."
- Reduce rack space by 30 percent. "ESXi has allowed us to get rid of a full rack of older physical servers that were taking up space," says Pike. "It was great to be able to pull those out."
- Simplify replication tasks. "We can replicate virtual machines across our wide area network quite seamlessly," says Pike. "Everything works very smoothly with ESXi—it has great compatibility."



CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT