

“Purchasing VMware products through OARnet has been a terrific way for us to expand the size of our VMware environment and speed up our timeline for virtualizing our infrastructure.”

— John Gabriel
Network Design Architect,
Wright State University

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge

Consolidate servers and transition beyond limitations of physical IT infrastructure

Solution

VMware technology creates a flexible virtual infrastructure that helps universities reduce the time and costs of IT administration.

VMware at Work

VMware Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

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

Deployment environment

- HP BL460 servers attached to Hitachi USP 100 and AMS 1000 SAN
- Guest operating systems: Windows 2003, Red Hat, Ubuntu, SUSE, Netware
- Virtualized production applications: SQL, proprietary applications for departments such as alumni development, residential services, campus police

Wright State University

Wright State University (WSU) is a public university located in Dayton, Ohio. Serving nearly 17,000 students, the University offers more than 100 undergraduate and 50 Ph.D., graduate, and professional degrees.

WSU's IT team had been looking into server consolidation for several years to help manage its growing server sprawl. A review of existing virtualization solutions on the market led WSU to VMware Infrastructure 3. “We ran the numbers on what the VMware solution would cost, versus how much we could consolidate and shrink our hardware, heating, cooling and floorspace, and it looked like a good win for the University,” says John Gabriel, Network Design Architect at WSU.

VMware's licensing agreement with OARnet—the Ohio Academic Resources Network—has played a key role in helping WSU get the most value out of its VMware investment. “The OARnet relationship makes it easier for us to source VMware products, and it gives us a higher level of technical support,” says Gabriel. “It's been a tremendous benefit to have a dedicated VMware resource to call to ask architectural questions and things like that.”

Using VMware technology, WSU has virtualized more than 50 percent of its IT infrastructure with plans to virtualize an additional 30 percent in the coming year. “And that doesn't even count all the new servers that are being deployed as virtual machines,” says Gabriel. “Almost everything gets deployed on VMware now unless there's a really compelling reason not to—we're a ‘virtualization first’ organization.”

Results

- Streamline IT tasks and administration. “We can provision a new server for a customer much quicker using VMware technology,” says Gabriel. “And we can service more customers with the same amount of staff. So, not only are we saving ourselves hassle on the IT side, we're also providing better customer service.”
- Make server deployments more affordable. “VMware technology has enabled us to quickly deploy cost effective servers to our departments in days instead of weeks,” says Gabriel. “This has saved the University thousands of dollars in acquisition, hardware and deployment costs.”
- Become a greener organization. “There's a state mandate to reduce electricity consumption by 2012, and as a state entity, we're affected by that,” says Gabriel. “VMware technology is helping us take a step in the right direction by reducing our power and cooling requirements.”



CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT