

*“Now that we have VMware technology, our servers pretty much manage themselves. That’s a far cry from how it was before.”*

– Technical Architecture Manager  
Large American Retail Chain

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

##### Challenge

Technology refresh offers opportunity to replace aging physical servers

##### Solution

VMware technology allows companies to transform their physical IT assets into a virtual infrastructure that simplifies IT administration.

##### VMware at Work

VMware Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

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

##### Deployment environment

- HP 580 servers with NetApp 3040 storage
- Guest operating systems: Windows 2003, Windows 2000, Windows 2008, Windows XP
- Virtualized Production Applications: in-house Web applications specific to the retail business, JDA merchandising applications, RSA, Inquisite, Microsoft Project, IBM Candle

## Large American Retail Chain

“When you’re approaching the end-of-life cycle on hundreds of servers and start calculating the cost of replacement for all of that physical hardware, it comes out to a very large number,” says the technical architecture manager of a large American retail chain. “That’s one of the main challenges of maintaining a physical IT infrastructure for a company as large as ours. We started looking at alternatives to a 1:1 replacement, and that naturally led us to VMware.”

Using VMware Infrastructure™ 3 to create a virtual infrastructure has done more than help the company to cost-effectively refresh its IT environment. It has also simplified overall management and provided a higher degree of availability. Using built-in features like VMware High Availability, the company is able to provide fault tolerance and redundancy for its mission-critical applications. “From a business continuity standpoint, you couldn’t ask for a better scenario than what VMware provides,” says the technical architecture manager. “You just can’t get that type of instant failover with physical servers.”

Additionally, VMware vCenter™ Server gives the company a view of all the hosts and virtual machines in the datacenter from a single console. “Having one place to go to manage so many servers is a dream come true,” says the technical architecture manager. “It’s made life a lot easier for me and my team, so we can focus on other aspects of the business.”

### Results

- Streamline IT management. “With VMware technology, we get instant visibility into our entire IT environment, from how much CPU is being used, to how much memory is being utilized,” says the technical architecture manager.
- Simplify IT budgeting. “Our people don’t have to scramble to fit physical server purchases into their annual budget,” says the technical architecture manager. “If they need a new Windows machine at some point during the year, we can easily spin one up using VMware technology.”
- Reduce IT costs. “Aside from the obvious cost savings of not having to buy new hardware, VMware Infrastructure 3 gives us better use of the physical hardware that we do have,” says the technical architecture manager. “We get much more use out of our hardware purchases than we would if we had single applications running on their own individual servers.”

