

Large American University

“VMware technology has played a critical role in helping us modernize our central IT environment. VMware is creating a true partnership that isn't just about selling licenses—it's about giving us what we need to be successful in our goals.”

— Chief Information Officer,
Large American University

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge

Modernize university's IT infrastructure

Solution

VMware Infrastructure 3 provides a platform for creating a scalable and flexible virtual infrastructure that reduces costs and eases administration.

VMware at Work

VMware Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

- VMware ESX® Server 3
- VMware vStorage VMFS
- VMware VirtualCenter 2
- VMware vMotion™
- VMware Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)
- VMware High Availability (HA)

Deployment environment

- Dell PowerEdge 6750 and 2970 rack mount servers and IBM HS22 blades with EMC Symmetrix, EMC Clarion, and HP EVA SANs.
- Guest operating systems: Windows 2003, Windows 2008, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3/4/5
- Virtualized pre-production applications: Microsoft Exchange Test Environment, Peoplesoft Development Environments
- Virtualized production applications: Active Directory, University Webmail, Custom Web Applications, Microsoft Point of Sale, Various Departmental Applications

As part of a modernization effort, a large American university sought to give its IT infrastructure an overhaul. “We had hardware that was approaching end of life and was difficult to maintain,” says the school's Chief Information Officer. “We saw virtualization as a foundational piece for modernizing and streamlining IT.”

The university took advantage of a licensing deal between VMware and OARnet—the Ohio Academic Resources Network—to purchase VMware solutions like VMware Infrastructure 3 to start transforming its IT operations. “The combination of streamlined purchasing and support that OARnet provides to Ohio educational institutions has allowed us to move forward with our IT goals much quicker than we otherwise would have been able to,” says the CIO. “Not only have we virtualized a good chunk of the main campus' servers, but we've started moving servers from our regional campuses onto the virtual platform as well.”

Having VMware solutions in place has provided the university with numerous benefits. “Scalability, reliable performance, and cost savings are some of the first things that come to mind,” says the CIO. “Also, the ability to meet customers' needs on the fly by having a much more flexible and adaptable IT environment. Ultimately, those benefits affect our students and provide them with a superior educational experience.”

Results

- Save \$400,000 in operational expenses over fiscal year. “Eliminating a lot of those older systems and not having to do maintenance on them—the savings add up,” says the CIO.
- Reduce capital expenses by 50 percent. “If I had bought stand-alone physical servers instead of the VMware solution, the cost easily would have been double,” says the CIO.
- Improve IT performance. “The reliability of our applications has gone through the roof since virtualization,” says the CIO. “I'm in the line of business where you only hear from your customers when something goes wrong—so, if I don't hear from them, it's a good thing.”
- Do more with less. “We are transforming from a central IT shop that was managing a couple hundred servers when I arrived, to one that's managing 5 or 600 servers through VMware technology—all with less staff and cost,” says the CIO.

