



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRY: GOVERNMENT



## CHALLENGE

Implement a robust, scalable, cost-effective environment that can be backed up with minimal impact on daily operations

## SOLUTION

VMware® Infrastructure delivers cost-effective server consolidation, real-time backup, strong redundancy and high availability

## VMWARE VIRTUAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT WORK

VMware Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

- ESX Server 3
- VMotion
- High Availability (HA)
- Virtual Consolidated Backup

## DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- ESX Server running on three dual Xeon processor Dell PowerEdge 6850 servers
- ESX Server running on three dual Xeon processor Dell PowerEdge 2850 servers
- EMC Clariion CX320 Storage Area Network
- Guest operating systems: Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Microsoft Windows 2000 Server, Sun Solaris, Linux
- Applications running in virtual machines include: Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft SQL Server, file and print, Microsoft Active Directory, application servers, proxy and spam filtering

*"This virtual environment has enabled us to constrain costs while delivering our applications reliably. We are now keen to explore the potential of desktop virtualization and plan to undertake some prototyping towards the end of the year."*

Simon LeRay-Meyer, ICT Manager, Australian Centre for the Moving Image

## Australian Centre for the Moving Image

The Victorian Government opened the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) in Melbourne's Federation Square in 2002. The center gives visitors insight into the creative and cultural richness of film, television, games, new media and art. This is achieved through a diverse program of award-winning exhibitions, film seasons, festivals, events and creative education and industry programs.

Within three years of opening, ACMI found its technology environment struggling to cope with growing data volumes and an increasing number of corporate applications. Budget limitations meant IT managers had to come up with cost-effective strategies to accommodate growth. ACMI evaluated VMware server virtualization as a way of constraining costs while delivering a robust, scalable platform. In August 2005, ACMI ran a four-week pilot that resulted in no unplanned downtime. The center subsequently extended server virtualization across its production environment.

Release of a new version of VMware ESX Server enabled ACMI to integrate its environment more tightly with a storage area network (SAN) and back up 300GB of live virtual servers in just 4.5 hours. With the new infrastructure delivering quick failover, high performance and availability, ACMI adopted a 'virtualize first' policy.

Applications running on virtualized servers support corporate functions such as accounting. The low maintenance environment leaves more time to manage the servers that support video loads.

### Results

- Achieved savings of more than A\$180,000 on server hardware
- Boosted server utilization to 90 percent and increased system availability and scalability
- Replaced 35 servers with six, a consolidation ratio of 6:1
- Gained the ability to dynamically adjust computing resources for applications with peak usage
- Slashed server deployment time from 12 weeks to four hours
- Reduced backup window from 20 hours to six
- Enabled IT staff to replicate production servers in test environment for prototyping and fault resolution in a matter of hours