



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRY: FINANCE



CHALLENGE

Unmanageable server environment, increasing power and cooling issues, and unreliable disaster recovery practices

SOLUTION

Decreases hardware maintenance, space and management costs; provides faster recovery of essential applications

VMWARE AT WORK

- VMware® Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring
 - VMware® ESX Server 3
 - VMware® VirtualCenter 2

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- ESX Server and VirtualCenter on:
 - HP DL585 servers
- IBM DS4800 SAN
- More than 80 application instances, including Lotus Notes, database and application servers, test environments and client/server applications

“With VMware Infrastructure 3, we have been able to achieve a consolidation rate of 60:1 and have increased our space in the data centre by 50 percent, leading to significant cost savings in terms of management as well as power and cooling.”

Lasse Thomsen

IT Infrastructure Consultant, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group is a specialist insurer of churches, charities, schools, the care sector and historic buildings. Founded in 1887 to provide insurance for the Anglican Church, it now offers a wide range of commercial insurances and financial services, as well as home, travel and wedding insurance, selling through brokers and direct. Today Ecclesiastical operates in the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

Ecclesiastical’s growth over the years caused an exponential increase in the number of servers required to fulfill business objectives. Its server environment grew from 50 to 200 servers in just two years, and the ratio of servers to technicians on staff more than doubled. In addition, most servers were more than five years old and ran on a variety of operating systems. This made management tasks such as provisioning and deployment very time-consuming. In addition, Ecclesiastical was moving to a new data centre and needed to decrease the number of servers it housed due to constrained space, cost and power and cooling resources.

With the help of Triangle Group, a VMware Premier Enterprise Partner focused on innovation, commitment and product knowledge, Ecclesiastical implemented VMware Infrastructure 3 and experienced a 60:1 consolidation ratio. This not only dramatically reduced the resources needed to manage the organisation’s server environment, but it also reduced costs by decreasing power and cooling requirements and eliminating the need to buy new servers on an ad hoc basis.

Results

- Consolidated 120 servers on two host machines, with two machines for disaster recovery purposes
- Achieved 50 percent spare capacity in data centre
- Expects £50,000 cost savings over a 3-year period due to the elimination of buying servers on an ad hoc basis
- Experienced significant cost savings due to dramatically decreased power and cooling expenditures
- Simplified provisioning of new servers from days to minutes, and enabled extremely rapid deployment of new systems
- Reduced risk from running key applications on old server hardware
- Allowed for quick recovery of servers in the event of planned or unplanned downtime