



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRY: MEDIA

**CHALLENGE**

Roll out efficient test facilities and resilient disaster recovery platform

**SOLUTION**

VMware infrastructure supports extensive library of virtual machines for testing, while providing effective disaster recovery platform

**VMWARE AT WORK**

- VMware® Infrastructure 3® Standard, featuring VMware ESX Server 3
- VMware GSX Server 3.1

**DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT**

- VMware ESX Server and VMware GSX Server supporting test environment
- VMware ESX Server supporting disaster recovery platform
- Guest operating systems: Microsoft Windows Server 2000 and 2003 for application servers; Windows XP for virtual workstations
- Two HP DL580, Two HP DL560 servers

*“Virtualisation gives us a lot more flexibility from a disaster recovery standpoint compared to using physical hardware. In the event of an issue, we can bring up the services that we need to meet the organisation’s business requirements quickly. We also see virtualisation providing us with an opportunity to significantly reduce our power and cooling requirements.”*

Ken Davis, Head of IT, Five

**Five**

Five is one of the UK’s national broadcasters, providing television programming that covers a modern, mainstream audience. Five runs three television channels in total as well as a successful TV-on-demand service called Five Download.

In order to support its IT operations effectively, Five required a testing facility for its application servers. However, this represented a massive drain on resources, as each testing procedure would have to take place on each separate physical system to ensure that applications were running correctly. In addition, Five needed a flexible disaster recovery system that would be able to react quickly to specific business requirements in the event of any issue.

Ken Davis, head of IT at Five, decided to take a virtual approach using VMware technology to solve these problems. The Five testing environment has been simplified by the use of virtual machines enabling the sheer volume of hardware to be reduced. This also helped solve Five’s disaster recovery issues, as key servers within the company’s main data centre have been replicated as virtual machines. In the event of a failure, the virtual image can be booted up at the disaster recovery site within minutes and containing up-to-date data.

**Results**

- Reduced number of physical servers within data centre
- Flexible disaster recovery program—virtual machines can be brought online to meet business needs dependent on priority
- Faster provisioning of machines for both test and disaster recovery purposes
- Contributing to internal carbon footprint reduction goals through decreased power and air conditioning requirements