Fortune 500 Healthcare Company | Customer Snapshot

"Leveraging a VMware and Intel based virtualization platform for our quality assurance processes lets our teams work with cleaner testing environments, expand the scope of testing, and turn around software builds faster."

Principal Software Quality Assurance Engineer
Fortune 500 Healthcare Company

HIGHLIGHTS

CHALLENGE

Contain server sprawl within test environment and streamline quality assurance processes

SOLUTION

VMware® and Intel technology provides the foundation for a virtual test environment that reduces time and costs of the software development lifecycle.

VMWARE AND INTEL AT WORK

VMware® Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

- ESX Server 3
  - HP DL380 and Dell PowerEdge 6850 servers with Intel Xeon processors attached to HP EVA 6000 SAN
- VirtualCenter 2
- VMotion™
- Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)
- VMware ACE

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- Guest operating systems: Windows 2000, Windows 2003, Windows XP
- Virtualized Applications: The Fortune 500 Healthcare company's proprietary software applications that they package and sell to customers

VIRTUALIZATION IS THE KEY TO FASTER SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

This Fortune 500 healthcare company is a global manufacturer and distributor of medical and surgical supplies and technologies dedicated to making healthcare safer and more productive. The company's software offerings benefit a wide range of customers including hospitals, medical centers, retail and mail-order pharmacies, clinics, physicians, pharmacists and other healthcare providers.

Developing these software offerings requires extensive rounds of quality assurance testing. "The development team gives us new builds of the software, and it's our job to address any bugs or issues that we find," says a principal software quality assurance engineer at the company. "Since we test the applications on a variety of platforms, we need a large number of test servers. As you can imagine, it doesn't take very long before this starts creating some server sprawl. We wanted to find a way to address that issue."

Deploying VMware Infrastructure 3 on Intel based hardware was the perfect way for the company to create a flexible and scalable virtual environment for its testing and development needs. Rather than provisioning physical servers, the company can easily deploy multiple virtual machines that are hosted on VMware's OS-independent ESX hypervisor. "Virtualization has really helped streamline our testing and validation processes," says the principal software quality assurance engineer. "As a result, we can maintain superior quality even as we meet aggressive delivery schedules for our software."

RESULTS

- Conduct 30 percent more testing. "Our virtual environment allows us to test across multiple different platforms simultaneously, helping us uncover more issues—and resolve them—before the product is released," says the principal software quality assurance engineer.
- Roll back to clean builds in seconds. "If we encounter a serious problem during regression testing, we can roll back to a known, clean build in about 15 seconds, rather than spending two days to rebuild a server," says the principal software quality assurance engineer.
- Reduce internal software distribution costs. "In the past, providing internal departments—such as training, marketing, and documentation—with access to the latest software builds meant spending a thousand dollars to specially configure a piece of hardware in their workspace that could run the software," says the principal software quality assurance engineer. "Now, we use VMware ACE to package the virtual machine containing the build onto a thumb drive and send it over to them."

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Building the Foundation of Virtualization