



Customer Snapshot

“Using VMware and Intel technologies has allowed us to deliver a first-rate virtualization solution for our client across multiple locations worldwide.”

Chandra Ramchandran
Senior Project Manager, IBM

HIGHLIGHTS

CHALLENGE

Contain server sprawl by consolidating under-utilized servers into a central data center.

SOLUTION

VMware and Intel technology create a virtualization platform that consolidates servers and lowers the time and costs of administration.

VMWARE AND INTEL AT WORK

VMware® Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

- ESX Server
 - A mix of Dell PowerEdge 2850, 2950, 6850 and 6950 servers which were being reused after they had run out of their 3 year Warranty period.
 - attached to EMC SAN Intel Xeon processors
- VirtualCenter 2.0
- VMotion

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- Guest operating systems: Windows 2000, Windows 2003, Windows NT
- Virtualized Applications: IBM Maximo asset management software, IBM WebSphere MQ middleware, IBM DB2, MS SQL, Cognos, Citrix, Diebold/Nexus financial software

IBM Credits Virtualization with Solving Client's Server Sprawl Issues

International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) is one of the world's largest technology companies, offering a wide array of hardware, software, and professional services.

IBM's Global Technology Services segment offers IT infrastructure and business process outsourcing services to a variety of Fortune 500 clients, including a large American credit card company that needed help containing server sprawl within its IT environment. “On its back end, the credit card company had 4,279 servers spread across ten data centers,” says Chandra Ramchandran, a senior project manager at IBM. “After doing an analysis of this architecture and interviewing various application owners, we found that most of these servers were underutilized, which made them prime candidates for virtualization.”

IBM deployed VMware Infrastructure 3 and Intel-based hardware within the credit card company to help create a virtual infrastructure that provided greater flexibility and scalability than a physical IT infrastructure. Over the course of three years, 2200 servers were converted from physical boxes into virtual machines running on 206 ESX hosts. “Virtualization has translated into less server sprawl, lower energy costs, and easier management,” says Ramchandran. “The client has been very happy with the successes we've had thanks to VMware and Intel technology.”

RESULTS

- Deliver reliable application performance. “Most of the time, the application owner is not even aware that the application has gone to a virtual environment,” says Ramchandran. “It is completely transparent to them.”
- Shave hours off of IT administration. “VMware technology greatly simplifies server management, especially the way we can administer servers through Virtual Center,” says Ramchandran.
- Reduce hardware expenses. “Every server that we virtualized was a server that could be removed from the client's hardware refresh list,” says Ramchandran. “That translates into significantly less expenses during a hardware refresh cycle.”