

“Selecting Intel based hardware for our VMware virtualization solution was a wise decision. The number of cores running on each processor gives us all the processing power we need to run our critical transit applications.”

Craig Gosselin

System Manager, Transit Authority of River City

HIGHLIGHTS

CHALLENGE

Streamline IT costs at federally-funded transit authority

SOLUTION

VMware® and Intel technology create a virtual infrastructure that reduces IT costs and administration, freeing up resources.

VMWARE AND INTEL AT WORK

VMware® Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

- ESX Server 3
 - HP Blade servers with Intel Xeon processors attached to HP EVA 8000 SAN
- VirtualCenter 2
- VMotion™
- Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)
- High Availability (HA)

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- Guest operating systems: Windows 2000, Windows 2003
- Virtualized Applications: Trapeze bus management application, SMS, Symantec antivirus, file servers, print servers

TRANSIT AUTHORITY USES VIRTUALIZATION TO KEEP THINGS MOVING

The Transit Authority of River City (TARC) helps to explore and implement transportation opportunities that enhance the social, economic and environmental well being of the greater Louisville, Kentucky community.

Like many federally funded organizations, one of the greatest challenges TARC faces is finding the money to keep projects moving forward. A tight budget can mean the difference between buying servers for a new transit project, or putting the project on hold.

Using a combination of VMware’s virtualization platform and Intel-powered hardware has allowed TARC to manage its IT infrastructure more effectively. “Virtualization has been a great way to eliminate undue hardware purchases that might otherwise be a bottleneck,” says Craig Gosselin, system manager at TARC. “For example, our bus management application is really big and server intense. Every time we did an upgrade or added a module, we had to buy more hardware. That requirement has pretty much gone down to zero now—we just create virtual machines for it.”

Just as importantly for such a mission-critical application, virtualization has afforded tremendous availability. “Having all our ESX servers running on Intel hardware allows us to really leverage VMware features like DRS and HA so that we have load balancing and much stronger business continuity capabilities,” says Gosselin. “Keeping our apps up means that we can keep the public moving from ‘point A’ to ‘point B’.”

RESULTS

- Attain 15:1 server consolidation ratio. “We’re porting our main transit application from 60 physical servers down to just four ESX hypervisors,” says Gosselin. “With consolidation ratios like these, it’s comforting to know that they’re running on Intel processors, since they’ve got such a reliable reputation.”
- Avoid \$85,000 in capital expenses. “If it weren’t for the way VMware and Intel utilize processors so efficiently, we would have had to upgrade the HVAC system in the server room to deal with the heat from so many individual servers,” says Gosselin.
- Cut power costs in half. “We expect to see power savings of at least 50 percent in the server room,” says Gosselin. “We’re definitely becoming a greener organization by running VMware on Intel-powered hardware.”



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Building the Foundation of Virtualization