



The First American Corporation

“Using VMware technology to consolidate our servers and shrink our data center footprint has helped us significantly reduce our energy consumption. This practice is the primary driver behind a six-figure rebate check we will be receiving from Southern California Edison this year.”

— Jake Seitz
Enterprise Architect, The First American Corporation

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge

Consolidate servers located in disparate facilities and increase overall IT efficiency throughout the organization

Solution

VMware technology optimizes availability and simplifies management of IT infrastructure—desktop to data center.

VMware at Work

VMware Infrastructure 3 Enterprise, featuring:

- ESX 3 with VMFS
- VMotion
- Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)
- High Availability (HA)

VMware Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)

Deployment environment

- ESX 3 running on HP Blade BL680s attached to an EMC DMX SAN
- Guest operating systems: Windows Server 2000-2008, UNIX, Linux
- Virtualized pre-production applications: BEA WebLogic, IIS
- Virtualized production applications: Exchange, SQL, Sharepoint, IIS, Apache Tomcat, legacy homegrown applications

The First American Corporation

The First American Corporation is America's largest provider of business information. The company operates within five primary business segments, including: Title Insurance and Services, Specialty Insurance, Mortgage Information, Property Information and First Advantage.

Having completed numerous acquisitions and operating within diverse lines of business, First American found itself with multiple data centers in a variety of locations throughout the country. In consolidating these facilities, First American turned to VMware Infrastructure 3 technology to support that effort.

“Once the server consolidation project was underway, we experienced the benefits of VMware Infrastructure 3 firsthand,” says Jake Seitz, an enterprise architect at First American. “It has greatly simplified IT management while significantly reducing the footprint of our data center. We’ll be taking a similar approach to our desktop infrastructure by using VMware Virtual Desktop Infrastructure to replace our existing desktops with thin clients. Every efficiency we capitalize on by using VMware technology helps make us a greener, more efficient organization.”

Results

- Virtualize 20 percent of existing data center. “In our California data center, we have 3,500 individual operating systems running on 2,800 physical hosts,” says Seitz. “That translates into 700 physical machines that we didn’t have to purchase, refresh and maintain.”
- Virtualize 80 percent of new servers. “We have a massive hardware refresh occurring this year,” says Seitz. “For 80 percent of the machines that we have identified for the refresh, we will be creating virtual machines rather than purchasing 1:1 hardware replacement.”
- Reduce desktop power consumption by 93 percent. “As we roll out VMware Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, we’re able to replace our existing desktops, which consume 118 watts of power per hour, with thin clients that only consume nine watts of power,” says Seitz.
- Standardize on VMware technology. “We have a virtualization-first policy within our organization and we have standardized on VMware technology for that virtual infrastructure,” says Seitz. “All virtual machines from this point forward will be built on the VMware platform.”



CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT