

An Introduction to Virtualisation

An Executive Briefing

Description:

Virtualisation technologies are revolutionising the way servers, desktops and applications are deployed and managed. Many vendors are now competing in the marketplace. It is important to be able to make informed choices when selecting a virtualisation platform.

This briefing will describe the history and business drivers behind virtualisation technology. It will introduce concepts of common virtualisation technologies and will describe some of the typical application scenarios. It will give guidance on the ideal hardware platforms for virtual infrastructures and will introduce the main vendors and products in the market. Finally, it will outline best business practice when choosing and deploying a virtualisation platform.

Audience:

This briefing is suitable for senior IT professionals, Managers and Department Heads. It will be of interest to both business and IT management.

Duration:

Half Day

Objectives:

On completion of the briefing delegates will:

- ✧ Understand the history and drivers of virtualisation.
- ✧ Understand the technology behind modern virtualisation techniques
- ✧ Understand the principles the key applications of virtualisation, including:
 - Server consolidation
 - Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery
 - Workload mobility
 - Software lab automation
 - Desktop virtualisation
- ✧ Understand application virtualisation
- ✧ Understand the considerations required when choosing a hardware platform for their virtualised environment
- ✧ Be familiar with the processes and tools used in migrating to a virtual environment
- ✧ Be familiar with the main vendors and third-party products in the marketplace
- ✧ Have an appreciation of best practice when planning and deploying a virtualised environment



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Content:

History and Drivers

Virtualisation defined
History of Virtualisation
Reasons for virtualisation:
- Moore's Law vs. Wirth's Law, TCO/ROI & Server utilisation

Implementation

Hypervisors
What's in a virtual machine
Paravirtualisation
Full Virtualisation
Native Virtualisation
Licensing and support considerations

Usage Scenarios

Production server consolidation
Business Continuity management
Workload mobility
Development and test
Desktop virtualisation

Platform Choice

Scale up or scale out ?
Use of blade servers

Vendors

What to look for
The main vendors
Capacity Planning

Importance of Capacity Planning
Capacity Planning outputs
Capacity Planning tools

Migrating to a Virtualised Environment

Physical-to-Virtual (P2V) migration process
P2V tools

Value Add Products

Backup and replication utilities
Performance monitoring utilities

Application Virtualisation

Overview
Implementation
Products

Best Practice Recommendations

Summary and Discussion



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