The Benefits of Virtualizing Your Office

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One of the least known and poorly understood information technology concepts that businesses stand to benefit from is virtualization. Many businesses would benefit from substantial cost savings and flexibility advantages from implementing a structured virtualization plan in their offices, but few realize it. What exactly is virtualization and how can it aid a business?

What is Virtualization?

Perhaps the biggest reason why many businesses haven't fully realized the potential benefits of virtualization is that the concept itself isn't well comprehended. Virtualization is the process of establishing the virtual

version—something that appears to be real, but isn't—of something like a network, a server, a storage device, an operating system and the like.

For microcomputer users, the most familiar form of virtualization is probably the partitioning of a hard disk drive. Partitioning the drive creates one or more virtual drives. Each of the partitions acts as if it is a distinct, real drive, but it isn't. This concept can be extended to numerous other areas of information technology, to significant benefit for many businesses.

The Financial Advantages of Virtualization

Among the advantages conveyed by virtualization is the substantial cost savings the process offers in terms of hardware and software purchases. For instance, virtualization of servers allows multiple operating systems to be installed on a single server. For businesses that

need applications designed to run—or that run optimally—under different operating systems, this can mean a tremendous savings in hardware costs. It is possible, then for one hardware configuration to effectively serve as four or five different configurations.

Similarly, it's possible to virtualize networks and network resources. By dividing a single real network into several virtual networks, the network resources can be channeled, thereby optimizing performance and simplifying the structural complexity of the entity. Again, money can be saved by the avoidance of unnecessary duplication. Cost saving can also be realized from lower energy usage. Fewer real devices means less energy is consumed to achieve a given task.

A properly implemented virtualization scheme will also reduce the headaches associated with the rollout of hardware and application upgrades, and those upgrades that do take place tend to be much faster and more efficient as

well. This is because virtual machines are essentially in the form of files, which can be copied and installed much more quickly than real devices.

Virtualization and Outsourcing

Virtualization also makes the outsourcing of IT responsibilities much more functionally viable and cost effective because technology resources can be delivered so much more efficiently. Systems can be run for different businesses on the same server, virtually—and securely—separately. The outsourcing of IT services not only can save money directly, it also can clear physical space and better direct personnel efforts and financial resources within the company.

The Final Word

By understanding and implementing virtualization where appropriate, a

business can realize substantial cost savings and a significant reduction in IT-related problems. Contact Pro OnCall Technologies today to find out how your company can take advantage of all the benefits that virtualization has to offer.

Contact Us

(800) 362-6300

Corporate Headquarters
12125 Ellington Court
Cincinnati, OH 45249
(513) 489-7660

Cleveland Office
5145 Brecksville
Rd., Suite 205
Richfield, OH 44286
(440) 526-2500

Columbus Office
281 Cramer Creek
Dublin, OH 43017
(614) 761-1400

Dayton Office
733 Congress Park Drive
Dayton, OH 45459
(937) 294-5900