



QUICK GUIDE

In plain English ...

Why do it?

Who uses it?

Is it for my business?

How much does it cost?

In plain English ...

...virtualisation concerns the running of software within a virtual environment. Virtual environments are created when operating systems and desktop applications are emulated across physical hardware. When software is virtualised, you can run several applications and operating systems on a single physical device.

As an analogy - it is the equivalent of four people driving to work in their individual cars, despite living next door to each other. That is it's wasteful, uneconomic and an inefficient use of resources.

As with many technologies, Virtualisation is not entirely new, indeed in a simplistic form, Virtualisation existed in the 1960's - as an approach toward maximising expensive Mainframe Computers.

Today Virtualisation is available as a more sophisticated technology — offering both large and smaller organisations tangible savings.

Why do it?

Lower capital expenditure on Hardware, lower associated Maintenance Costs, lower energy costs, lower building costs (reduced floor space requirements), increased (inbuilt) contingency with regard to Disaster Recovery, more efficient back-up processes, less staff required to configure and support.

It's probably easier to question why you shouldn't consider Virtualisation as an approach to reducing tangible cost within your organisation. Virtualisation as a technology is not a one-size-fits-all. There are a number of important issues to consider.

Two key issues to Consider:

- Is it a real requirement for your business i.e. How many employees, applications and servers do you have?
- Virtualised applications tend to need to run on quite powerful machines — ensure your savings are not being offset by expenditure in another area.

Who uses it?



The purpose of these Knowledge Flyers is to give a basic insight to non-IT Senior Management and Board Level personnel from a business perspective. If you want to know more in plain English we would be happy to talk to you on a no-charge and no-obligation basis.

"...Gartner analysts predict that more than 4 million virtual machines will be installed on x86 servers by 2009. The use of PC virtualization is also set to increase rapidly. The number of virtualized PCs is expected to grow from less than 5 million in 2007 to 660 million by 2011."

Is it for my business?

Probably the easiest place to start here is to understand the size of your business. Not just the number of employees, or offices - but the number of servers and associated applications. Are the applications that your business is running legacy based - specific to your business? Are you spending a fortune on licensing multiple physical servers?

These are just a very few of the issues to consider in terms of whether virtualisation technology is for your business. On average if you have more than approximately fifty employees the likelihood is that Virtualisation will reduce costs within your business.

That said, virtualisation is not all about direct cost-saving. Sometimes it can offer a niche solution to a specific problem i.e. The hosting of multiple legacy applications.

Is business continuity critical for your business? Virtualisation offers increased up-time. Of course, less physical servers typically means a much reduced carbon footprint.

How much does it cost?

Microsoft's Virtualisation offering (Hyper-V) is a hypervisor-based technology that is a key feature of Windows Server 2008. It provides a scalable, reliable, and highly available virtualization platform. It is part of Microsoft's ongoing effort to provide our customers and partners with the best operating system platform for virtualization.

A cost to implement can be largely dependent upon the status of your existing Infrastructure estate. If you have in any way made a commitment in terms of Microsoft Technology you may well be already half-way there. For example - Windows Server 2008 R2 includes built in functionality to expand Server capacity through virtualisation.

In so many cases, we speak to Organisations that have already made the investment; that already have all, or close to the required level of technology - but are just not utilising it.

Better still, we find the many Organisations are not licensed optimally and, or are not taking advantage of the many cost-saving programs that exist from Microsoft. We can help here as well - by demystifying what can appear to be a confusing minefield.

KNOW MORE

Want to know even more? Contact one of our team today to benefit from a free consultation:

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