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Why a Small Business needs to consider Virtualization

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Introduction

This document discusses how a Virtual Machine (VM) solution can benefit a small business.

A Virtual Machine is a software representation of a physical computer. It acts in exactly the same way as a physical computer, except that it runs inside another computer called the Host.

A Host can contain many Virtual Machines all running at the same time. One of the reasons why this technology is being used is that while one only has a single computer on the shelf, one has multiple actual computers running on the network.

Virtual Machines are in common use in large corporates where they bring about savings in

- Hardware Costs
- Electricity Costs
- Shelf Space
- Air-conditioning

Using Virtual Machines also allows for high levels of redundancy which means that it's business as usual even when a computer fails!

The Problem

In a small business, a typical office might have one or more servers doing the following jobs.

- An old desktop PC that serves as a print server
- A possibly newer PC running Accounting software
- One PC as file or intranet server
- Another PC as web server
- A really old PC that is kept running because the software running inside it will not work on newer hardware

Each computer is paired with a UPS to safeguard against power fluctuations and outages. Each PC will have its own monitor and keyboard.

Maintaining several PCs is not difficult especially if these are contemporary machines.

However, it may be tricky to keep an older PCs running especially when parts like memory, compatible hard drives and video cards are hard to find.

Previous Options

Its common practice to make use of an old discarded PC to act as Server, rather than buy a new machine which is better suited.

The reason for this is obvious, **COST!**

Many entrepreneurs consider any sort of business administration to be a total waste of money and thus to spend as little as possible, an inefficient administration department can in fact increase costs by way of more expensive audit fees, not taking full advantage of legal tax deductions or even being fined for noncompliance.

In a similar fashion, skimping on a proper IT infrastructure can equally impact the business.

But, purchasing a bunch of underutilized servers simply in order implement various services according to Best Practices, is **expensive!**

The **BCC** Solution

There is an inexpensive, easily implemented solution. In fact the virtualization software is available free of charge at the entry level even although it is the same software used by the largest corporates in their solutions made up of thousands of servers.

How can **BCC** help you to implement this solution?

We will help you plan and implement a Virtual Machine solution. We can supply all the necessary hardware, software and conversion services.

This solution will enable you to have as many servers as **your business requires**, all without having a bunch of hardware cluttering the Office, consuming expensive power, generating unnecessary heat requiring installation of expensive air-conditioning while taking up expensive Office space.

How do we do it? Well, we use advanced technology that allows us to make a fully working clone of your various servers.

This clone consists of a special set of data files which can be used to emulate your original computer. The clone includes everything that was on your computer prior to the conversion and which, when run, will look, feel and act exactly as did the original computer - without having to reinstall anything.

These clones all exist within one or maybe two physical computers, called Hosts, taking up minimal floor space, using minimal electricity, producing minimal heat.

You need a new server, maybe with a different operating system? No problem, simply add another VM to the Host. No new hardware to purchase, quick and easy to implement, what a pleasure!

But wait! What if your business grows? What if you need to have your servers available 24x7? Well, that's catered for too. The solution can be expanded to include redundant Hosts and the VM's can be made to make the best use of all the Host hardware, or even to move transparently between hosts in the event of a Host failure!

What's more, we can do this for your servers, desktops and even laptops!

Disaster Recovery is inherent.

And, because your servers are now made up of easily copied disk files, copies can be kept at a safe, off-site location, thus providing an inexpensive Disaster recovery option!

Business Risk is minimized

The loss of a crucial computer should not mean the loss of your Business. With FULLY operational computers, your business continues, even if from a different location. Cash continues flowing!

There are additional benefits

By using the **BCC** solution, you will also be able to make a copy of a VM which then can used to test your data backup procedures on a working copy of your live computer. Without any risk at all!

You will be able to test new computer programs on a fully operational test computer, without risk to your main computer.

How to get started

Call **BCC** to arrange for a free consultation to discuss your requirements.

Summary

BCC is offering you a way of reducing Business cost by making better use of your computer hardware. And the cost will be way less than what you expect!