



SCS Case Study

Out of date, unsupported servers consolidated and modernized by Superior Consulting Services

Released Application Can Analyze Various In-store Transactional Metrics

Solution Snapshot

Business Situation: Outdated, sprawling server infrastructure with no reliable backups, no manufacturer hardware support and out-of-control power usage.

Multi-point Solution: Implemented a new ESX Host to allow for virtualization of all existing servers onto one modern, supported hardware platform, with newest existing server repurposed as a backup.

Technologies Used: VMWare ESX 5.5, Symantec Backup Exec 2012, Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2

Hardware: Fujitsu TX200 Server

Benefits: Overall applications and website reliability vastly improved. All internal applications running faster. Physical footprint consolidated, reducing energy costs. All hardware now covered by manufacturer support. Backups reliably occur each night.

The Client

Symbology, Inc., established in 1980 and based in Minnesota, is a specialty manufacturer of sequentially numbered barcode labels and systems, featuring custom and standardized industry-specific label products for library, blood, tire, fresh produce, medical and material handling. An ISO 9001:2008-certified company, Symbology also offers a complete line of barcode inspection/verification equipment.

The Challenge

Symbology had an aging, sprawling server infrastructure that was becoming more and more unreliable each day. Its servers were underpowered, sluggish energy hogs. Backups were repeatedly unsuccessful and reliable restore options were unavailable. Manufacturer support for the production servers was no longer available. Application performance was slow, negatively impacting business momentum.

The Solution

To release the tether of an aging infrastructure, holding back the business from reaching its full potential, SCS recommended that all six of Symbology's current physical servers be virtualized and placed on a single new physical server. With bottom-line business sense, SCS also recommended that the least senior of Symbology's older servers be repurposed as the new backup server.

Using ESX 5.5 and a brand new Fujitsu server, all six of Symbology's servers were migrated to virtual machines, using standard P2V practices. All applications, including Active Directory, Exchange and various websites, were tested once virtualization was complete. The new backup server, utilizing Windows Server 2008 R2 and Symantec Backup Exec 2012, was configured, installed and tested, providing both added functionality and reliability. Once the integrity and performance of all applications had been verified, the five older physical servers were recycled.

The Result

The SCS solution significantly enhanced both the performance and the dependability of Symbology's infrastructure.

- All applications and websites now run more quickly and reliably.
- Backups complete successfully each night, allowing copies to be taken offsite to ensure business continuity.
- Remote administration is now possible, utilizing virtual infrastructure management capabilities, allowing for easier patching and maintenance.
- Day-to-day break/fix administration has been reduced to less than one incident per week from a peak of two to three incidents per day.
- All of Symbology's infrastructure hardware is now covered under manufacturer warranties.

Symbology is realizing additional economic benefits from a smaller physical footprint. Power utilization has been lowered and physical office space reclaimed and repurposed. Due to the performance potential of the new server, the company can also expand capacity in the future without the purchase of additional hardware.

Contact

Superior Consulting Services, LLC

350 West Burnsville Parkway, Suite 550

Burnsville, MN 55337

952-890-0606

www.teamscs.com