

Data Center Efficiency Begins with Virtualization

The Question Is Not “If,” but “When”



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Every company wants to do more with less to increase their ROI. Yet most companies don't realize that while software upgrades and changes to business processes can certainly help them economize, their hardware might actually be causing money to leak out of the company budget.

Your server performance and storage systems determine how well you can run your mission-critical applications. However, studies have shown that, on average, server utilization is only in the 10%–15% range, meaning that nearly 90% of all hardware spending is wasted. IDC estimates that roughly a three-year supply of idle capacity is currently deployed in the market.¹ Therefore, companies are purchasing more servers than necessary while also paying to power and cool them — costs that are steadily rising with the global strain on natural resources. IT managers need to invest in platforms that can reduce the cost of operations while providing the performance, scalability, and flexibility necessary to quickly adapt to increasing demands and changing business requirements.

Do More with Fewer Resources

Sun Microsystems offers a complete and cost-effective virtualized platform to help enterprises efficiently deploy their SAP solutions. Virtualization allows companies to run hundreds of applications or several operating systems (OSs) on a single system, helping them to optimize system performance, increase business agility, better use system resources, automate the data center, and increase availability. Sun's virtualized platform for SAP systems includes:

- **Virtual desktops:** Replace traditional PCs with virtual machines that you can manage from the data center. Sun Virtual Desktop Infrastructure Software lets users access virtual desktops from nearly any OS without the maintenance, upgrades, and operational costs that traditional PC architectures require.
- **Consolidated SAP server landscape:** Multisocket, multicore, multithreaded servers from Sun can handle the workloads of multiple SAP applications and their

tiers, consolidating the SAP environment so you need fewer physical machines.

- **Partitioned servers:** Run different types and versions of systems and applications on a single server, reducing the number of servers you need for production, test, quality assurance, training, and upgrades. Sun presents a comprehensive offering of virtualization technologies, such as Dynamic Domains, Logical Domains, Solaris Containers, and the Sun xVM Server, providing highly isolated and secure environments at the hardware and OS levels.
- **Cross-platform virtualization management:** Technologies such as Sun xVM Ops Center provision and manage pools of resources that users can share and allocate to many SAP instances. Resource management features enable applications to use resources from other applications, bringing server usage close to 85% of capacity. Sun works with SAP to certify specifically designed solutions with the Adaptive Computing Controller tool from SAP. In addition, you can clone entire SAP environments to distribute them geographically or for disaster recovery purposes.
- **Cost-effective data storage and management:** Many companies use tape libraries to store data for backup, archiving, and recovery. Products like Solaris ZFS and Sun StorageTek Virtual Storage pool resources to manage storage as a single resource, which decreases the burden of managing large tape libraries, increases system usage and efficiency, and reduces the overall cost of protecting SAP data through improved tape utilization, shared tape resources, and reduced complexity.

Virtualization Help Is Here

As the economy continues to struggle, companies can't afford to purchase systems that don't perform as well as they should. Virtualization can help your company tighten its belt and get a better ROI in the process.

To learn more about what Sun Microsystems has to offer in this space, visit www.sun.com/sap/virtualization. ■

¹ Sun Microsystems' Solutions for Virtualization Across the Enterprise, John Humphreys, August 2007.