

Case Study

Client

British American
Insurance

Solution Platform

HP Blades + VMware



Background

British American Insurance needed to implement server and storage consolidation and at the same time replace their ageing fleet of servers. After evaluation of various options, they settled on HP blade system and HP Enterprise Virtual Array 4400.

This solution would give them the advantage of scalability, ability to deploy new applications with speed meeting the business benchmarks and ease of management as blades can be managed by a single user from one console.

Deployment

The customer purchased 10 blades being a mixture of 2x full height Proliant 480c and 3x 680c blades and the balance in 460c blades. This left the enclosure with only 2 blade slots for expansion. At this point, the customer opted for VMware EXi Enterprise edition for virtualization.

This enabled them to run up to four virtual machines on the BL480c blade instead of investing on an additional enclosure and blade servers. The blade still has resources to run more virtual machines as and when required.

Benefits

1. The whole deployments on blades and SAN storage reduced the total space in the data center by half of which was reclaimed and now is utilized as sitting space for 10 employees.
2. The virtual machines utilized as test servers can quickly be deployed as required for testing new applications, procedures and enhancements to existing business applications without the need to buy new servers.
3. Energy utilized to power and cool the virtualized server is only to one server instead of four hence reduction in costs.
4. Space utilization in the blade enclosure and rack is optimized.
5. Administering a virtual environment is easy and with resources like VMotion, redundancy is enhanced. (Virtual machines can be moved to another server e.g. during planned downtime and operations continue without hitches).
6. Virtual machines are platform independent and as long the operating system are supported by VMware; a virtual machine will run on the provided virtual environment. Hence the flexibility of uncoupling ISV recommended platform restrictions.

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