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Virtual savings

The latest technology cuts server use and radically cuts immediate and incidental costs by using virtualisation

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An accountant's guide to server consolidation savings

While most finance directors probably don't have a deep understanding of what an IT server actually does, they are more than likely to know how much it costs to buy, run and maintain a server – and how much it will depreciate.

What they probably also don't know is that nearly all servers are only running at about 7 per cent of their capacity. So next time you walk past that expensive temperature-controlled room full of server racks, spare a thought for the cost of keeping it running at such low efficiency.

However this scenario is rapidly being consigned to the past. Virtualisation technology means that companies can maximise efficiency by consolidating those servers and realise significant financial savings at the same time.

The estimated annual cost to run and maintain thirty servers, including depreciation, is about £45,600. But to run a virtualised version of the same set-up costs a tenth of that, saving 90 per cent of the cost – £41,000 every year. That doesn't include the elimination of expensive out-of-hours maintenance, reduced administration costs, re-use of office space and a sizeable reduction in cooling needs.

Virtualisation allows IT managers to run fewer servers at greater capacity while creating simpler and more reliable data protection and faster and more reliable disaster recovery systems.

As well as the financial gains there are environmental benefits with server consolidation. Applying virtualisation solutions to the previous example is the equivalent of 197,964 kWh of power saving, removing the carbon output of 84 cars and planting 268 trees every year.

To calculate the savings for your own business, visit expertsinvirtualisation.com and use the unique Power Savings Calculator developed by Castle Computer Services.

Castle is Scotland's leading virtualisation specialist with an extensive track record of implementing VMware virtualisation software across a wide range of business sectors.

Alan Quinn, managing director, Castle Computer Services, said:

"Companies are finally recognising that virtualisation can deliver massive cost savings and environmental benefits, while at the same time improving business continuity and IT resilience for the organisation."

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