Consolidation

How server consolidation increases IT efficiency

The massive expansion of computing infrastructure over recent decades has left many organisations facing power and cooling, floor space, and administrative challenges.
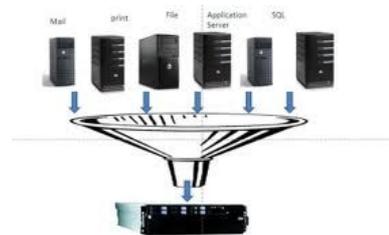
A typical case in point was recently experienced by a local council. The physical space available for server hardware expansion was non-existent. This was made worse by the restrictions placed on the data centre by a lack of available power. A scenario which is, I'm sure, typical of many organisations across the UK.

What choices were available? Major building alterations to create more space for even more servers, supplemented by the costly installation of a new sub-station. This would prove to be a costly and lengthy process which would do nothing to resolve the requirement for hardware to run the additional applications required.

The answer, a review of existing server hardware, with a view to consolidating the infrastructure and reducing the number of servers by implementing a number of discrete functions on a single server appliance.

The council ended up by making numerous changes to the server estate. A number of servers were upgraded and application migrated to a VMWare virtualised environment, thus reducing the server count and power requirements significantly. A number of server appliances approaching the end of their practical life were replaced by new, greener servers, whose carbon footprint was dramatically less than current hardware, which further assisted with the power consumption.

By embracing application and server consolidation strategies , the council gained the real efficiencies that lower power costs and streamline management operations.

Whereas the above is a fine example of the benefits of Server Consolidation, in many cases this has also been achieved through the installation of Blade Servers. Such installations are another typical example of how power requirements, management costs and rack space can be reduced without impacting on performance.

Looking to consolidate your Servers and Storage?
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