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ADDRESSING VDI &STORAGE BOTTLE NECK.docx

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Marked Text

ADDRESSING VDI & STORAGE BOTTLE NECK Vinayak Sivanand - Storage Administrator Tata Consultancy Services cs.vinayak@gmail.com REFERENCES http://h71028.www7.hp.com/ERC/downloads/4AA2-3017ENW.pdf - HP: Implementing a VDI infrastructure http://download.microsoft.com/download/C/E/7/CE7DA506-CEDF-43DB-8179-D73DA13668C5/DiskPartitionAlignment.docx - Windows Disk Alignment http://virtuall.eu/blog/creating-a-vdi-template - Create a VDI image that minimizes IOPS http://silvertonconsulting.com/blog/2010/09/10/data-storage-features-for-virtual-desktop-infrastructure-vdi-deployments/ - Data storage features for virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) deployments What is VDI? In terms of overall benefits VDI (Virtual Desktop Infrastructure) enables technology staff to manage the company's desktop environment as a dynamic service offering. This allows the IT organization to move the components of the desktop environment inside the data center and deliver the applications, the user personality and even the OS itself on demand. The technology itself is a server-hosted virtual desktop computing platform that centralizes endpoint images as virtual machines, rendering the endpoint device irrelevant. When needed, IT staff can quickly add or patch applications from the data center, and the next time the client accesses their image the applications and operating systems are in full corporate compliance without the need to push an update. Upgrading to Windows 7 is easier in combination with application virtualization. Disaster recovery, which has historically been aligned with server- based applications and data, can now be more easily aligned with end-user data historically stranded on the endpoint. Aside from giving the tech staff a "central control setup," users access the same customized desktop setup from their desk or a remote location. VDI storage Storage vendors typically characterize the performance of their systems in the context of a normal applications environment using statistical measurements such as throughput in MBps, GBps and I/Os per second (IOPS). Vendors also provide implementation guidelines to help administrators achieve the published results while optimizing the unique characteristics of their storage systems. These include size and use of cache, configurability of solid-state disk (SSD) drives, the number of internal data paths, and other vendor-specific features. However, VDI is different. Efficiently and effectively supporting VDI requires a new paradigm and set of criteria. Reviewing storage for VDI, comparisons should be done with an understanding of how VDI will impact the different storage systems. At the start of the evaluation, a simple set of questions need to be asked to document the requirements How to think about VDI Before getting into the process for how to implement VDI, think about the current architecture and how it services the organization. Chances are that most organizations would like to have better control of end-user desktops and applications; maintaining the desktop environment has a huge operational impact on an IT organization's resources. The three primary components that the IT group must contend with while managing the desktop environment are the applications, the user experience, and the operating systems. Regarding the applications, there are the managed apps the registry setting changes, the patches, and the complex validation of successful updates across a disparate geography of end users. This alone creates an environment where the organization's desktop environment is in varying states of compliance. For the end-users and their daily experience, there are access rights to domain resources, privileges for printers, mobility issues, profile set ups and other directory services that need to be delivered consistently, regardless of location or device. Both applications and end-users affect the operating systems. Each image may have different device driver requirements, and with the hardening of the operating systems for the desktops along with the ongoing patch management, there is a myriad of tightly integrated dependencies between the apps, users and OSes. The pending deployment of Windows 7 in most organizations only serves to exacerbate the problem given the daunting task of having to re-test and validate all of these relationships. The main point is this: All of this activity is focused outward from the administrative staff's point of view. Enter the concept of virtualizing the desktop environment. This allows organizations to change the focus of the activity. With application virtualization, IT can decouple the applications from the operating system and deliver the right application set to the right users. From a user experience perspective, you can leverage profile management tools that provide the same user profile regardless of what type of device and where the device is located. And finally, the overall benefit to the operating system is that your OS images are cleaner, centrally controlled and delivered as a service to the right people at the right time. VDI is about changing the control of an externally delivered and managed resource to a centrally controlled and managed service, which can be delivered consistently and effectively against service levels on an as-needed basis, regardless of the external environment to which it's delivered. This change in orientation of the desktop environment can be a complex shift for any IT organization. At the same time, there are critical drivers, such as Windows 7, BC/DR strategies and corporate mergers and acquisitions, which offer organizations the perfect opportunity to evaluate the desktop environment. After determining how and if this shift will work for your organization, consider the following process for a successful implementation, while keeping a strategic approach in mind Develop the business case It all begins with building the business case. Start by providing stakeholders with the documentation necessary to support your project. This information should include understanding the current mechanisms and challenges around physical desktop management, including refresh durations and complexity, Windows 7 deployment, OS and application patching and maintenance procedures, offshore and non-employee access, and finally, regulatory compliance, which is especially necessary in protecting sensitive information. As part of this step, one would want to identify the organizational costs associated with physical desktop management so

Relevant Sources

[1] http://www.slideshare.net/avddrift/vdi-and-storage-deep-impact-v1-0 (828 Words, 8.9%)
[2] http://itmanagement.earthweb.com/netsys/art.../3897496/Guide-to-Virtual-Desktop-Setup.htm (181 Words, 1.9%)
[3] http://www.infostor.com/index/articles/disp.../2010/july-2010/storage-considerations.html (1735 Words, 18.6%)
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[7] http://searchvirtualstorage.techtarget.com/...lenges-with-data-dedupe-NAS-storage-systems (480 Words, 5.1%)
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[9] http://searchvirtualdesktop.techtarget.com/tip/Calculating-storage-needs-for-VDI-platforms (495 Words, 5.3%)
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[11] http://www.itexpocenter.nl/over-itexpocente...ge-design-has-a-big-impact-on-your-vdi.aspx (802 Words, 8.6%)
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[13] http://blogs.vmware.com/vmtn/2009/12/index.html (106 Words, 1.1%)
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[16] http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/magazin...rage-to-support-virtual-server-environments (1029 Words, 11%)

Excluded Sources

None

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