

CIO SPOTLIGHT:

MANAGING RISKS AND COSTS IN A VIRTUAL SERVER ENVIRONMENT

Scalability is an attractive proposition to a CIO charged with oversight in the flow and protection of data access across the enterprise, but it can come with inherent, costly risks. To help, here are five key considerations as you implement a data management strategy that will enable your enterprise to move to a more fully built out virtual infrastructure.

“Managers are unwilling to virtualize tier-one applications until they are certain that those applications are well protected and that they can recover VMs, files, applications or parts of applications in a timely fashion to meet stringent service level agreements (SLAs) required by mission critical applications.”

– THE 451 GROUP, 2012,
“BACKUP IN A VIRTUAL WORLD”¹

Scalability is an attractive proposition to a CIO charged with oversight in the flow and protection of data across the enterprise, but it can come with inherent, costly risks. A good example is virtual server technology designed to scale along with the ever-increasing data flow enterprises are experiencing. The benefits of server virtualization are compelling – from cost savings gained by server consolidation, to the flexibility and agility enterprises experience in using private and public cloud architectures. As a result, virtual server technology is on a quick ascent, according to Gartner which forecast an expectation for x86 server virtualization to double from 40% back in 2011 to 80% by 2016.

Along with the economic and operational benefits, however, virtual server technology does require risk mitigation in the form of a solid, storage, backup and recovery system. Enterprises who attempt to use traditional, legacy, data protection techniques for backup and recovery of data housed in the modern data center will find out that methods such as streaming copying data from the production to the backend simply do not work. Large scale, virtual server deployments require a modern data protection approach that not only scale to protect a virtualized enterprise environment but can also support private and public cloud architectures. While just adding a point product on top of your legacy software seems like a good and easy solution, this approach only introduces new risk into your environment. Instead, a solution that minimizes the load on production systems, reduces administrative effort, enhances data protection and recovery, eases the transition to a virtualized data center, and will enable cloud-based options when they are desired will not only protect your entire environment, it'll allow you to actually recover it too—which is the real test for virtual backup and recovery.

MANAGING RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT

Cost savings in the form of server consolidation is a key benefit of virtual server technology. Consolidation, however, does carry with it new demands on backup and recovery and on meeting service level agreements (SLAs) for critical applications. You face this challenge every day: how to load balance resources with the need to meet mission-critical objectives. A solution that not only helps facilitate, but also accelerates a transition to a virtual environment, by delivering scale, scope and recovery in a single platform is CommVault® Simpana® software. Simpana delivers virtual server data protection that allows for rapid scalability of virtual machines, enables movement of business critical applications to the cloud, and integrates data protection of physical and virtual environments.

¹Read “Backup in a Virtual World”

Here are five key considerations as you implement a data management strategy that will enable your enterprise to move to a more fully built out virtual infrastructure.

1 Cost Containment

In moving toward a more universal virtual environment you certainly want to fully realize the cost efficiencies of server consolidation. To that purpose you'll want to consider a data protection system that is fully integrated from the ground up to deliver all the requirements of the virtual platform and does not require additional bolt-on components, third party add-ons, or costly and complex scripting integration projects. You'll also want to look for a system that can integrate data protection between the physical and virtual environments, to promote efficiency and further control resource costs.

Simpana software reduces data protection costs by as much as **50%**.

2 Risk Mitigation

Businesses can reduce risk by virtualizing more workloads, thus improving performance and agility. As data moves to the virtual world, you need a protection solution that also helps to mitigate risk caused by loss of data. A centralized solution that spans the data center and encompasses all data protection and management requirements will eliminate the need for multiple point solutions that must be synchronized with complex scripts and manual intervention. This ultimately results in more reliable data management processes that ensure information is where you need it, when you need it, further reducing business risk.

3 Scalability

Traditional, legacy solutions inadequately address the scale challenges of deployments quickly growing into the hundreds of virtual machines and beyond. CommVault Simpana software delivers even more scalable and more resilient data protection of virtual machines, in a grid-based architecture so that your enterprise can grow seamlessly from initial deployment to cloud-based infrastructure.

4 Scope of Support

Many organizations are looking at more than one virtual platform due to the positive cost-benefit ratio of the applications they want to virtualize. If you are considering this route, you need to look at a data protection solution that can support a diversity of platforms. CommVault Simpana Software supports cross-platform (VMware vCenter, vCloud Director and Microsoft Hyper-V) protection in a single platform solution.

Data Protection and Recovery

Each enterprise has its own specific set of business requirements in the recovery of data. It's vital to find the solution that gives you the granularity in data recovery that fulfills your requirements. As more critical, Tier 1 applications move into the virtual environment, it is imperative that your data protection solution provides you with deep application integration to enable rapid recovery and meet the most stringent of SLAs.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIRTUALIZATION OBJECTIVES?

Moving to a private, public or hybrid cloud is becoming a common business objective of many enterprises. The inherent flexibility of cloud-based systems and the financial freeing up of hardware costs has made virtualization a compelling choice. If you're planning on moving critical data in Tier 1 applications to a virtual server environment, you will need to put in place a data protection solution that will support this transition without adding on a myriad of component costs. CommVault can deliver a single platform solution that will enable you to control costs, meet SLAs and scale up as needed, without adding unnecessary and expensive complexity. Designed for a virtual server environment, it provides backup and recovery at the service level needed to support data growth in your enterprise.

To learn more about Simpana software, and how it will manage your risks and costs in a virtual server environment, please visit www.commvault.com.



www.commvault.com • 888.746.3849 • get-info@commvault.com

COMMVAULT REGIONAL OFFICES: UNITED STATES • EUROPE • MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA • ASIA-PACIFIC • LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN • CANADA • INDIA • OCEANIA

©1999-2014 CommVault Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. CommVault, CommVault and logo, the "CV" logo, CommVault Systems, Solving Forward, SIM, Singular Information Management, Simpana, Simpana OnePass, CommVault Galaxy, Unified Data Management, QiNetix, Quick Recovery, QR, CommNet, GridStor, Vault Tracker, InnerVault, QuickSnap, QSnap, Recovery Director, CommServe, CommCell, IntelliSnap, ROMS, CommVault Edge, and CommValue, are trademarks or registered trademarks of CommVault Systems, Inc. All other third party brands, products, service names, trademarks, or registered service marks are the property of and used to identify the products or services of their respective owners. All specifications are subject to change without notice.