Case Study:

Plan | Design | Deploy | Manage

Team Truck Centres Partners with Next Dimension

Team Truck Centres is a regional dealer of new and used heavy freight vehicles based in London, Ontario. The company sells new and used trucks of all shapes and sizes, and also has a thriving parts and service business to support its customers.

In late 2010 Team Truck Centres approached Next Dimension with the following business challenges:

Significant Business Continuity Risk

All of the company's servers were no longer protected by a manufacturer's warranty. In the event of a hardware failure, it would take well over a week to provision new equipment and restore from backup.

High cost per application

The cost of dedicated redundancy measures in each server, such as RAID disk arrays and secondary power supplies meant that most new applications required a significant new hardware investment. And since most applications use resources in short bursts of activity, much of the processing and storage capacity for each system went under utilized most of the time.

Joe Harp, IT Manager for Team Truck Centres, explains: "We were looking for a solution that would lower our overall hardware costs, while improving the level of fault tolerance and flexibility in our infrastructure."

35% Less Hardware Costs

80% Cheaper Server Rollouts

99% Reduced recovery time for server hardware failure

next dimension Inc. www.ndinc.ca

The Solution

To address these challenges and requirements, Next Dimension proposed a solution based on IBM's BladeCenter-S platform. Its fully integrated processing, storage and networking environment is essentially an expandable datacenter-in-a-box, and provides dedicated redundancy and fault tolerance in virtually every major system component.

VMware vSphere virtualization software would be deployed on a series of blade servers, and Physical-to-Virtual (P2V) conversions would be performed on the physical systems in the present environment. Increased fault tolerance would be achieved through the configuration of VMware's vMotion™ and High Availability technologies.

The Results

The new system was deployed in early 2011, and legacy systems were decommissioned shortly thereafter.

"The IBM BladeCenter-S solution was 35% cheaper than simply replacing our existing servers with new ones. We also now have a testing server outside our production environment to try new software or test updates to existing software without adding unnecessary risks." reports Harp.

The new system has also significantly reduced operational risks. "We've gone from over a dozen potential failure points down to just a few, and every new system we deploy automatically inherits this resiliency by design."