

A Guide To

Virtualisation

Clarity IT Advisors

www.clarityitadvisors.com

CLARITY

Virtualisation

Storage Area
Networks

Voice over IP

Terminal Services

IT Project
Management

Disaster Recovery
Planning & Help

SharePoint for
Business &
Education

Software
Development

On-Site & Remote
Support

- ✓ **Make More Efficient Use of Your Hardware**
- ✓ **Reduce New Server Expenditure**
- ✓ **Reduce Your Energy Costs by up to 70%**
- ✓ **Reduce Your IT Management Costs by up to 60%**
- ✓ **Recover from Hardware Failures in Minutes**
- ✓ **Peace of Mind that Disasters won't Threaten Your Business, Profitability or Data**

Clear Solutions to Complex Problems

For more information
please call us on

01202 764644

Would you like to reduce expenditure on new servers ?

Do you need to reduce your energy costs?

What would happen if your system or data suffered a genuine disaster such as fire, flood, theft or malicious damage?

Do you need to support legacy applications?

Would you like to be able to keep your critical systems up and running all the time?

“Virtualisation is an opportunity for many organisations to reduce their IT ownership costs and dramatically improve system availability.”

Virtualisation has changed the face of IT. Once a technology only affordable to corporate enterprise, it has now evolved into a fully scalable product ideally suited for SMEs and Education. With the ability to reduce hardware and running costs by **up to 60%**, Virtualisation software can revolutionise the way your organisation runs its IT networks, eliminating downtime and giving you a plethora of disaster recovery options.

Every IT department is under pressure to cut costs and yet still deliver the same services and response times.

Virtualisation Could Help You...

What is Virtualisation?

Virtualisation is a software technology that allows you to load and run multiple servers on the same physical machine or host. That is to say your mail server, your file and printer sharing server and your database servers retain their individual identities and settings but would all run on the same piece of hardware.



Virtualisation can help you to:

- ✓ **Improve Hardware Utilisation:** Typically over the course of a year a server only uses 8 to 12% of its capacity. By consolidating multiple servers into a small number of physical servers Virtualisation can increase utilisation to **over 80%**. You will **improve your return on investment** and won't have to buy new hardware as often.
- ✓ **Lower Your Energy Costs:** Fewer physical servers mean **lower electricity bills** because less power is required to run your servers and keep them cool. Some customers reduce energy consumption **by over 70%!**

To Find Out More Call **Ian Goodwin** on **01202 764644**,
E-mail **ian.Goodwin@clarityitadvisors.com** or visit
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- ✓ **Improve Availability & Reduce the Time to Recover from a Failure:** Multiple hosts connected to a Storage Area Network (SAN) are able to work together to keep virtual machines running even when a physical host fails. Virtual machines can be automatically “started” on another host server. Everything can be back up and running in **less than 2 minutes!**
- ✓ **Reduce Administration Time:** Virtual Machines are easier to manage and look after. A virtual machine is actually just a collection of files which define its set-up and hard discs. This makes it very easy to backup, restore or move them around.
- ✓ **Deploy New Servers Quickly & Effectively:** You can create a new virtual machine with just a few mouse clicks. And if you use templates you could have a **new machine running within minutes** ready to be installed with a new database, email system or whatever you need.

Comprehensive Disaster Recovery

Using a Storage Area Network (SAN) it’s possible to keep an almost live copy of your data and virtual machines at an entirely different site. Combined with Virtualisation your **entire IT system** could be up and running again **within a few minutes!**

Many organisations use servers, hardware and storage released by Virtualisation to run key services and applications at their disaster recovery location.

Virtualisation Can Grow With Your Needs

Virtualisation is very flexible so you don’t have to virtualise everything straightaway. You can start small, using free of charge products, and only convert the computers you want to.

When you’re ready to take advantage of the high availability features of the full product you can simply upgrade the software.

As you start to virtualise more of your servers additional hosts can be added. Your virtual machines can be moved between your hosts to ensure you get optimal performance.

Most virtualisation products are compatible with a wide range of guest operating systems. It doesn’t matter whether your servers run Windows, Linux or a mixture of the two. Who knows what you’ll be using in the future?



How Virtualisation Can Help You:

- ✓ Reduce Hardware and Running costs by up to 60%
- ✓ Achieve very high levels of system availability and reliability
- ✓ Grows and scales with your IT requirements
- ✓ Manage many servers quickly and effectively
- ✓ Get a better return on investment for new server hardware
- ✓ Supports many guest operating systems including Linux, Windows and Unix.
- ✓ Be and up running in a remote location within minutes of a disaster occurring

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Keep Legacy Solutions Up & Running

When it comes to old equipment and legacy applications Virtualisation can really help to keep them up and running.

Old systems can be difficult to maintain and look after and old operating systems can be difficult or impossible to get working on new hardware.

Using Virtualisation you can convert the machine into a virtual one before the hardware fails.

Not only will it run faster but if you've invested in a fault tolerant solution you'll be able to achieve new levels of reliability and availability impossible with legacy hardware and software.

What's The Next Step?

If you're interested in virtualisation Clarity IT Advisors can help you plan and implement the ideal solution.

We've used our experience with Virtualisation and Storage Area Networks to help and support many customers, both large and small, including the **University of Westminster, Cowplain Community School** and **Sherborne School for Girls**.

Our planning and advisory service will help you determine:

- ✓ Which virtualisation product best meets your needs at the right price
- ✓ How many virtual machine hosts you'll need and their specification
- ✓ The ideal type of Storage Area Network to support your high availability, backup and data protection goals
- ✓ The best way to convert your physical servers into virtual ones minimising downtime.

We'll even try and predict how much energy you'll save!

And of course we can actually supply the new hardware, software and install your new solution for you.

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or e-mail

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Founded in 2002, Clarity IT Advisors deliver efficient and cost effective advice and technology to both the business and education markets. We have a wide range of customers; from corporate and SME clients through to Local Education Authorities and leading universities. Our customers demand cutting edge technology to help support their customers and users.

Clarity IT have been instrumental in keeping many of the organisations we work with at the forefront of IT developments, helping them to stay one step ahead and allowing them to focus on day to day operations.

Our ethos of "On time, On budget" coupled with ethical and approachable consultants means that we never install systems unless we have 100% faith that they are "fit for purpose". Our reputation has been built on delivering...

*Clear Solutions to
Complex Problems*