



Virtual Reality

Transam's Virtual Infrastructure Newsletter

Transam eurodata
Part of the Eurodata Group

Issue 2 January 2009

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter dedicated to IT infrastructure virtualisation.

Where is Server Virtualisation Now?

Should there be anyone who doesn't know what IT Virtualisation is, here we go... Server virtualisation is a hot topic in the IT world because of the potential for serious economic benefits. Server virtualisation enables multiple operating systems and applications to run on a single physical machine as virtual machines (VMs). With server virtualisation, you can consolidate workloads of underutilised server machines onto a smaller number of better utilised machines. Fewer physical machines can lead to reduced costs through lower hardware, energy, and management overhead, plus the creation of a more dynamic IT infrastructure. This year environmental issues are playing a strong part, with clear energy savings driving the need for server reduction.

VMware Capacity Planner – Reduced Price

VMware Capacity Planner is a consolidation and virtualisation planning product. It is now available at a **reduced price**. The tool collects comprehensive resource utilisation data in heterogeneous IT environments, and compares it to industry standard reference data to provide analysis and decision support modelling. Call us today on **020 7549 3123**.

VMware Capacity Planning Service

For larger data centres Transam offers a professional **VMware Capacity Planning Service** designed to help you make smart decisions when virtualising and consolidating your server infrastructure, redeploying strategic IT assets and optimising workload capacity utilisation. With this knowledge we will help you develop a virtualisation roadmap for server containment and consolidation. Ask for our flyer today on **020 7549 3123**

Microsoft Hyper-V

Released in June this year, Microsoft Hyper-V, formerly known as Windows Server Virtualization, is a hypervisor-based virtualisation system for x64 systems. Hyper-V is a key feature of Windows Server 2008. It is also available as a stand-alone product, separate from Windows Server, as Microsoft Hyper-V Server. Aimed at SMEs that want to consolidate servers and may not need the advanced features of VMware, the Microsoft product competes with VMware ESX Server. However,

VMware's Foundation Edition or ESXi can also be considered where capital costs need to be kept low. Talk to Transam for more information and to discover the differences.

Microsoft Improves Licensing for Virtual Environments, by Bev Nicholls

Microsoft announced that with effect from 1st September 2008 it has improved the licence requirements for 41 popular server-based applications so that the applications can be moved from one virtual server to another within a server farm without any additional licence fees.

Licensing applications to the particular server on which they ran was a leftover from the days before virtualisation, when an application had to be licensed to a specific piece of hardware and could only be moved after 90 days.

However, there are some restrictions in that Windows Server Operating Systems are not included in the list, nor is SQL Standard Edition (only Enterprise Edition), and the improved licensing only applies to products purchased through Volume Licensing Programs (i.e. not to Full Packaged Products nor OEM licenses).

This change is particularly beneficial for migration around a server farm of applications running on SQL Server. Licensing terms favouring virtualisation are now an absolute requirement for many customers.

Windows Server DataCenter Edition can still be attractive as it allows an unlimited number of virtual machines per physical server, each containing their own Windows Server operating system.

Microsoft's new licence terms also cover products from any virtualisation vendor that has gone through Microsoft's Server Virtualisation Validation Program (SVVP), which certifies virtualisation solutions for Windows Server 2008 and other Microsoft products.

VMworld Europe

If you weren't able to attend VMworld '08 in Las Vegas during September, you might like to attend **VMworld Europe 2009** which will be held on 24-26 February in Cannes again. This is a must-attend event for all IT professionals looking for actionable ideas, innovative products and best practices for

virtualising their IT - from the desktop to the data centre. <http://www.vmworld.com/vmworld/index.jspa>.

Record Year and... All Change

2008 was Transam's 30th year in business was its **most successful year ever**.

- ❖ Turnover up to over £5 million
- ❖ 20% increase over 2006-07
- ❖ More new customers than ever before.

A major contribution was four major orders in the New Year for **new Data Centres based upon Virtual IT Infrastructures**. These were for a major firm of international architects, a foreign bank opening a new UK centre and two firms of insurance underwriters.

Where Transam is Virtualising IT

Transam has been busy assisting our customers with implementing a Virtual IT Infrastructure:

- ❖ Major Telecom provider – **300** users;
- ❖ Asset Management house – **50** users;
- ❖ Top 100 Law Firm – **450** users.

A major London housing group has installed **VMware Site Recovery Manager**, for rapid, reliable and manageable Disaster Recovery on four VMware hosts spread across two locations in Outer London.

We are also pleased to announce that Transam has recently been acquired by IT Infrastructure specialist **Eurodata Systems**. For more information see: www.eurodatasystems.com/News/NewsArticle.asp?ID=29

Replicating Virtual Machines

If you wish to replicate virtual machines between your main site and a disaster recovery site via an on-line connection, there are two ways of doing this. Firstly, if you have shared storage systems at both sites with **asynchronous replication** capabilities, then the virtual machines (VMs) can be replicated at this architectural layer. The alternative is to replicate virtual machines at the **server-to-server layer**. One of the best products to use is **Vizioncore vReplicator**. This is licensed per source VM. Transam can arrange demonstrations, evaluations and costings.

VMware Support & Maintenance Renewals

Quality of Service – Free Health Check

VMware can become a major software asset yet support and maintenance renewals can be neglected or prove difficult. We often find customers' support and maintenance has lapsed or is over-complicated by there being multiple renewal dates, often with different support levels.

Transam provides a **quality renewal service** through its Software Asset Management (SAM) service. Please contact us if you would like us to perform a **free of charge Health Check** on your VMware licences and renewals.

Forthcoming Events and Training

Transam runs quarterly IT Virtualisation seminars. Our next event will run in conjunction with our parent, **Eurodata Systems**, on **4th March**. It will focus on the next steps for Virtualisation using advanced technologies. www.transam.co.uk/events.

Transam publishes a Virtual Infrastructure training booklet which details relevant courses for VMware, DataCore, PlateSpin and Vizioncore. Public courses on VMware include:

- ❖ Overview: Virtual Infrastructure 3
- ❖ Install and Configure Virtual Infrastructure 3
- ❖ Deploy, Secure & Analyse Virtual Infrastructure 3
- ❖ Fast Track Program Pilot Virtual Infrastructure 3
- ❖ Skills for Operators: Virtual Infrastructure 3
- ❖ Capacity Planner 2.5 Virtual Infrastructure 3

Technical Tips by Gerald Reimann

Storage VMotion

Storage VMotion is a feature of VMware ESX server that was introduced in version 3.5, but is rarely used because VMware officially support usage through the command-line only.

It allows for relocation of a VM's storage while it is powered on, eliminating downtime required to move files to a different data store.

<http://www.virtualizationadmin.com/articles-tutorials/vmware-esx-articles/vmotion-drs-high-availability/storage-vmotion-svmotion-vi-plugin.html>

A free third-party plug-in now provides a full graphical interface for this powerful function, as discussed at:

<http://www.virtualizationadmin.com/articles-tutorials/vmware-esx-articles/vmotion-drs-high-availability/storage-vmotion-svmotion-vi-plugin.html>. The only downside is lack of VMware support for this plug-in.

Gerald Reimann is a Technical Consultant with Transam, specialising in virtualisation.

Please email: roger.okelly@transam.co.uk if you would like to receive future issues of this Newsletter.

For advice or help with VMware or virtualisation, call Transam: 020 7549 3123. As of 1st February our new contact details will be:

**Transam Microsystems Ltd,
St Mark's House, Shepherdess Walk,
London N1 7BQ**