



Virtualization Solutions Project Highlights

Customer Merit Resources

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Merit Resources Profile



About

Founded in 1989, Merit Resources enables clients to cost-effectively outsource the management of human resources, workers' compensation, employee benefits and payroll. Merit Resources' mission is to make employment easy.

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Overview

In July of 2008, Alliance Technologies completed a server virtualization project with Merit Resources. Prior to the implementation, Merit was using eight physical servers to run their business. Alliance Technologies architected a virtualized environment running VMware to increase efficiency in hardware management and help reduce data center costs relating to storage and energy consumption.

Results

By April 2009, Merit Resources had reduced their total number of physical servers from eight to four. During the preceding nine months, Merit experienced significant growth, and their server needs correspondingly increased. As a result of Alliance Technologies' VMware installation, Merit's four physical servers are currently running 43 virtualized servers.

Benefits and Cost Savings

Meeting growth capacity: Merit's business grew 18% in 2008 and is projected to grow 20% in 2009. To accommodate this growth Merit does not have to budget for any new servers this year. With their existing environment they have the capacity to run approximately 60 virtual servers without needing to buy any additional hardware.

Energy Consumption: In the first 2 months of 2009, Merit has realized an 18% decrease in energy costs over the previous year. A portion of this decrease can be attributed to the reduction in physical servers needed to run their business.

Merit estimates a cost savings of about \$3,000 for each virtualized server in terms of direct hardware costs. In terms of labor cost, it often takes weeks to order, install and configure a physical server box. With VMware, it takes about 1 hour to deploy a 'virtualized' server. In total, Merit estimates about \$3,500 in savings per virtualized server. This equates to an estimated savings today of over \$100,000 - which, when combined with the energy savings, represents an over 100% increase over original cost savings estimates.

Environmental Impact

Virtualizing your data center also has a positive impact on the environment. According to VMware's 'Green Calculator', the environmental impact of running 43 virtualized servers can be compared to planting 860 trees and taking 65 cars off the road.
Source: www.vmware.com/solutions/green/calculator.html