



Network Design Service, LLC Case Reference Get your servers under control...

“My servers were too hard to manage and getting out of control. NDS helped me consolidate them and gain needed network resilience to boot.”

*Fred Wilson, VP IT
Retail Inc.*

Customer: Big Retail Chain

Web Site: big.retail.com

Customer Size: 900 employees

Location: AnyTown, Connecticut

Industry: Automotive

Customer Profile:

This client wishes to remain anonymous.

Software and Services:

- VMWare allows many server images to be run on one physical server.
- Microsoft 2003 Server infrastructure.
- Exchange Server 2007, Sql Server 2005

Hardware:

- HP Proliant servers, ProCurve switches.
- Left Hand Networks storage solution.

The Challenge

The datacenter had over 10 servers. Hardware maintenance was getting expensive and hard to manage. Each application seemed to require another server. A Disaster Center was being built and would require mirroring the existing server sprawl.

Each server cost per \$1,450 per year for premium hardware support. The servers themselves tended to remain in service too long. They became outdated and were not peak performers.

When a server needed to be upgraded or an application needed to be upgraded, there was a risk that the upgrade would not work as advertised. There was not safe path back.

Power consumption continued to increase. The new DR site would require a substantial air conditioning system.

The Solution

NDS suggested consolidating the servers using VMWare technology. The physical servers were reduced to three. The existing servers were transformed into Virtual images and moved onto the new servers. All of the data, including the Virtual Machines, were moved onto Left Hand Network's (LHN) iSCSI SAN Storage System devices.

Three existing late-model servers were beefed up and moved to the new DR sites. VMWare and the LHN SAN create a fully functional disaster site for partial or complete outages.

New applications and upgrades can be tested as easily as bringing up a copy of the Virtual server, applying the upgrades and testing. If it doesn't work as advertised, then it need not go into production.

Power consumption at the datacenter has been reduced by two-thirds, along

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Data Management Solutions

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About Network Design Service, LLC:

NDS brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the business community. While we focus on Business Continuity, we have a highly skilled team of analysts and technicians that can quickly implement all forms of technology solutions. These include Virtualization, Servers, Storage and Microsoft solutions, while offering 24x7 monitoring on all of the above.

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with the accompanying heat. The new DR has had the cooling specs cut back.

NDS monitors all servers and applications 24x7 to help anticipate potential problems and bottlenecks.

The Benefits

The entire solution cost the same as simply replicating the existing servers at the DR site. The bonus of never having a server(application) fail, and having all data replicated off-site is the stuff legends are made of.

If a physical server becomes unstable the Virtual Machines automatically migrate to a working server, either at the datacenter or the DR site. If the main datacenter becomes unstable all Virtual Machines become active at the DR site.

Tape backups have become a thing of convenience rather than necessity. If a file that is three months old is required, it can be gotten from tape. But, if one SAN fails at the datacenter, the SAN at the DR site picks right up.

“This solution has long been available on mainframe behemoths. It is now affordable for small and medium size businesses.”

*Rich Buckley, Chief Architect
Network Design Services, LLC*