



Virtualization in Montana

Mark Van Alstyne

IT Manager

Montana Secretary of State's Office

Desktop Virtualization Study

- A working group was established by the IT Managers Council (ITMC) of Montana in June of 2010.
- The primary goal of the working group was to recommend a plan of action regarding desktop virtualization.

Study Objectives

- Identify early adopters and lessons learned
- Identify best practices
- Identify how desktop virtualization can improve operations
- Identify staffing challenges
- How can desktop virtualization lead to desktop as a “service”?
- Address issues related to the Governor’s cost Savings initiative

Study Findings

- Only one Montana agency, the Dept. of Revenue, has implemented desktop virtualization in a production environment other than within IT units.
- Montana looked at benefits in server virtualization to indicate some of the improvements to operations expected with desktop virtualization.

Virtualization Benefits

- Less staff required to manage and maintain systems.
- Better control over configuration and management.
- Traditional desktop management tools and investments are still valuable and can be used in virtualized desktop environments.
- Inherent security benefits of virtualization, data resides in the data center, not on distributed systems.
- Consolidation and standardization.

Recommendations

- Use what you already own and know and leverage other agencies or the enterprise for what you don't know.
- Understand the drivers for pursuing desktop virtualization.
- Take an evolutionary approach to implementing desktop virtualization.
- The Montana State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD) will undertake a pilot project to exercise the recommendations to ITMC and to implement desktop virtualization in two production environments.

Montana Secretary Of State Server Virtualization project

- Montana Votes System Hardware Replacement
- Previously 34 Intel servers in two locations
- Replaced 12 gateway servers with four Citrix appliances
- Application servers still stand-alone (8 at each location)
 - Overhead and performance issues in VM environment
- Moved 6 non-application servers to hosted VMs
- Net reduction of 18 servers
- Upfront cost savings of \$75,000

QUESTIONS?