Discuss the advantages of adopting desktop and server virtualization.

Virtualization means creating a virtual *something*, be it a server, desktop, network, or storage (Beal, 2010). This week, we are discussing desktop and server virtualization, specifically.

Server virtualization entails taking a physical server and partitioning it into multiple smaller private server environments (Beal, 2010). A major advantage of doing this is the cost of the physical server is shared across many users and therefor much more cost effective than having a dedicated server. Most web hosting servers parse their physical server in this fashion, selling virtual servers to numerous users, which is why web hosting can be relatively inexpensive. Some other advantages to having multiple servers on one machine is that there are fewer overall machines to maintain and cool. Additionally, the individual virtual servers can be rebooted independently and can run their own operating system (Beal, 2010). It is easy to see why server virtualization has been adopted.

Desktop virtualization is define as “a virtualization technology that is used to separate a computer desktop environment from the physical computer” (Beal 2010). This idea is at the heart of cloud computing. That is, there is a remote server on which the virtual desktop is stored, instead of on the physical machine being used to access the virtual desktop. There are several advantages to desktop virtualization. First, is that the virtual desktop can be accessed from any location, remotely. Another advantage of desktop virtualization is that the client does not need to purchase their own hardware, operating system, or software. They simply need a means to access the virtual desktop (Beal, 2010).

References

Beal, V. (2010). The Difference Between Server and Desktop Virtualization? Retrieved from <http://www.webopedia.com/DidYouKnow/Computer_Science/difference_between_server_and_desktop_virtualization.html>