Project One

Title: "Project One: Executive Summary On Possible Benefits of Virtualization of Server Infrastructure"

Points: 20 points

Due Date: Sunday January 25th by 11:59 pm (WebCourses time)

Objective: To gain experience preparing an executive summary and to research how virtualization may benefit an organization in terms of their server infrastructure.

Deliverables: On or before 11:59 pm (WebCourses time) Sunday Janaury 25, 2015 submit the following via WebCourses: An executive summary of your findings with respect to virtualization of a server infrastructure, citing two sources that will substantiate your conclusions. Limit the length of your executive summary to a maximum of 3 pages.

Description

What you are going to do in this project is pretend that you are the system administrator for an organization that is attempting to determine if virtualization of its server infrastructure would be beneficial to the organization.

This project is the precursor to a more involved project that will be a cost/benefit analysis along the same lines. You'll tackle this more complicated project after we've discussed various aspects of virtualization in class.

In this project you will do some basic research that would provide a high-level overview of how server virtualization might benefit an organization.

You will prepare an executive summary of your findings as the deliverable for this project.

Normally, an executive summary summarizes a more complete accompanying report. You will not be preparing this more complete report in this case, you will only be preparing the executive summary.

Normally, executive summaries do not include references, but in this case, I want you to cite two references that you used to substantiate the claims that you make in the executive summary.

If you have never prepared an executive summary before, the following links might be useful:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_summary (Links to an external site.)
- http://hbswk.hbs.edu/archive/3660.html (Links to an external site.)
- http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/documents/execsum/ (Links to an external site.)

Note that an executive summary is different from an abstract.

Abstracts tend to be most common in academic environments whereas executive summaries are primarily confined to business environments.

An abstract is a brief summarizing statement which is read by people who are trying to decide whether or not to read the entire document.

An executive summary is the document in miniature which can be read in place of the longer document.

Confine your research to the area of server virtualization. We are not interested at this point in network or storage virtualization issues.

Consider the following issues in your report:

- Consolidation ratios – what is a realistic number that the organization might expect to see. What are the variables here?
- Define at least three potential benefits that the organization might achieve through server virtualization.
- Define at least two potential disadvantages that the organization needs to be aware of and their potential consequences if ignored.

Rubric

Grading rubric for Project One

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Criteria	**Ratings**		**Pts**
Discussed server consolidation ratios	Full Marks 5 pts	No Marks 0 pts	5 pts
Listed at least three potential benefits of server virtualization	Full Marks 5 pts	No Marks 0 pts	5 pts
Listed at least two potential disadvantages of server virtualization.	Full Marks 5 pts	No Marks 0 pts	5 pts
Provided two citations to support your findings. Overall quality of the report.	Full Marks 5 pts	No Marks 0 pts	5 pts
Total Points: 20			