



Executive Viewpoint: Tony Bishop, Adaptivity

By Tony Bishop
December 15, 2008

In order for companies to have successful IT infrastructures in 2009, it is imperative that they focus on two areas: holistic virtualization and lifecycle management of the virtual operating environment. These areas encompass what I like to call the "Demand Driven - Efficiency Tailored" infrastructure. The key problem for most organizations results from the complexity of amassed components and the coordination of efforts to produce a functional and reliable roll out. Here's some advice on how companies can focus on these two areas correctly to make virtualization work in 2009 and beyond.

Holistic Virtualization

Holistic virtualization is business-aligned virtualization from the top down. It's an approach that allows organizations to map business processing demands with business processing resources. To make the most of existing infrastructure, organizations need to realize that holistic virtualization is the only path - creating optimal virtualization of workload, application and information and leveraging virtual compute, storage and network resources. By working horizontally to track and integrate services across an organization, it ensures that IT is reusing services, not reinventing them - allowing IT to deliver things faster, more consistently and cost effectively.

Lifecycle Management of Virtual Operating Environments

Proper management of the virtual operating environment will be paramount in 2009, since it will enable companies to seamlessly adjust resources to right size virtual machine cluster capacity. To adopt this strategy, IT has to look at the three key areas of the virtual environment that have the biggest business impact - service level management, runtime orchestration and on-demand provisioning of resources. Managing these aspects is vital for understanding how the business is impacted by virtualization (something that many companies didn't count on when they first rolled-out virtualization initiatives). In 2009, understanding the complexity of the virtual environment will help organizations improve the overall IT infrastructure through streamlined application runtime and on-demand allocation to control the virtual environment. Once the correct policies are in place, unprecedented control of the environment is established. A real-time and dynamic environment - a nirvana, if you will - is achieved.

When control in the environment exists, through holistic virtualization and lifecycle management, it's finally possible for an IT organization to reorient itself and deliver complete, seamless heterogeneous solutions to allow for the dynamic adjustment of real-world events in minutes and on an as-needed basis.

