

Project One

Title: “Project One: Executive Summary of Possible Benefits of Virtualization of Server Infrastructure”

Points: 20 points

Due Date: Sunday January 30, 2022 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 September 5, 2021 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 2 pages**. (Note that executive summaries do not normally contain cited references, but in this case I want you to include two references that you cited in your summary.)

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. So you are examining the basic benefits and problems that are related to server virtualization.

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 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 project, 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

<http://hbswk.hbs.edu/archive/3660.html>

<http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/documents/execsum/>

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. CEOs and COOs are too busy to read your entire hundreds of pages reports, so the executive summary is intended to summarize your full reports findings and provided recommendations to the CEO or COO.

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:

- Server 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.