

Why Infrastructure Assessment a must for SAP Virtualization !!!

SAP Virtualization Benefits

- Development, test, training and Production Landscape can cost less and be more productive.
- Dynamically rebalancing applications while increasing resource utilization.
- Increase availability and seamlessly move across resources for easier maintenance.
- Disaster Recovery can be automated and failed over within minutes and also test DR procedures without downtime.

Infrastructure Assessment before virtualizing SAP

If a company decide to run their SAP Landscape on virtual servers, the first step is to conduct a full SAP Landscape Assessment which include system hardware and software. Based on WFT experience company that knows its virtualization goals and maps out its existing hardware infrastructure will end up with the most workable plan for running SAP virtual servers to handle SAP workloads in a virtualized environment.

Many SAP customers have some experience with virtualization, and many of them “think the two worlds will mesh very easily.” But the complex architecture of SAP drives how much and what they can virtualize and to decide becomes difficult. For customers, the place to start is to understand the main reason for virtualizing their SAP applications. The three main reasons for doing this, are consolidating servers; improving system availability; and enabling your business to get more turnkey SAP services other providers.

Consolidating SAP Virtual servers:

For instance, if the priority goal is to consolidate servers and SAP applications, users can gain use of the resources they have in their landscape. That means better workload management, and better utilization. The goal of increasing system availability is a bigger challenge because it requires investments in hardware and infrastructure improvements. A company needed to analyze the capabilities of the hardware in its current IT infrastructure and, before it can proceed with virtualization, figure out the costs and affordability of needed changes and upgrades.

The third reason for virtualizing SAP applications is to take advantage of alternate sourcing methods such as purchasing SAP services through third party providers, including hosting services and SaaS vendors. “ You can buy SAP reasonable cost services from outside the organization. “SAP as a service includes the infrastructure.”

Regardless of your goals, a careful assessment of your current SAP infrastructure is critical. Based on customer inventory the level of virtualization consolidation can optimize the landscape. Customers running new SAP application will have a better choice of virtualization options and directions.

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SAP Virtualization Pre-requisite

- Find out if your hardware can handle running SAP virtual servers. Also important to understand number of partition on physical.
- Learn more about SAP's familiar yet effective approach to virtualization.
- Find out how to improve SAP application performance through smart hardware decisions.
- Find out from SAP if the virtualization hypervisor is supported configuration..

"How far you can virtualize your infrastructure depends on your SAP architecture. "The more latest your hardware and SAP applications are, the more you can do."

How Assessment help virtualize SAP Landscape

Many businesses today run their SAP applications on Unix systems that are three and five years old. Companies that want to run these SAP applications on virtual servers need to figure out where they need to update their servers and storage environment. A detailed analysis on component-by-component review process is required.

WFT with their experience says the assessment process is critical. "SAP is a complicated complex application." The foot print of SAP Landscape is very large which is more than 50+ servers. The customer needs to ensure from SAP the virtualization hypervisor they are thinking of is supported. WFT suggests that companies assess disk I/O which can restrict the performance of enterprise applications. WFT recommends that companies consolidating their SAP servers need to be careful as other applications with lot I/O can cause performance bottleneck.

It is really about balancing all those resources with what you have, just to make sure that you don't end up with bottlenecks. Therefore it is highly recommended to have a complete SAP Landscape virtualization assessment to properly transition customers to virtualization world.

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