



HP Insight Dynamics - VSE for continuous consolidation

There's a genuine fear with virtualisation that any gains are quickly lost, as resources and demands grow apart. Yet in reality virtualisation and blade systems are two sides of the same coin. According to industry analysts IDC, virtual servers are growing at over four times the rate of physical servers. The key is managing the way you virtualise.

Moving from a physical server environment to a virtualised environment is an important requirement for datacentres today. The need to make better use of server resources, while reducing energy budgets, are just two of the key drivers in this move. But the planning and management of the move is no easy task, nor is it a one shot deal.

Adding to the challenge, the virtualised environment will co-exist with the physical for some time to come. This duality of environments could cause a potentially more complex management situation unless a strategy is employed that manages physical and virtual using the same approach.

To help deal with these scenarios, many vendors already have a comprehensive suite of management tools. However, the move to virtualisation requires more. To provide the features needed to take control of a virtualised architecture, HP has introduced Insight Dynamics - VSE.

By building its proven Integrity Virtual Server Environment (VSE) and Capacity Planning tools into HP Insight Dynamics - VSE, HP has enabled customers to benefit from best-in-class capacity planning and virtualization for a mix of Physical and Virtual Servers on both ProLiant and Integrity platforms – all delivered through a single management interface.

This addresses one of the most complex problems of maximising resource usage - understanding how to match resources to need. In a lot of environments the only way to do this is to rely on experience tinged with a little trial and error. The problem is that, once done, it is left alone unless there is real pressure to change.

Unfortunately, this means the gains from virtualisation end up being limited. Early gains get eroded over time as they are static and not improving as your environment changes. Part of HP Insight Dynamics - VSE is the ability to do 'what-if' analysis. This allows you to keep your resource utilisation high while achieving the best match of Virtual Machine (VM) to available hardware.

You start by creating logical servers. These are server profiles that hold information about the requirements of that server. The important thing here is to understand that the profile is server and not application based.

To build a profile of resource demand, you need data. Using the built in capacity planner, you can collect historical resource usage on any server. This data can then be used as part of the logical server profile to enable an accurate match between demand and available resources.

What then happens is that the "what-if" capability matches the logical server with the available resource pool. But it's not just taking one logical server, it's working with a whole range of logical servers. This means that it can give you a constant view on how to make the best use of your resources.

Only when you are happy with the modeling do you then move your servers around. This can either be done manually or by using the automation inside your virtualisation tools. HP Insight Dynamics - VSE offers you a number of advantages over other vendor's tools.

The advantages of HP - Insight Dynamics VSE:

- Any data created and used to build a profile (capacity planning data) is retained by you, on your site and under your control
- You can set a wide range of resource constraints, including power usage on the physical hardware to ensure energy costs never outweigh the server consolidation
- It can be deployed to your operations centre staff so there is no disconnect between high level planning and operational delivery
- What-if analysis can be run on a nightly, weekly or monthly basis to see how your datacentre is evolving
- HP - Insight Dynamics VSE becomes part of your ITSM story and not just another bolt-on tool that works in isolation

Making the best use of resources and minimising power demands is a key criteria inside the datacentre today. With HP Insight Dynamics - VSE you can now keep your virtual infrastructure under constant review to ensure that you are getting the best out of your assets.