Virtualization

I. Introduction to Virtualization
II. Virtual Appliances
III. Benefits to Virtualization
IV. Virtualization Products
An Introduction to Virtualization

What is ‘Virtualization’?

Technique for hiding the physical characteristics of computing resources from the way other systems, applications or end users interact with them.

Two common functions:

- Making multiple physical resources appear to function as a single logical resource
  
  We’ve see this before…

- Making a single physical resource appear to function as multiple logical resources

  We’ll talk about this today…

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtualization
An Introduction to Virtualization

What is a ‘Virtual Machine (VM)’?

Implementation of a machine that executes programs as if it were a real machine

Separated into two categories:

- **Process Virtual Machine**
  Runs as a normal application inside an operating system to abstract away the details of the underlying hardware

- **System Virtual Machine**
  Allows multiplexing (time sharing) of the underlying hardware between different operating systems

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_machine
Virtual Machines

Process Virtual Machines

Designed to provide a platform-independent environment to a single process (i.e., program)

The environment is created when its associated process is started and destroyed when that process exits

Allows program to execute in the same way regardless of the physical platform it is running on

Implemented using an interpreter

The programmer's code is NOT compiled, but the interpreter requires compilation before providing the processing environment

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_machine
Virtual Machines

System Virtual Machines

Designed to provide a complete platform which can support the execution of multiple, and different, operating systems

Allows for time-sharing of underlying hardware between virtual machines

Think of a scheduler that works on operating systems rather than processes

Operating Systems remain isolated from one another

The Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) provided by the virtual machine can be different from that of the real machine

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_machine
Virtual Machines

System Virtual Machines

Implemented through the use of a **Virtual Machine Monitor (VMM)** also-known-as a Hypervisor

Two classifications of Hypervisors:

- **Native** (Hardware-Level): software runs directly on top of a given hardware platform as a control program for operating systems

- **Hosted** (OS-Level): software runs within an operating system environment as a control program for other operating systems

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtualization
Virtual Machines

Native System Virtual Machines

Is where virtualization began… In the time of the mainframe

IBM developed the first Native Hypervisor in the 1960s although ‘hypervisor’ hadn’t entered the lexicon yet…

They called it CP/CMS and it consisted of two main components

- **Control Program** (CP)
  Which served to create the virtual machine environment for instances of

- **Cambridge Monitor System** (CMS)
  A lightweight single-user OS

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<tr>
<th>App</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guest OS 1</td>
<td>Guest OS 2</td>
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<td>Hardware</td>
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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypervisor
Virtual Machines

Hosted System Virtual Machines

- Virtual Machine Monitor layer is moved one level higher as compared to Native VMs
- Runs within a Host operating system environment
- An operating system is installed first; as usual, on top of Hardware
- A Virtual Machine Monitor is then installed within the Host OS
- Guest operating systems can be installed on top of the VMM layer
- Host OS sees the VMM as a process
- VMM controls the allocation of time between Guest OSes
- Guest is segregated from the rest of the environment
Emulation or Simulation in Hosted System Virtual Machines

Virtual Machine provides a “guest” OS the hardware environment it expects

**Advantage:** Guest Software need not be modified

**Disadvantage:** Must pay Performance Penalty

Software is unaware that it is really talking to a virtualized device

Each interaction between Guest device driver with the emulated device hardware requires transaction with VMM

The real hardware does its job as usual

But the VMM must now translate the result back to the guest

Paravirtualization

Application Programming Interface (API) is provided to the Guest OS by the VMM so they guest may utilize the hardware

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<th>Advantage</th>
<th>Better Performance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Disadvantage</td>
<td>Guest software must be modified to use API</td>
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Guest interacts with VMM at a higher level of abstraction

Instead of supplying the specifics of how to use the hardware, software provides general requests to the VMM

Decreases the number of interactions between Guest and VMM for a specific operation

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Virtual Appliance

Virtual Appliance is a virtual machine prepackaged with the necessary components to serve its intended purpose.

Aimed to eliminate the installation, configuration and maintenance costs associated with complex stacks of software.

For instance

LAMP Appliances (Linux + Apache + MySQL + PHP)

Traditional Environment

VM Environment

http://www.vmware.com/appliances/directory/465
Virtual Appliance

Media Wiki

Software that runs wikipedia.org
Freely available to organizations
Packaged as a Virtual Appliance by www.rPath.com
Uses a Just Enough Operating System (JeOS) that installs within supported VMM
And includes all other necessary software packages
TRULY a Turn-Key system

Lets take a quick look if we aren’t behind schedule:
http://www.vmware.com/appliances/
Step 1: Install Vmware's Player available from vmware.com and open the MediaWiki Virtual Machine (originally from rpath.com)
Virtual Appliance

Step 2: Opening the Virtual Appliance
Virtual Appliance

Step 3: Just enough Operating System loading (Red Hat variant) and booting
Virtual Appliance

Step 4: Configuration of MediaWiki through web interface
Virtual Appliance

Step 4: Configuration of MediaWiki through web interface
Virtual Appliance

Having some fun

While it may seem off-topic, but it is the point of a virtual appliance: using your time to manage the application and not the system software.
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Benefits to Virtualization

Cost Benefit

Traditional production servers (physical box) run a single application
Utilization of hardware by that appliance estimated at 5-10%
Reduction of physical assets reduces substantial expenses
  - Cost of hardware,
  - Data center footprint,
  - Electricity, and
  - others
Virtualization allows for consolidation of appliances at ratios between 10:1 and 20:1 (perhaps closer to 2:1 for general purpose servers)

http://youtube.com/watch?v=MnNX13yBzAU&feature=related
Benefits to Virtualization

Cost Benefit continued…

Man Hour Reduction too:

Instantiation of new virtual machine requires just minutes

As compared to the “old fashioned way” involving
- Sourcing of new hardware (purchasing and installation)
- Installation of Operating System, Patching
- Installation of relevant Applications
- Testing
Benefits to Virtualization

Operational Benefits

Automation of Installation process from OS to Applications
(i.e., Appliances)

Isolation (Sandboxing)
- Program Development and Testing
- Beneficial for running un-trusted Operating Systems or
- Un-trusted Applications

Provide legacy system support without allocating physical resources

Teaching environment for classes such as these

Check-pointing
The state of the machine can be saved, paused, restarted, even migrated to another machine
Outline

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Originated as a University of Cambridge Project
Project led to founding of XenSource, Inc.
Acquired by Citrix in October 2007 for $500 Million

Products include:
- Citrix XenServer (Free)
  A free starter package for bringing virtualization to every server
- Citrix XenDesktop
  On-demand Windows desktop anywhere
- Citrix Essentials for XenServer
  Advanced server virtualization with multi-server management

Xen.org open source Xen hypervisor

Xen hypervisor

Requires modification to Kernel of pre-installed OS

Modification installs Xen VMM just above the hardware (Native System Virtual Machine)

Xen boots from boot-loader (GRUB) and then loads the modified Host OS into the privileged domain (Dom0)

Administrator can use Host OS to install and then start guest OSs in the unprivileged domain (DomU)

Some commercial implementations (including Citrix, Oracle/Sun, etc.)

Scary moment during installation of Guest OS

However, taking a closer look Xen is doing it’s job
Xen

Sandbox Machine running Xen Linux Kernel

Virtualized CentOS environment within original Operating System
VMware

Proprietary virtualization software developer
x86-compatible architectures only
Both Desktop and Server space software packages:

**Desktop:**

VMware Workstation (orig. 1999) allowed users to run multiple x86 operating systems

VMware Fusion is the Mac-Intel platform product

Free: VMware Player allows users to run but not create VMs

**Server:**

VMware ESX Server is an Enterprise marketed product

Free: VMware Server is the less optimized, freeware version

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/vmware
Vmware Player

Commands
- Open: Browse for available virtual machines. When you select a virtual machine, it opens in this VMware Player window.
- Download: Download a virtual appliance from VMware Virtual Appliance Marketplace. You can then open it in VMware Player.

Recent Virtual Machines
- Mediawiki

Featured Virtual Appliance
- StillSecure Cobia:

  Cobia, a Unified Network Platform, delivers critical network and security functions through a flexible delivery platform.
Vmware Server
Other Technologies

OpenVZ
server virtualization

Xen

Parallels™

Virtual Server 2005 R2
Enterprise Edition

Virtual PC

VMware Fusion 3
The Best Way to Run Windows on Your Mac

Mac-on-Linux
Kevin Kettler, CTO Dell on virtualization
http://youtube.com/watch?v=nDiM19KShAA (10 minutes)

Dan Chu, Sr. Dir of Products VMware on cost/benefit of Virtualization
http://youtube.com/watch?v=MnNX13yBzAU&feature=related (4 minutes)

Dell Tech Center: Removes Blade from server and watches VMware recover
http://youtube.com/watch?v=ZUtmogrGnTQ&feature=related (2 minutes)

Wikipedia: Virtualization, Virtual Machine and Virtual Appliance
www.wikipedia.org

The Complete Reference: Fedora 7 & Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Chapter 33

Citrix: www.citrix.com

VirtualBox: www.virtualbox.org

Vmware: www.vmware.com