I. Introduction to Virtualization

II. Virtual Appliances

III. Benefits to Virtualization

IV. Example 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
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

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

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

Emulation or Simulation in Hosted System Virtual Machines

Virtual Machine provides a “guest” OS the (simulated) 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 for the guest

Virtual Machines

Paravirtualization

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

**Advantage:** Better Performance

**Disadvantage:** Guest OS must be modified to use API

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

Containers (OS virtualization)

Instead of virtualizing the hardware, run multiple virtual instances of same OS on single hardware

**Advantage:** Best Performance / Scalability, Ease of Admin.

**Disadvantage:** Only virtualizes copies of same OS

Single kernel means very low overhead (1..3%) compared to standalone server.

Containers provide isolation between processes, appear as separate OS.

Examples: Solaris Containers/Zones, FreeBSD Jails, OpenVZ, Linux-VServer

Outline

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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)**

- **Apache**
- **php**
- **MySQL**
- **Linux**
- **Hardware**

**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
Uses a minimal OS 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/
http://www.turnkeylinux.org/all
Virtual Appliance

**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 5-15%

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)
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
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Xen

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

and more...

Xen.org open source Xen hypervisor (behind Amazon Web Services, etc)
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
- **VMware Player** allows users to run but not create VMs

**Server:**

- **VMware ESXi** is an Enterprise marketed product
- **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

Parallels™

Xen™

KVM

VMware Fusion

Windows Server™ 2008

Hyper-V™

Microsoft Virtual Server 2005 R2

Virtual PC

Oracle VirtualBox