

Customer Success Story

STANDARD CHARTERED JERSEY

Standard Chartered Jersey – Protecting the past and building for a greener future

Standard Chartered Jersey faced an interesting dilemma. They needed to capture an aging system that was still required for historical data but move it from the front line as the unsupported operating system and older hardware made the application vulnerable and difficult to support. With limited data centre capacity and growing environmental concerns the Bank was also keen to understand how the move to a virtual environment could help to reduce both their physical and their carbon footprint.

“We needed to mothball the application but retain access and support. VMware ESX allowed us to “freeze” the application and therefore migrate the support burden from application specialists to infrastructure support providing both cost savings and reducing the risks of maintaining legacy applications.” – said Rob Barton (Head of Technology, Standard Chartered Jersey) who went on to say, “With rack space at a premium and power and cooling for lightly used servers both contributing unnecessarily to our carbon footprint, we recognised that server virtualisation offered us the opportunity to address our environmental concerns at the same time as meeting critical business needs.”

Standard Chartered Jersey had been tracking the growth of server virtualisation and in particular VMware ESX Server and felt that this could possibly offer an ideal solution to their immediate issue.

“The prospect of being able to capture a system that was still required and remove its core vulnerabilities seemed to offer us the ideal solution. VMware’s prevalence in the market was a commanding argument, but the solution had to be right for us.” – said Trevor Buesnel, (Technical Manager, Standard Chartered Jersey).

One of the major drawbacks to pursuing this technology was the dearth of available expertise to implement the solution in line with strategic aims.

“We needed to partner with a supplier who could not only supply and install VMware but one who had experience of the whole process of change and how this would affect our environment and who would ensure the project was a success.” stated Rob Barton. He added “Equally we were well aware that this represented the opportunity to introduce a new technology that could have significant strategic importance, therefore we also required a partner who would work with us to maximise the potential it presented.”

Standard Chartered Jersey selected virtustream as the partner of choice to take them through this transition and period of discovery. Rob Barton continued “We selected virtustream based on their experience, reputation and enthusiasm and they also demonstrated a thorough understanding of our needs from the outset.”

The project was coinciding with the implementation of a new Storage Area Network solution and therefore provided Standard Chartered Jersey with the opportunity to exploit the potential of a SAN based solution utilising VMware ESX Server.

The solution comprised of four VMware ESX Host systems based on IBM x3850 servers

Results

- Coherent design and roadmap for implementation and leverage of virtualisation technologies
- Secure and resilient containment for aging but required services
- Reduction in environmental impact, carbon footprint reduction and on going reduction in utility requirements
- Provide a dynamic containment area for the provision of future servers
- Improve operational efficiency by enabling a more rapid and efficient deployment framework
- Higher function and simplified disaster recovery facilities utilising SAN to SAN replication
- Investigation and advice regarding the wider benefits of virtualisation

Solution Summary

- Strategic design vision via VIIS® service leading to;
- 4 Host solution utilising VMware Vi3 Enterprise
- High availability with enterprise class server platform from IBM x3850's with links into VMware Virtual Center via Virtual Machine Manager for host monitoring and dynamic avoidance action plans
- Disaster Recovery capabilities with site to site failover for key services utilising SAN to SAN replication

and VMware Virtual Center server to provide the systems management. Two were dedicated to front line duties and two for disaster recovery. The existing system was converted from its physical presentation into a virtual equivalent (P2V) and was contained within the SAN platform. The ability of Vmotion (dynamic placement of the virtual machine from one host to another) enabled high availability of the application. It was at this stage that the expansion of the platform began. “The project had delivered its main objective of securing the information system but we were now in the position to exploit the ability of VMware by considering other virtualisation candidates.” stated Rob Barton.

The second phase captured the fringe services that were not running on enterprise class hardware and moved them into the virtualisation platform. This removed an element of risk by having high availability built into the underlying solution rather than needing point solutions and doubling of hardware resources. This was quickly followed by “middleware” servers operating on the Windows 2003 Server platform.

One area that Standard Chartered was anxious to exploit was the additional benefits that VMware offered in the area of testing and development. Rob Barton explained “The need to test changes to systems and infrastructure carries significant importance within the financial sector but this can be a lengthy and complex process to complete. VMware offers us the ability to more accurately simulate our live services and complete testing more reliably and in greatly reduced times. The end result is significantly improved IT delivery”.

Concluding on the benefits, Standard Chartered is now able to take advantage of;

- High availability delivered at an infrastructure level as standard
- Containment area for new servers
- Rapid deployment for services
- High function development and testing platform
- Productivity gains
- Protection for aging but critical systems
- Reduced physical footprint
- Reduced carbon footprint

On the project as a whole Rob Barton stated “From the very beginning of the engagement, virtustream’s enthusiasm was infectious but this did not dilute their professionalism or attention to detail. Our immediate requirement was quickly met but it was the partnering that for us delivered the most benefits. We now have a team internally who understand the technology and are pioneering its productive use within the Bank. The solution really delivers the virtual infrastructure that virtustream presented at the first conceptual meetings between the two companies.”

For more information on how VIIS® and VEDI™ strategy formalisation services can transform your organisation’s infrastructure

Contact:

Virtustream

t: 0870 120 5506

f: 0870 120 5507

info@virtustream.com

www.virtustream.com

For more information:

Standard Chartered

www.standardchartered.com

Please visit our case study library where you can read about all our customer success stories

www.virtustream.com