



Virtualisation as an Enabler of Knowledge Management

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Summary

iReach Research reveals that a quarter of European firms are currently using server virtualisation and 67% of users plan to increase their usage over the next year. This is due to shifting trends towards virtualised relationships and the associated benefits which include reduced cost, alleviation of geographical and cultural barriers and more efficient time and resource allocation. IT has facilitated the growth of virtualisation which iReach predict will be a significant element in future economic developments in Ireland.

iReach Analysis

iReach forecast significant improvements in virtualisation technology over the next two years due to developments in resource management and distributed-resource and the growing prominence of workload management and distributed-workload management solutions within enterprises.

iReach note that the essential core of this economic infrastructure lies in human capital and innovation through the strategic use of disparate technology resources via virtualisation. The primary reasons for using virtualisation technology as a core element in server consolidation projects are based on three drivers:

- 1) Greater flexibility in use of systems architecture resources;
- 2) Improved application isolation and availability; and
- 3) The ability to meet the changing requirements for systems resources and capacities.

iReach believe that the potential arises for a new architecture in data virtualisation based on three fundamental IT trends: The Growth in Server Capacity; the growth in network capacity and reach; and the trend to service-oriented architecture (SOA).

Key Takeaways

- **67% of European firms plan to increase their server virtualisation usage over the next year.**
- **iReach believes that basic server capability will equip firms' data centres for more advanced utility computing technologies**
- **Virtualisation enables a server to become a valuable strategic tool in enhancing the agility and competitiveness of the business.**

Virtualisation creates a web of synergy that binds people through the dynamic of market knowledge and the inherent demand for flexibility and need for innovation. Virtualisation acts as an enabler as it alleviates barriers and facilitates the flow of information.

iReach research reveal that developing efficient/flexible infrastructure is a primary aim for CIOs and virtualisation is a key step along this path. Virtualisation enables a server to become a valuable strategic tool in enhancing the agility and competitiveness of the business. It allows a single server to run more jobs at the same time via a virtual foundation and these jobs can more easily be moved from one computer to another. iReach believes that basic server capability will equip firms' data centres for more advanced utility computing technologies, including automated configuration and distributed workload management.

New infrastructure technologies like server virtualisation and automated server patch management have already achieved good investment and visibility levels. Research reveals that a quarter of European firms are currently using server virtualisation and 67% of user plan to increase their usage over the next year.

iReach believe that organisations should consider the following points when launching server virtualisation:

- Plan for a staggered approach and prepare for any future steps relating to storage virtualisation, automated configuration management and virtualised network resources.
- Initiate planning towards automated configuration and data centre automation which will lay the foundation for future flexibility.
- Develop a migration road map for the IT organisation that matches the technology migration planning.

Conclusions & Related Research

iReach predict that virtualisation will be a major contributor in enabling IT to drive the knowledge economy as it not only improves resource utilisation and reduces cost but it is universally adaptive in building and maintaining virtual environments. iReach predict that there will be a shift to virtualised relationships due to technological innovation that will reduce costs, alleviate geographical and cultural barriers and facilitate more efficient time and resource allocation. IT innovations such as server virtualisation will enable more effective and efficient knowledge management that will change modern business relationships and networks.

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