

TREND WATCH



4 things you should know about device management in a mixed virtual/physical world

We all know that today's virtualization vendors are touting the potential cost savings associated with a move to virtualization. But let's take a close look at the total cost of ownership (TCO) gains that can be realistically achieved. Consider the following four points that any IT manager should think about:

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1. Management of a virtualized environment is similar yet different than management of physical devices. There is a danger of not realizing the cost savings virtualization promises if you have to add new management tools, create new and complex processes, and add head count.

The fact is there are many different ways to do virtualization. For at least the next 10-12 years, most businesses will have mixed physical and virtual IT infrastructure. If you have to add special management tools, new processes, people skills, and so on to accommodate virtualization, you wipe out any TCO gains associated with the move. By understanding this, and trying to use existing people, processes, and tools, you can achieve TCO gains. A common solution for both physical and virtual assets will go further in helping you meet your goals.

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