

# INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES BENEFIT FROM COST SAVINGS THROUGH SERVER VIRTUALISATION AND SIMPLIFIED MANAGEMENT WITH HP BLADESYSTEM.

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) is a leading global organisation for research, teaching and communications on international development.

The Institute is home to approximately 100 researchers, 70 knowledge services staff, 65 support staff and about 200 students at any one time. But the IDS community extends to a worldwide development network.

## Project Summary

**Industry:**  
International Development Research

## Challenges:

- Existing SAN platform approaching end of life
- Insufficient storage for increasing user base needs
- Expanding backup volumes, including video
- Consolidation of server estate

## Solution:

- HP 2012i MSA
- HP Proliant BL460 Blade System
- HP BLc3000 Enclosure
- VMware Infrastructure 3 with Virtual Center

## Benefits:

- Ease of installation and migration from existing platform
- Significant cost savings with centralised storage platform
- Simplified administration and ongoing management
- Reduced power and cooling requirement

System Professional working as an HP 2009 Gold Partner



System Professional working as a VMware Enterprise Partner



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## Project Overview

System Professional initially approached David Beaven, IDS Head of Computing and Technical Services, to assist with an internal storage review project. The existing Dot Hill Fibre Channel SAN was at full capacity and approaching end of life.

In addition, the current system was proving to be problematic with backup regimes, which were taking around 23 hours to complete. IDS were also looking to introduce a new virtual environment, so the proposed solution needed to be compatible.

**"I was impressed by the knowledge and experience of the technical team, which gave me great confidence and reassurance in their abilities."**

David Beaven, Head of Computing and Technical Services

IDS had considered direct attached storage for some applications but considered that there would be significant savings from having a centralised storage platform – in terms of both cost and time gained from simplifying the storage structure.

As David adds "We were actively looking at other storage platforms and due to our relationship with HP it was a natural choice to consider them for a SAN platform. System Professional approached us and once we realised their skills and expertise they became a natural candidate. We broadened the scope to discuss virtualisation technologies and server blade infrastructure."

## Solution

Due to the array of technologies under review and breadth of project scope, System Professional organised a full day TechWorkshop exercise at IDS to fully understand the existing systems and infrastructure, fully document the client requirements and discuss options available.

This exercise involved a System Professional project management team, along with the key stakeholders from IDS.

David was reassured by this approach and the prior planning. "I was impressed by the knowledge and experience of the System Professional technical team, which gave me great confidence and reassurance in their abilities."

Based in East Sussex, System Professional help businesses resolve technology challenges around virtualisation planning, data growth and storage, high availability of key systems and disaster recovery.

As a VMware Enterprise Partner and HP Gold Partner, with a further Storage Specialisation, System Professional was ideally positioned to help IDS.

After the initial consulting TechWorkshop, System Professional carried out a VMware Capacity Planner exercise at IDS. This report was then reviewed, validated and presented to IDS, detailing the existing server estate and the proposed new virtual infrastructure.

David felt the implementation was a success and described how "Once the project plan was created it became apparent that the virtualisation process could be used to remove a Microsoft file cluster and migrate the data straight into the VMware environment in one step. This saved a significant amount of time for the migration project."

Another key benefit was simplification of the storage platform. David explained how "Our existing fibre channel architecture has been replaced by iSCSI which has simplified the process and reduced the cost of adding additional server capacity.

Disparate servers running a number of applications have been unified under a fault tolerant architecture and a windows file cluster has also been removed, again reducing the complexity of the environment."

There were also immediate commercial benefits to IDS, since new and existing server applications will be virtualised as and when appropriate. The HP Blade infrastructure will make the addition of new capacity very easy to achieve and result in a reduced power and cooling capacity requirement.



### About System Professional

Formed in 2003, System Professional Ltd is a fully accredited VMware Enterprise Partner and HP Gold Partner with a dedicated focus on advanced virtualisation technologies and support services.

With a Head Office in East Sussex, System Professional supports a customer base across the UK. For more information go to [www.sys-pro.co.uk](http://www.sys-pro.co.uk)



### About IDS

IDS was founded in 1966 and enjoys an international reputation based on the quality of its work and its commitment to applying academic skills to real world challenges.

Its purpose is to understand and explain the world, and to try to change it – to influence as well as to inform. For more information go to [www.ids.ac.uk](http://www.ids.ac.uk)



### About VMware

VMware (NYSE: VMW) is the global leader in virtualisation solutions from the desktop to the datacenter—bringing cloud computing to businesses of all sizes. Headquartered in Palo Alto, California, VMware is majority-owned by EMC Corporation (NYSE: EMC).

For more information go to [www.vmware.com](http://www.vmware.com)