

Sony Italia

Sony Italia needed to maintain performance and reliability on its aging, local server infrastructure. But a continual increase in the volume of data and the number of users, coupled with a limited budget, posed a significant challenge. Sony employed SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server with built-in Xen virtualization and used PlateSpin® Migrate from NetIQ to virtualize 12 physical servers with minimal production downtime.

Overview

Sony Corporation, a global company, produces a vast array of advanced electronic technologies. Sony employs approximately 147,000 people worldwide and Sony Italia, headquartered in Milan, employs approximately 250 people.

Challenge

When Sony Europe placed most of its IT infrastructure into two data centres in the UK, Sony Italia opted to keep its own local server infrastructure. Sony Italia wanted to ensure excellent performance on its country-specific systems and wanted to be able to easily maintain them. However, continual increases in stored data and the number of users eventually put significant pressure on the 30 local servers,

resulting in reduced performance and reliability. Sony Italia also needed to abate rising heat output and electricity consumption in the local data centre. But with the available budget, replacing all 30 servers was out of the question. Server virtualization was the ideal solution. It enabled Sony Italia to refresh its local computing infrastructure in a much more compact, efficient and cost-effective physical form

Solution

In its initial virtualization efforts, finding the cost of VMware licences to be too high, Sony Italia began working to create a solution based on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with built-in Xen virtualization. Sony Italia discovered that by adding SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension they would have a very resilient solution. “We were already using Linux alongside some commercial UNIX systems and it was very compelling to be able to deploy a Linux distribution with built-in virtualization at no extra cost,” said Paolo Barna, Manager, Operations & Security Systems, Sony Italia. “SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension gave us powerful clustering tools to make sure that the new virtualized environment would be extremely reliable.”

“PlateSpin Migrate simplified the creation of the new virtualized server environment and reduced the potential risk of disruption.”

PAOLA BARNA

Manager, Operations & Security Systems
Sony Italia



SONY

At a Glance

■ Industry

Electronics

■ Location

Milan, Italy

■ Challenge

To increase network reliability and performance, Sony Italia needed to virtualize some of its servers.

■ Solution

Use PlateSpin Migrate to simplify the migration from the old physical infrastructure to the new physical and virtual servers.

■ Results

- + Provided an easy-to-use interface
- + Enabled live migrations of active production systems
- + Migrated 12 physical servers to two virtualized servers

“It provides an easy-to-use interface, so the whole process was really fast and painless.”

PAOLA BARNA

Manager, Operations & Security Systems
Sony Italia

www.netiq.com

Results

Sony Italia replaced 12 old physical servers with only two new servers running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server in a high-availability cluster. The two new servers host more than 12 Linux and Windows virtual servers. In normal conditions, the workload is balanced across the two new physical servers to ensure optimal performance. If a problem occurs on one of the physical servers, the other automatically takes over the full virtual workload until the fault is fixed. Sony Italia used PlateSpin Migrate to simplify the migration from the old physical

infrastructure to the new physical and virtual servers. PlateSpin Migrate enabled live migrations of active production systems, minimizing business disruption and accelerating the process. “PlateSpin Migrate simplified the creation of the new virtualized server environment and reduced the potential risk of disruption,” said Barna. “It provides an easy-to-use interface, so the whole process was really fast and painless.” Sony Italia plans to use PlateSpin Migrate and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server Xen virtualization to replace 10 additional physical servers.



Denmark

+45 45 16 00 20

France

+33 1 55 70 30 13

Germany

+49 89 42094 0

Italy

+39 02 366 349 00

Netherlands

+31 172 50 55 55

Poland

+48 22 537 5000

Portugal

+55 11 3627-0900

Spain

+34 91 640 25 25

Sweden

+46 8 752 25 00

NetIQ

Worldwide Headquarters

Houston, Texas

713 548 1700

888 323 6768

www.netiq.com