

VKernel Case Study: Berry College



Industry: Education

Challenge

Berry College needed to accurately control, monitor, and chargeback resources in real-time after completing a VMware virtualization project.

Solution

Using the VKernel Chargeback Virtual Appliance to increase efficiency and accuracy of resource measurement and forecasting, Berry College has an accurate chargeback for virtualization sustainability.

VKernel at Work

The VKernel Chargeback Virtual Appliance allows IT to provide its end-user departments with instant reports about resource consumption and how much it costs.

Deployment Environment

- VKernel Chargeback Virtual Appliance
- VMware ESX Server on Proliant DL585
- VMware Virtual Center on Proliant DL385
- Operating systems: Windows 2003, Windows 2000, RedHat, CentOS, Ubuntu, Ruby, Debian
- Applications: ERP (SQL), web services (IIS), Blackberry, Feith, Remedy, Altiris, Active Directory, SQL 2000 and 2005, CBORD (food services), financial aid, student services portal, campus security

“If you are looking for a way to make more efficient use of your virtual environment and have not implemented some form of chargeback methodology in your environment, you must look at VKernel. The VKernel Chargeback Virtual Appliance will immediately help increase your VMware return on investment (ROI). Once VKernel is deployed with correct and appropriate data, we had the most detailed report on the status of our resources within mere minutes. VKernel is an imperative, must-have for any data center or virtual environment.”

-William Souder, Director of Network Operations/Information Security Officer, Berry College

Berry College

Founded in 1902 by Martha Berry, Berry College is a private liberal arts college located in Floyd County, just north of Rome, Ga. The college is recognized as one of the outstanding comprehensive colleges in the South. With approximately 1650 students and 28,000 acres of north Georgia hill country, Berry College's campus is the largest contiguous college campus in the world and has approximately 1650 enrolled students.

In 2006, Berry College's Network Operations department was tasked with redesigning its core datacenter, which included a server virtualization project based on VMware. Upon completion, it became immediately apparent that there was a need to effectively and accurately measure how much resources were being used, how to forecast resources usage, how much to charge individual departments, and how to sustain the model. With the power to now provision servers in about a tenth of the time, the general perception was that the virtual environment must be more cost effective. However, the project was a large investment for Berry College, which also required measuring ROI and recovering costs of the VMware infrastructure.

“With the VKernel Chargeback Virtual Appliance, we loaded it, plugged in our numbers and particulars for our environment and appliances, and we were up and running in just 20 minutes – manually this process was taking five people more than eight months,” said Souder. “VKernel has revolutionized the way we plan and provision our virtual resources, giving us and other departments a greater respect for our resources.”

VKernel's real-time views are providing Berry College's Network Operations group with critical cost visibility and chargeback on actual resource utilization, significantly cutting costs, inefficiencies, and the collection of erroneous data.

Results

- Easy-to-deploy virtual appliance model delivers immediate problem-solving results
- Accurately measuring resource consumption (CPU, memory, storage, network)
- Instant, easy-to-read reports about resource consumption and how much it costs
- Eliminated a manual process by reducing the efforts of 5 people over 8 months to the push of a button
- Delivering a greater understanding of Berry College's VMware environment and time to ROI

