

## Virtualization—Putting It All Together

Over the past month or so, All Covered has posted multiple articles regarding virtualization. A few articles focused on the big picture—discussing virtualization in general. Other articles concentrated on the three different types of virtualization: server, desktop and application. Several other articles focused on virtualization architecture—drafting your virtualization plans. This article, last in the current series, will focus on some final key points to keep in mind as you adopt the right virtualization solutions for your business.

### Things to Consider

- **Assess your business's virtualization needs.** As with any technology, it's important to know what your business needs and identify how the proposed solution, in this case virtualization, will benefit your business.
- **Choose the best virtualization solution.** Just because you can virtualize everything from the servers to workstations to applications doesn't mean that you should. Be careful to select the virtualization solutions that meet your business's unique IT needs.
- **Define user needs.** Understand how people use the computers, servers and other IT devices in your business. This will help you make a list of required features your virtualization solution should have.
- **Identify users that will need to use the virtualization solution.** Choosing the best virtualization solution should take into account which users will use virtualization solutions. Will everyone in your small business need these solutions? Does anyone work remotely? Will they be accessing the solutions by smartphone? As described in previous articles, different user needs require different virtualization solutions.

- **Define system security needs.** IT network security can be impacted by a chosen virtualization solution. Depending on which virtual solutions you choose, your firewall and perimeter security may need to be modified.
- **Plan your backups.** Virtualized systems may need to be backed-up differently than non-virtualized system. The total amount of backed-up data may increase or decrease, depending upon your chosen virtualization solution.
- **Determine your uptime needs.** If your business requires that your virtualized system must have high availability as part of its solution, make sure that your software and hardware will support it.
- **Create a realistic budget.** Choosing the best virtualization solutions for your business may be costly. Keep in mind that you might have to purchase hardware and other applications to support the virtualization process. Also, keep in mind that you should not “go cheap.” The best virtualization solutions might cost more, but you are guaranteed to get a trustworthy product that will meet your business’s needs.

## Follow-up

Regardless of which virtualization solution you choose for your small business, keep in mind the above key points before you commit time or money. Whether you only need some advice or a complete virtualization plan and installation, please contact the virtualization experts at All Covered at 866-446-1133.