

Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: AUG 27 2012
From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Information and Technology (005A)
Subj: Server Virtualize First Policy (VAIQ 7266972)
To: See Attached List

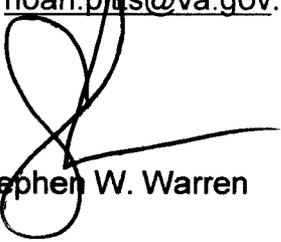
1. Virtualization of server hardware for IT systems significantly benefits our organization. They include:
 - a. More efficient use of hardware resources – increase utilization from 5% on average to over 50%.
 - b. Ability to stand up new systems much faster – rather than requiring a full hardware procurement cycle, virtual systems can potentially be turned over to customers in minutes helping to keep projects on schedule.
 - c. Built in High Availability – virtualization farms are designed to be fault tolerant and can provide higher availability at lower cost than traditional physical deployments.
 - d. Ability to augment configuration as necessary – virtual resources can be increased on the fly which is rarely an option in traditional deployments.
 - e. Provides flexible options for disaster recovery – ability to recover applications on dislike systems and even potentially to external providers.
2. Virtualization of systems is a foundational step to implementing the Federal “Cloud First” strategy and VA Draft Directive 6517.
3. I am directing that all new server requirements be virtualized, based on the Technical Reference Model (TRM) and Release Architecture standards.
 - a. All internally developed applications shall be designed to run in virtual environments without need for modification.
 - b. All new procurements shall require any included applications to be fully supported on virtualized platforms.
 - c. As existing systems reach their end of useful life, they are to be migrated to virtualized platforms rather than a direct hardware replacement.

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d. Where feasible, all current non-virtualized applications should be scheduled for virtualization re-platforming as staff and infrastructure resources allow.

4. If it is believed that a requirement cannot be virtualized, a waiver request should be submitted to the attention of Chris Shorter, Executive Director, Enterprise Operations, Service Delivery and Engineering.

5. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 202-461-6910 or have a member of your staff contact Noah Pitts in Enterprise Systems Engineering at (828) 298-7911 x15338 or noah.pitts@va.gov.



Stephen W. Warren

cc:

DAS for Information Security (005R)
DAS for Information Technology Resource Management (005F)
DCIO for Architecture, Strategy, and Design (005E)
DCIO for Product Development (005Q)
DCIO for Service, Delivery and Engineering (005OP)
Executive Director for Quality, Performance, and Oversight (005X)
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