

Reduce your computer costs by 75% (Part Deux)

Yes, it is true! You can reduce your computing costs by 75%.

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If it wasn't, Microsoft would not have jumped on the platform created by NComputing and developed a new licensing package called Multipoint Server 2010.

Plainly speaking, NComputing is to desktop computing what virtualization is to the server. That is: doing more with less to access and utilize unused capacity efficiently and cost effectively.

Virtualization is the ability to partition a server's CPU memory and reserve it for various applications. That way you can have more users accessing the system, as well as preventing one program, for brief periods of time, from bogging down the system because it is downloading a mega file. In essence, virtualization eliminates the first-come, first-serve aspect of computing and manages the available resources.

NComputing applies this same principle at the desktop level, achieving the same results. Microsoft agrees and has developed a network application that works in conjunction with NComputing's vSpace desktop virtualization software.

Take a moment to visit the NComputing website and watch the video to see what Rheem Elementary School is doing in Moraga, Calif. <http://www.ncomputing.com/wms> In the context of reducing cost, school systems are redefining the de facto configuration regarding computer workstations. From my point of view, we can learn a great deal from a school (without being in school) when it comes to a deployment concept and users. As it says in the video, the savings in electricity alone probably paid for the installation.

What are the advantages of NComputing? I have written about this before, but let's revisit. First any teller application that requires desktop computers can be reduced down to one desktop and six terminals, resulting in huge savings in cost when just considering the number of tellers. Now move into a training room, computer lab, or any configuration where you have multiple users in the same area, let's say a branch! You get the idea.

Realistically, the concept is the same. Accessing and distributing excess capacity in an efficient and cost effective way. More importantly, it is not as complicated as it is easy, but then again, isn't that the job of technologists… to make it easy? If it wasn't so, would Microsoft get involved? Let's Deux it!

About the Author

Dan Fisher is president and CEO of The Copper River Group, a consulting firm headquartered in Fargo, N. D., that focuses on technology and payment systems research and consulting for community financial institutions. For nearly 30 years, Fisher has worked in the financial industry using technology to improve the bottom line. He was CIO of Community First Bankshares (now part of BancWest), has served as a director of the Federal Reserve Board of Minneapolis, the chairman of the American Bankers Association Payment Systems Committee, and was a member of the Independent Community Bankers of America Payments Committee. Fisher has written numerous articles on banking technology and the payments system. He has authored or co-authored six books and recently published a book titled, "Capturing Your Customer! The New Technology of Remote Deposit." You can contact Fisher at dan@copperrivergroup.com.

P.S. To understand Dan's nickname, check out "About the Wombat" on his website, www.copperwombat.com