

Harley-Davidson

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge

To migrate resources into a new datacenter while standardizing on a single virtualization platform.

Solution

Successfully migrated datacenters using VMware vSphere 4, which has increased the efficiency of the new datacenter, allowing for redeployment of one-third of IT resources to higher-value projects. The company has also reduced costs through VMware Thin Provisioning and Hot Add capabilities.

VMware at Work

VMware vSphere™ 4 Enterprise Plus, featuring:

- VMware vMotion™
- VMware Host Profiles
- VMware Storage vMotion
- VMware Hot Add
- VMware vStorage Thin Provisioning
- VMware vCenter™ Standard

Deployment environment

- 45 VMware ESX® 4 hosts
- 660 virtual machines
- 65TB of storage
- Applications: ERP software (SAP, PeopleSoft)

Motorcycle Manufacturer Improves Datacenter Efficiency and Reduces Cost with VMware vSphere

Seeking to standardize on a single virtualization platform as it migrated resources into its new datacenter, Harley-Davidson recently upgraded its virtualization environment to VMware vSphere 4 Enterprise Plus within six weeks. By doing so, Harley-Davidson has increased the overall efficiency of its virtual infrastructure, enabling the IT organization to redeploy more than one-third of its resources to other high-value projects.

During the upgrade, Harley-Davidson relied heavily on VMware Storage vMotion to perform live migration of virtual machine disk files across storage arrays with no interruption in service or disruption to the company's business. The company also used VMware Host Profiles to standardize and simplify the way it configures and manages VMware ESX hosts throughout the company.

Today, Harley-Davidson has virtualized 67 percent of its global technology infrastructure, running 660 virtual machines on 45 ESX hosts worldwide. More than 60 percent of these virtual machines are used in production, and 20 percent of those are running business-critical applications, including SAP and PeopleSoft solutions for financial services. Even the Harley-Davidson.com Web site runs entirely on virtual machines.

Harley-Davidson's IT team is helping to control costs by deploying resources more conservatively and then increasing allocation on the fly using VMware Hot Add. Similarly, Harley-Davidson employs VMware vStorage Thin Provisioning to over-allocate its 65 terabytes of storage, further reducing hardware costs. Harley-Davidson aims to save even more money by using VMware vSphere capabilities such as VMware Distributed Power Management (DPM) and VMware Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS) to save power consumed by ESX hosts when they are not operating at maximum capacity.