

TOPIC: TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY

QUESTION: Why should I use this technology?

“Several things, one is you can run virtual machines, several of them on one physical machine. So, it cuts down on the number of physical machines. You can easily back up a virtual machine, it’s one folder. And, right now, the software I use, you shut it down, back up that folder, start it back up. And, I have an exact copy of that machine. So, it makes it really easy. Say, this physical machine is starting to die, the network card’s going out. All I have to do is shut ‘em all down, move those folders over to a new piece of hardware, start ‘em back up. I don’t have to worry about the other piece of hardware being different, having different network cards, different video cards, different sound cards. It doesn’t matter ‘cause they’re running in a virtual environment. So, to them they’re still running on the same machine. They have no idea that they got moved. So the back up and restoring is really easy. Being able to test upgrades, to be able to test updates to the operating system without affecting your production servers really nice. In the classroom, letting students be able to have something that they can play around with without damaging or messing up the physical piece of hardware is very nice.

If you are teaching a class on computer technology and you want them to install an operating system, there was no way to do it without giving them full access to the physical machine. And they might leave it inoperable after your class, and then the next class coming in they wouldn’t have a machine to use. With virtual technology, they can install an operating system into just a virtual machine which doesn’t affect the physical machine underneath. So, the students would have full access to that virtual machine, they can install software, they can install an operating system, they can just mess around with it, without hurting the physical hardware. Teachers could also make a virtual machine that they want the students to work on. The students can work on that virtual machine the whole period, do whatever they want to it, and then the teacher can revert back to the way it was before they started for the next class so, that they can start over from scratch. So, it makes it a lot easier for teachers to give students full access to a machine, full access to a machine, virtually, without them affecting the physical hardware.”

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