

Marari Network News

Special points of interest:

- > Server Virtualization
- > "Patch Tuesday" is February 12, 2008
- > Automate your updates and save time doing it!
- > We're celebrating our first year of business

The New Age of Server Virtualization

There's a (not so) new buzzword in the IT world these days. It's called "Virtualization".

What is Server "Virtualization"?

In a geek-speak definition from whatis.com, server virtualization is the masking of server resources, including the number and identity of individual physical servers, processors, and operating systems, from server users. The server administrator uses a software application to divide one physical server into multiple isolated virtual environments. The virtual environments are sometimes called virtual private serv-

ers, but they are also known as partitions, guests, instances, containers or emulations.

In non-technical terms, it's a way of getting more value for your dollar out of the latest server technology by running more than one "virtual" server on a physical hardware platform.

Why would I want to do this?

There are a number of reasons - ROI being the first. If you go out and purchase the latest server hardware platform to run a server for your small- or medium-sized company, you're likely going to

have several leftover processor cycles, hard disk space, and memory. Server virtualization allows you to install your initial server and application that you were originally purchasing, but gives you more flexibility in being able to run a second, or possibly even a third server on the same physical platform by splitting up the resources according to individual "virtual" server requirements.

Stay with me on this... the story continues on page 2...

"Patch Tuesday" February 12, 2008

On the second Tuesday of every month, Microsoft releases updates to patch vulnerabilities found in their operating systems and other software products.

This month's "Patch Tuesday" fell on February 12, 2008 and there were several patches including close to a dozen critical updates.

If you do not have automatic updates enabled on your PC's please make sure that you go to [Micro-soft Update](#) and keep up to date with security patches.

SERVICE ADVISORY

For those of you that have a current block of time agreement with me, I will be handling your server update(s) after

hours to avoid any reboot and/or disruption during normal work hours.

The patches will be installed and the server rebooted and verified. This process should not interfere with your regular backup schedule.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| Server Virtualization | 2 |
| SME Server - Dare to Compare | 2 |
| My Reality Check - First Year In Business | 3 |
| Focused Partnership - M9 Corporation | 3 |
| New and Recent Projects | 3 |
| What can Marari do for your business? | 4 |
| Featured Product Special | 4 |

Server Virtualization (continued from page 1)

Another reason to consider server virtualization is for backup and/or disaster recovery planning. One of the most incredible features of server virtualization is that you can take a point-in-time snapshot of your server (i.e. before deploying patches or software upgrades) and if everything goes well, simply commit the changes. If, however, everything goes horribly wrong, you can reverse the changes by reverting to the snapshot. If you want to be even more extra-cautious, you can take a copy of virtual server, test the updates and patches on the copy, and if it goes well, you can repeat the procedure on the original.



A virtual server is not tied to any specific hardware platform. If you are taking regular copies of your virtual server and something goes wrong with the physical hardware platform you are running on, you can simply move the virtual server disk and virtual machine “blueprint” to another piece of hardware and be up and running in minutes instead of days.

I bet server virtualization is really expensive, isn't it?

In one word, no. In actuality, for a small or mid-sized business running just a couple or few servers, the software is **FREE**. There's a couple

of different flavours of the software out there, Microsoft has a package called [Virtual Server 2005](#), and VMware's current offering is called [VMware Server v1.04](#) (server 2 is in beta right now). Migrating a physical server to a virtualized server takes a bit of work a magic wand and a little bit of technical know-how, but that's where I come in.

Interested in discussing server virtualization for your company? Curious about your current hardware and its ability to run a virtual server? Planning a server upgrade soon?

Call me and I'll be happy to come and meet with you to find out your needs.

SME Server - Dare to Compare

The investment into a server can be a bit daunting for a small business. Fortunately, there are software choices in the marketplace that offer a bit of relief on the initial investment.

SME Server is one of these packages.

The SME Server is an open-source server software package that uses a web-based interface to enable easy administration from any web browser.

File and Print Sharing

The core of any network is easy and simple access to shared files and printers and is built-in to

the SME server using the intuitive information bay (or i-bay) set up.

Email

With the pervasiveness of email, small business increasingly need to support email for all of their employees. SME server provides a secure, reliable email server and allows easy creation of individual and group addresses. Coupled with antivirus scanning of all inbound and outbound email, and a basic spam filter, the SME solutions provides a complete email solution.

Web Server

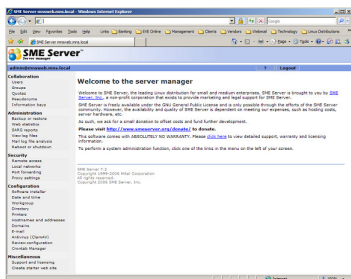
The SME Server includes

Apache web server which is used by over 60% of the internet. Content can easily be uploaded from the internal network and support of SSL is also built in.

RAID and Backup

SME Server supports both hardware and software fault-tolerance for the hard disk drives on the server and features built-in software for USB Disk Backup or Tape Backup for additional protection.

SME Server truly is full-featured server package for small business. Call Ari at 981-2646 for a quote and dare to compare!



My Reality Check

March 1, 2008 marks the first (official) anniversary of Marari Network Solutions and I've spent a bit of time reflecting on this past year and what it's meant to me.

I've gained some new perspective into what it takes to run a business. It's something that I was only partially aware of and really, until you own and run a business, you can never truly be fully aware of what it takes. And as your business

grows, it's ever-evolving into something new.

I've gained a true appreciation of what kind of commitment it takes and the discipline required to make it work day in and day out.

I've been blessed with many new relationships, an [amazing business group](#) that has provided me with quality referral business, and a year of growth from, business professional, and personal vantage points.

I would like to share a quote with you from [Brian Tracy](#):

One of the most important single qualities for success is self-discipline. It's the ability to make yourself do what you should do, when you should do it, whether you feel like it or not.

Thank you all for a great first year in business! I couldn't do it without you.



Focused Partnership - M9 Corporation

Roger Syntak is the president of [M9 Corporation](#), a web development company, and a member of my [BNI chapter](#).

The M9 Web Design Corporation focuses on building technology that works for their clients. Their success is based on traditional business principles and a decision towards customer service. By employing in-house design

professionals, along with computer programmers and content writers, M9 can provide a complete range of services for their clients. This approach guarantees a quick and accurate response to any changes in the business world.

Operating in Winnipeg since 2001, M9 Corporation has built more than 125 websites and grows

at a rate of 20% per year. M9 is proud that they retain more than 88.6% of their past clients and still service many of their original sites.

I am proud to be aligned with this outstanding web development company.

For more information on M9 Corporation, please visit their website at:

<http://www.m9corp.com>



New and Recent Projects

- SME Server (Linux) installation for a small 2-PC office

- Windows Server 2003 and Terminal Services deployment for small company with local head office (10 users) and 5 remote Canada-wide offices.

- Server 2003 Small Business Server deploy-

ment for 30-PC organization

- Server maintenance and update management for company with 75 PC's

- Antivirus strategy for email server and 10 PC's in another small business

- Physical to "virtualized" Server migration for small company with 2 servers

- Marari MailSentry anti-spam solution for small company with 5 users

- Marari MailSentry anti-spam solution for company with 30-users

- Marari MailSentry anti-spam solution for company with 75 users



What can Marari Network Solutions do for your business?

- Windows and Linux server deployments, virtualization, maintenance, and system monitoring
- Anti-Spam, Antivirus, Web Content Blocking and custom network security strategies for your company
- Hardware procurement consulting
- Network consulting, design, and deployment
- Data backup and recovery planning
- Server, PC and Network vulnerability testing and identification
- Maintenance and support agreements
- Access to 26 other professionals from accounting to web design

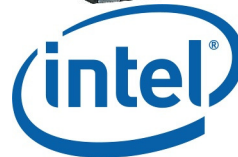
Visit us online!
www.marari.net

The Quiet Choice For Business Professionals Performance Design V2 Desktop

- Intel Pentium Dual-Core 2.0 GHz
- Intel-Branded Mainboard
- Kingston 1 GB DDR2 RAM (667 MHz)
- Seagate 160 GB SATA Hard Drive
- LG 20x SATA Dual-Layer DVD-RW
- Microsoft Keyboard and Mouse
- Inwin Z583T Silver/Black Chassis
- Windows XP Professional
- **3-Year Parts and Labour Warranty**

\$579.00 (plus GST/PST)

Payment for hardware due at time of order. Please allow 7-10 business days for order completion. Quantities are limited.



Marari

Network Solutions

587 Mathias Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2V 1P1

Phone: (204)981-2646
E-mail: ari@marari.net
Web: www.marari.net

Relax, we're on I.T.