FOCUS Workshop: The Road to Private Cloud

Most organizations have completed the initial phase of server virtualization and consolidation and have virtualized all their low-hanging fruit servers and applications. The next step is to expand beyond the typical initial 30% virtualized to include more business and mission critical applications. This requires optimization of the infrastructure to support the additional performance requirements of these applications. Along with this expansion, the critical path to realizing the full potential of virtualization and cloud is to add the management and automation to transform IT operations and deliver IT as a service. By properly managing, protecting, optimizing and automating the virtual infrastructure, and offering self-service delivery, IT can transform itself to run as a private cloud.

In order to succeed at this transformation, IT must evaluate and implement advanced management capabilities such as dynamic policy-based workload management; automated provisioning and virtual operations; high availability; automated disaster recovery; performance, capacity management and troubleshooting across and through the virtual and physical infrastructure; lifecycle management; and potentially management of multi-hypervisor environments. Add to this the final components of self-service provisioning, usage-based accounting and service catalogs, and you are delivering a private cloud.

All of this means that IT managers have to sift through the large and growing virtualization and cloud ecosystem and the plethora of virtualization and cloud management solutions to identify which functions are critical, which products are really ready for prime time, and which solutions best match their particular requirements. In addition, many shops with traditional Enterprise Systems Management solutions are trying to understand how their existing vendors are addressing virtualization and private cloud and how new management tools integrate with/utilize what they already have. As all organizations travel the road to private cloud, those who get there faster and more smoothly will have a key competitive advantage over those still operating in the slow-to-respond, IT model of the past.

Attendees of this workshop will gain:

- Insight into the impact that the new virtual infrastructure and the road to private cloud have on IT, and the challenges that all this creates
- An understanding of what it takes to grow from basic server virtualization to a well-managed virtual infrastructure to a private cloud. How virtualization and cloud management capabilities are the steps to private cloud computing – how do you get there from here?
- An understanding of the management functions that come from virtualization and cloud vendors as well as the add-on tools available from startups and long time management players
- An understanding of the requirements, options and best practices for managing all the aspects of the virtual infrastructure/private cloud including
    - Optimized data protection, backup, disaster recovery and storage management
    - Performance management from the application through the virtual and physical layers
    - Capacity management across the virtual and physical infrastructure
    - Troubleshooting, root cause analysis and fault monitoring and management
    - Virtual machine lifecycle management and VM image management,
    - Automated provisioning and service catalogs (IT and self-service based)
    - New cloud capabilities and how they relate to the rest of the management capabilities
- An independent look at the vendor landscape including different approaches, and virtualization and cloud management solutions
- Considerations for choosing and implementing virtualization and private cloud management solutions
- An update on the recent changes and future of virtualization and private cloud management
- A discussion of various vendor alternatives and experiences moving beyond consolidation to advanced virtualization management to private cloud computing

Who Should Attend:

This workshop targets IT managers and staff who are looking to fulfill the full promise of virtualization and transform their environment into a private cloud, especially around improving operational efficiencies, optimization, automation, and IT agility – delivering IT as a service or private cloud, while reducing costs.

You Will Learn:

During this workshop, we will discuss the challenges that come with the new virtual infrastructure and the move to private cloud computing, and how to prioritize, evaluate and implement the necessary solutions for virtualization management, optimization, automation and delivery as a private cloud.

Comments from previous Private Cloud Workshop attendees:

"Excellent Excellent Excellent. The content, delivery, and applicability were spot-on. Barb is an incredibly knowledgeable asset"

"Barb's presentation was truly outstanding. I've seen many about this topic and hers was one of the best."

"Great content!"

"Best workshop of the show. Goldworm is amazing."

"Very timely and relevant presentation to directly apply to current projects..."

"Barb is great. Approachable, friendly and clearly knows her industry."

"I very much enjoyed Barb Goldworm's presentation as well as her presentation style. I learned a lot today."

"As a manger of engineers, I found the course packed with useful info that was presented clearly from an obvious expert in this area... well done."

"Outstanding. For my level of knowledge, I found it very informative."

"Very passionate speaker with a wealth of knowledge on the topic."