

## Virtualization and HA PI Systems: Strategies to Keep Your PI System Available, Scalable, and Portable

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## Overview

- Virtualization
  - Storage (DAS, NAS, SAN)
  - Server
  - Application (Clients)
- How does PI High Availability play into virtualization?
  - Highly Available (HA) PI
  - HA PI in a virtual environment

## Why Virtualization and PI?

You can realize substantial benefits using the combined strategies of virtualization (storage, server and application) and PI Collectives (HA).

These strategies provide you with:

- Increased reliability
- Reduced hardware and maintenance costs
- Improved scalability

Use them separately or together

## Why Now?

- You need to do more with less
- Your projects need to show immediate ROI
- IT is challenged to increase service levels with less staff
- Virtualization and HA are valuable separately, but better together

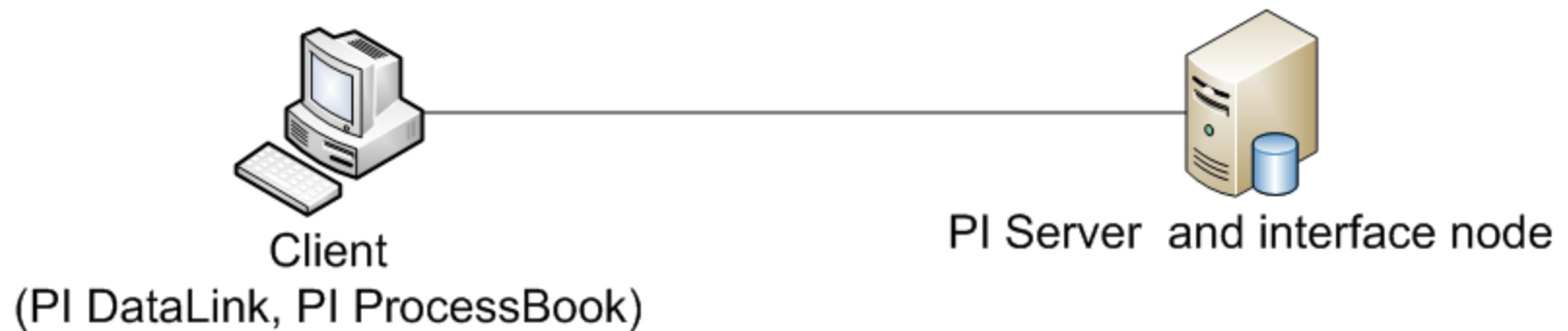
## Who Needs This?



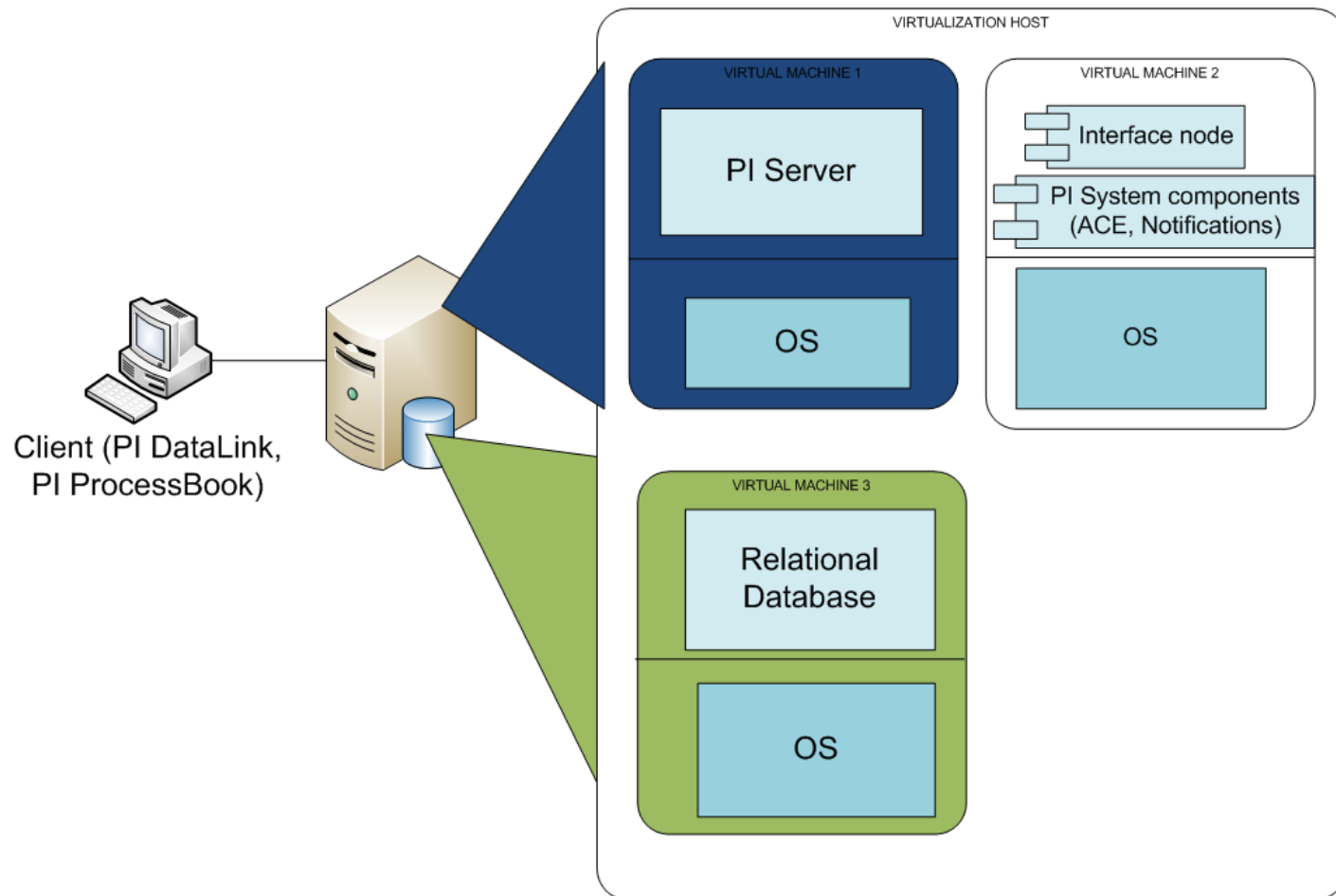
- PI users who cannot afford disruption in service (even for planned maintenance)
  - IT organizations looking to consolidate management of computing resources (fewer servers to buy and maintain)
  - IT organizations looking to streamline deployment of new tools for the user community (less IT time and resources)
  - IT organizations investigating new ways to provide ever-increasing amounts of storage for mission critical systems
- A PI system administrator tasked with scaling PI to more users and other information systems
- Companies investigating virtualized test environments for validating new software purchases



## A Simple System



## A Simple Virtualized System



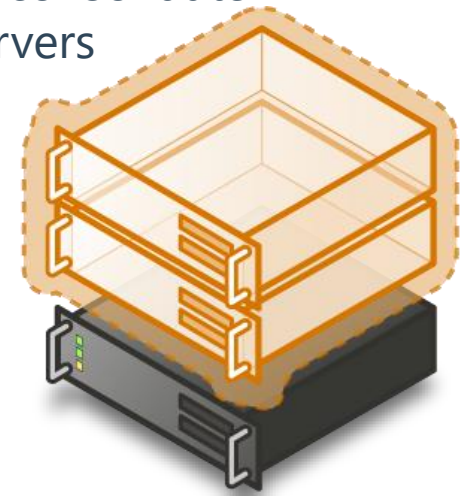
## Virtualization

- Servers
- Storage
- Applications



# Server Virtualization

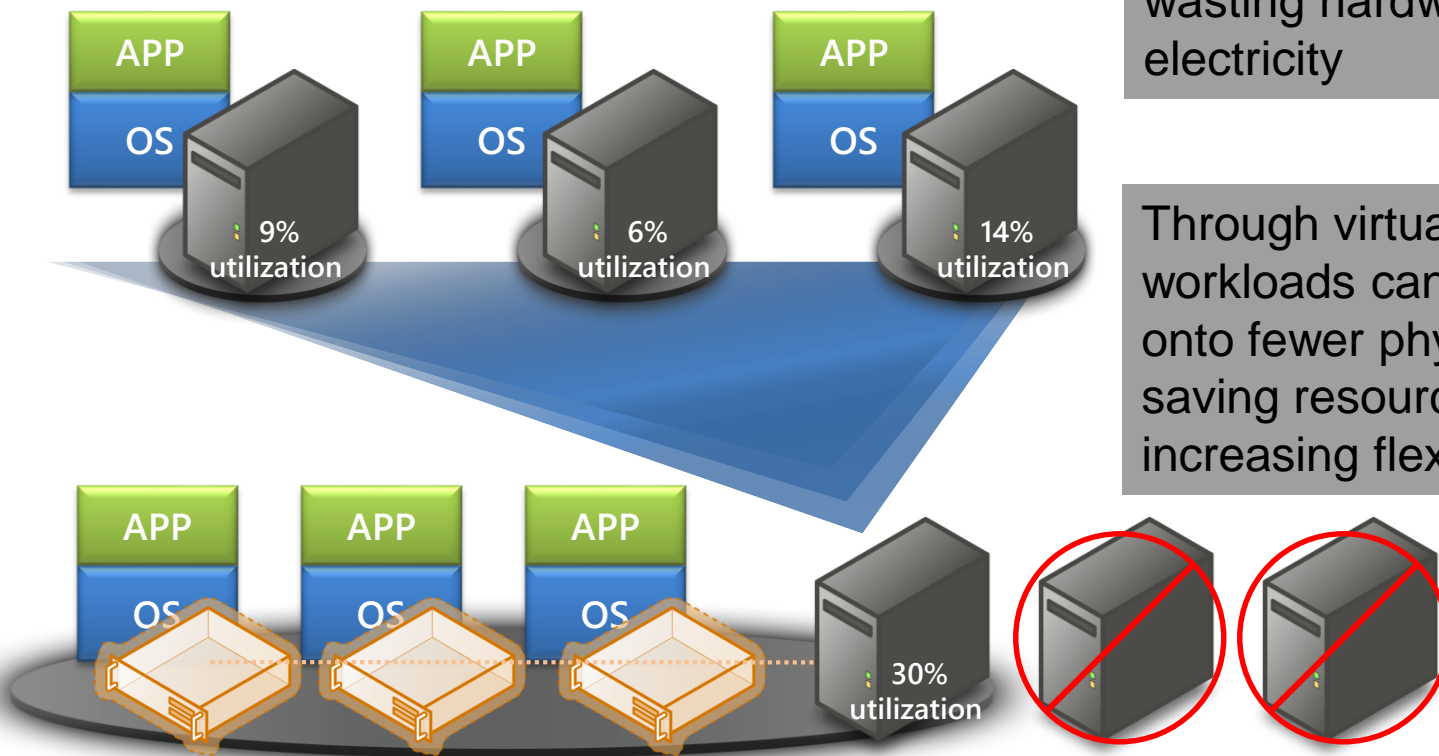
- Instead of having physical machines, virtual servers run on a physical host
- Case Study: AtlantiCare
  - Eliminated need to expand or relocate data center
  - Microsoft® Virtual Server 2005 used to consolidate infrastructure and legacy application servers
  - Consolidation ratio achieved of 33:2



# Example: Server consolidation

Typically server workloads only consume a small fraction of total physical server capacity, wasting hardware, space, and electricity

Through virtualization, these workloads can be consolidated onto fewer physical servers, saving resources and increasing flexibility



## Benefits of Server Virtualization\*

- Less hardware required (HP went from 85 data centers to 6)
  - up to 35% reduction of annual server costs per user (\$100-\$200K per year per server)
- Better utilization of hardware (HP decreased servers by 40%)
- Reduce power consumption (HP reduced energy by 40%)
- Provide higher availability by supporting redundancy
- Rapidly deliver adaptive and reliable IT services
- Tie diverse components together into a single managed entity
- Storage efficiency can lead to higher storage utilization

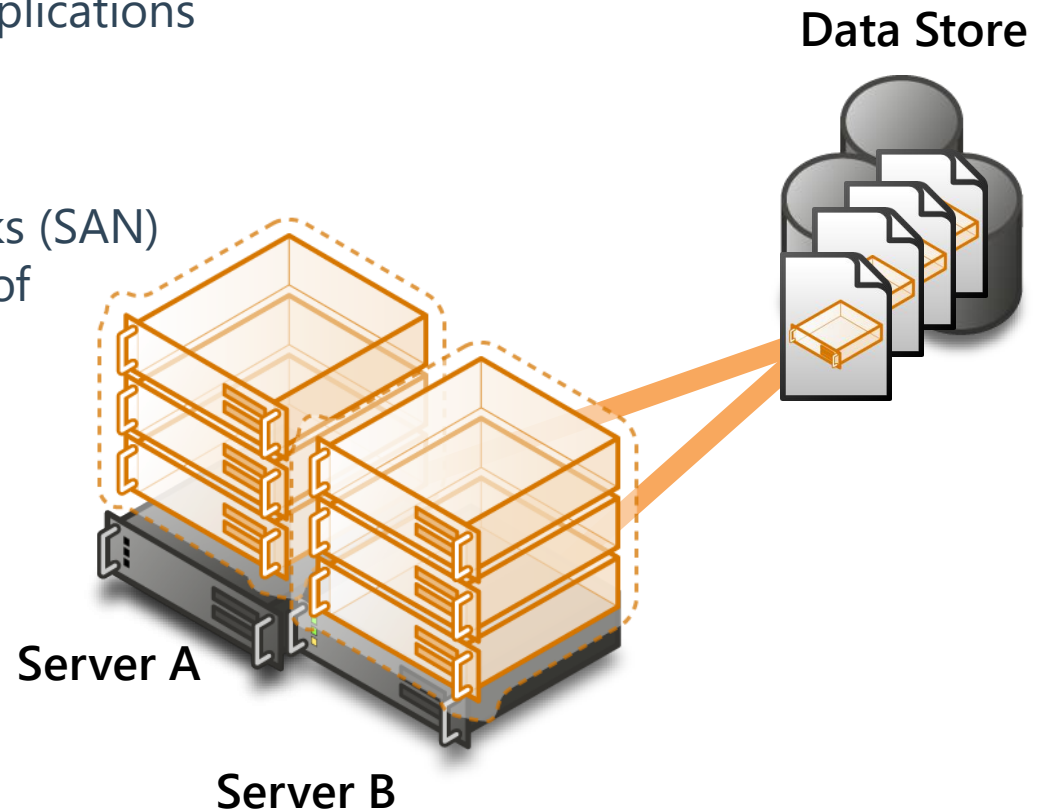
\*Gillen, A., Grieser, T., Perry, R. 2008. Business Value of Virtualization: Realizing the Benefits of Integrated solutions. IDC.

## PI and Server Virtualization

- Validated environments need a test bed (any pharmaceutical company; BMS; Shell)
- Environments that require portability of IT assets (Cargill Deicing Technology - Salt mining)
- Deploying new sites (Rio Tinto)

# Storage virtualization

- **Challenge:**  
Grow available storage space  
without disrupting applications  
and servers
- **Solution:**  
Storage Area Networks (SAN)  
allow dynamic sizing of  
available storage



## Storage Virtualization

- DAS: Direct Attached Storage (local hard drives)
- NAS: Network Attached Storage (e.g., mapped drives)
- SAN: Storage Area Network, essentially virtual storage

## Benefits of SAN Technology

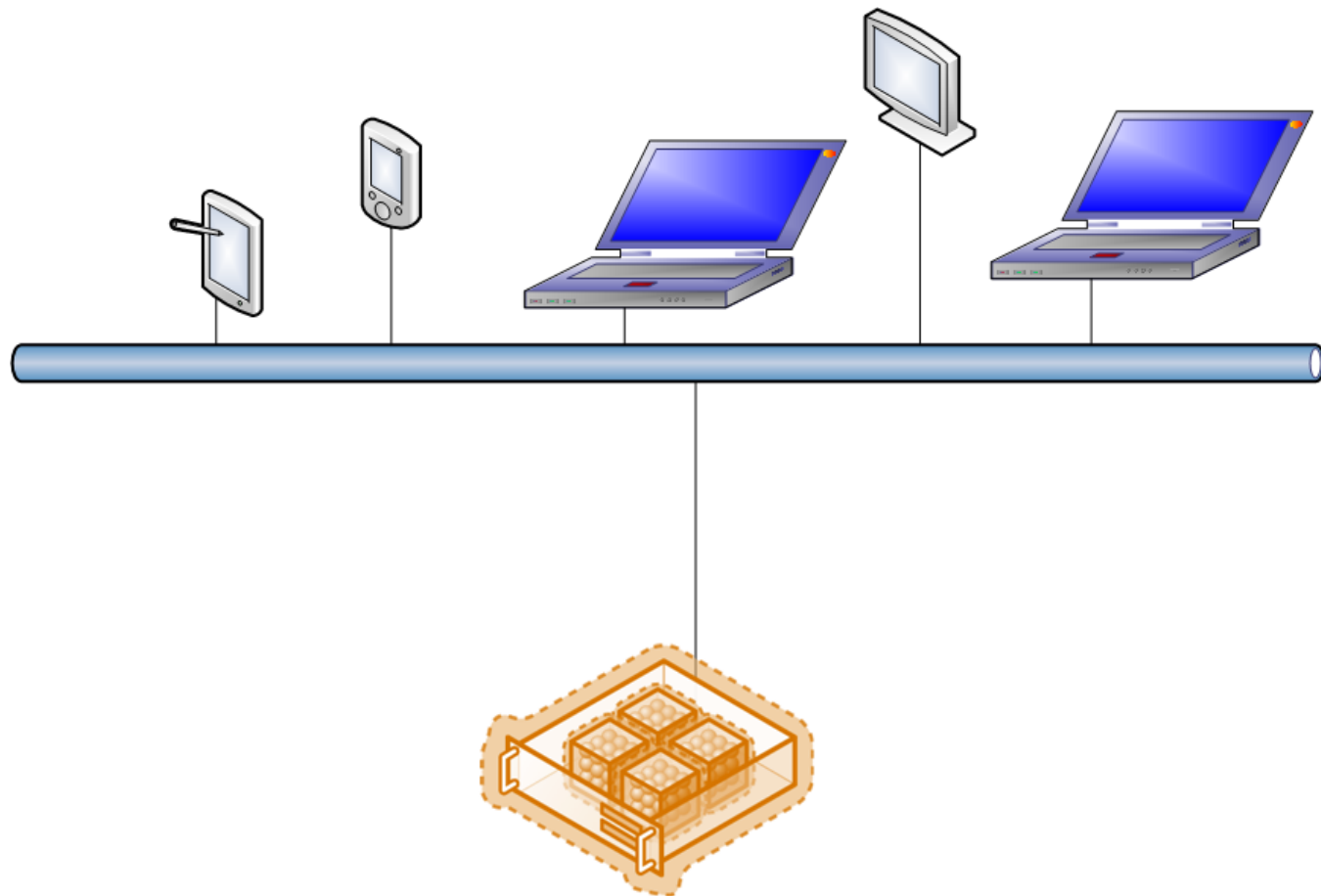
- Additional storage appears to be local to the host so users don't have to know where the files are stored
- Improve the ties between centralized storage and virtual infrastructure
- Provide virtual-machine consistent backups for data stores and the ability to restore virtual machines instantly in a few clicks
- Provide relief from disk subsystem access in virtualized environments (biggest performance hit on virtual host)
- Consolidate disk resources

## PI and Storage Virtualization

- Keep more and higher fidelity data online; add or expand PI archive files
- Support aggregated PI Systems; VSS support enables backups
- Store PI Client files centrally
- Backup virtualized application and data servers
- Backup virtualized Terminal Server hosts
- Complete system backup storage



# Application Virtualization



## Application Virtualization

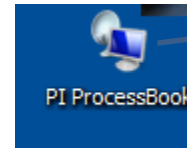
- Customers currently use Citrix or Terminal Server to reduce deployment costs and maintenance for client apps
- Windows 2008 Server offers a service that provides applications over an SSL connection (HTTPS) without client-side deployment (a thin deployment) - Terminal Services Gateway
- Terminal Services Gateway provides URL access to a host (like Remote Desktop connections, without the VPN requirement) or to specific applications on a host (even more secure for those outside the firewall)



## Benefits of Application Virtualization

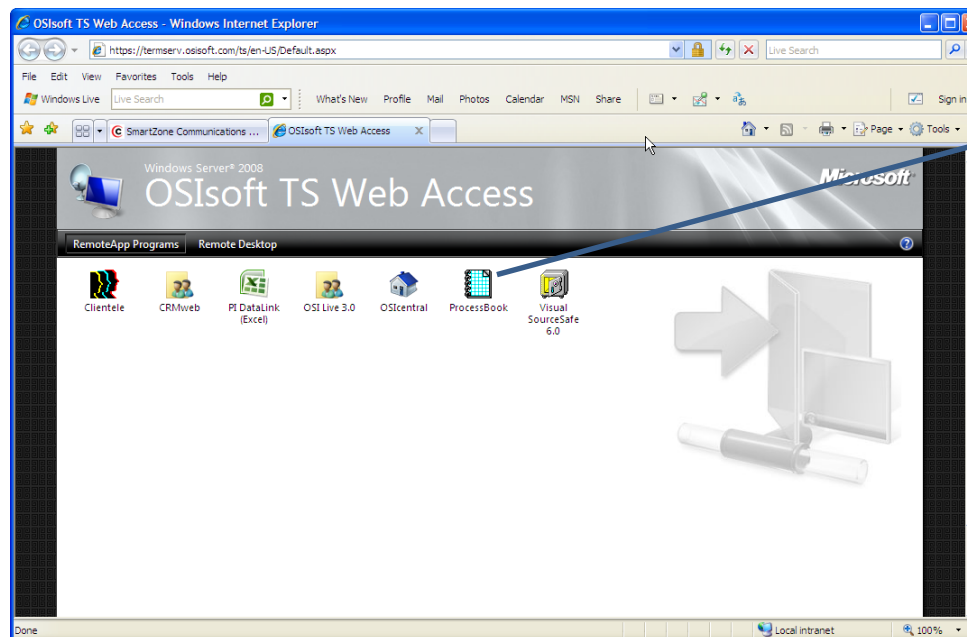
- One point of installation makes deployment simpler
- Access to applications secured
- All users have the same version of the software; no version or compatibility issues
- Casual users do not need to install anything to get started
- Save money on hardware investments by deploying client software in one place

## PI and Application Virtualization (ProcessBook)



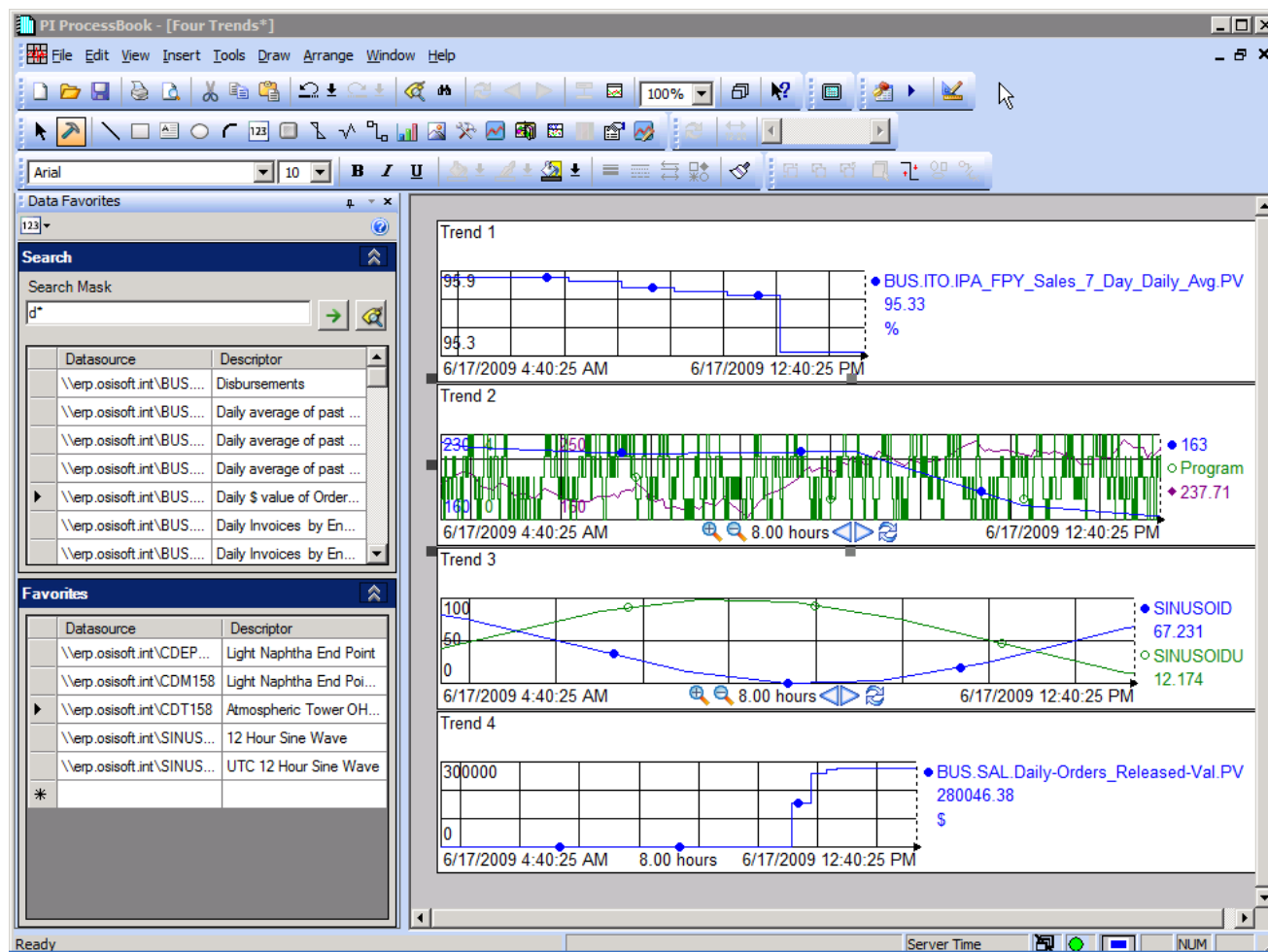
Launch from  
Desktop icon

OR



Launch from web  
page

# PI and Application Virtualization (ProcessBook)



## PI and Application Virtualization

- Environments with casual client users who need low barrier to entry for system access (Inco Limited)
- Terminal Server users (a partial list)
  - Georgia Pacific, Kellogg, SASO, SAPPI Fine Paper, Wacker Chemie, Alcoa, Eli Lilly, ExxonMobil Upstream, Iberdrola, Progress Energy Services
- Citrix users (a partial list)
  - SDG&E , Water Corporation, Amgen, Bayer Material Science, Genmab, PPG, Vaxgen, Katahdin Paper, Celanese Chemicals, Novo Nordisk, Queensland Alumina, Total
- Windows 2008 Terminal Services Gateway
  - OSIsoft

## Five Principles for Virtualization Success\*

- Treat virtual machines as if they were physical machines
- Invest in Enterprise-level hardware and software
- Do not mix virtual and physical on the same host
- Use qualified Virtualization support personnel
- Test on the target platform

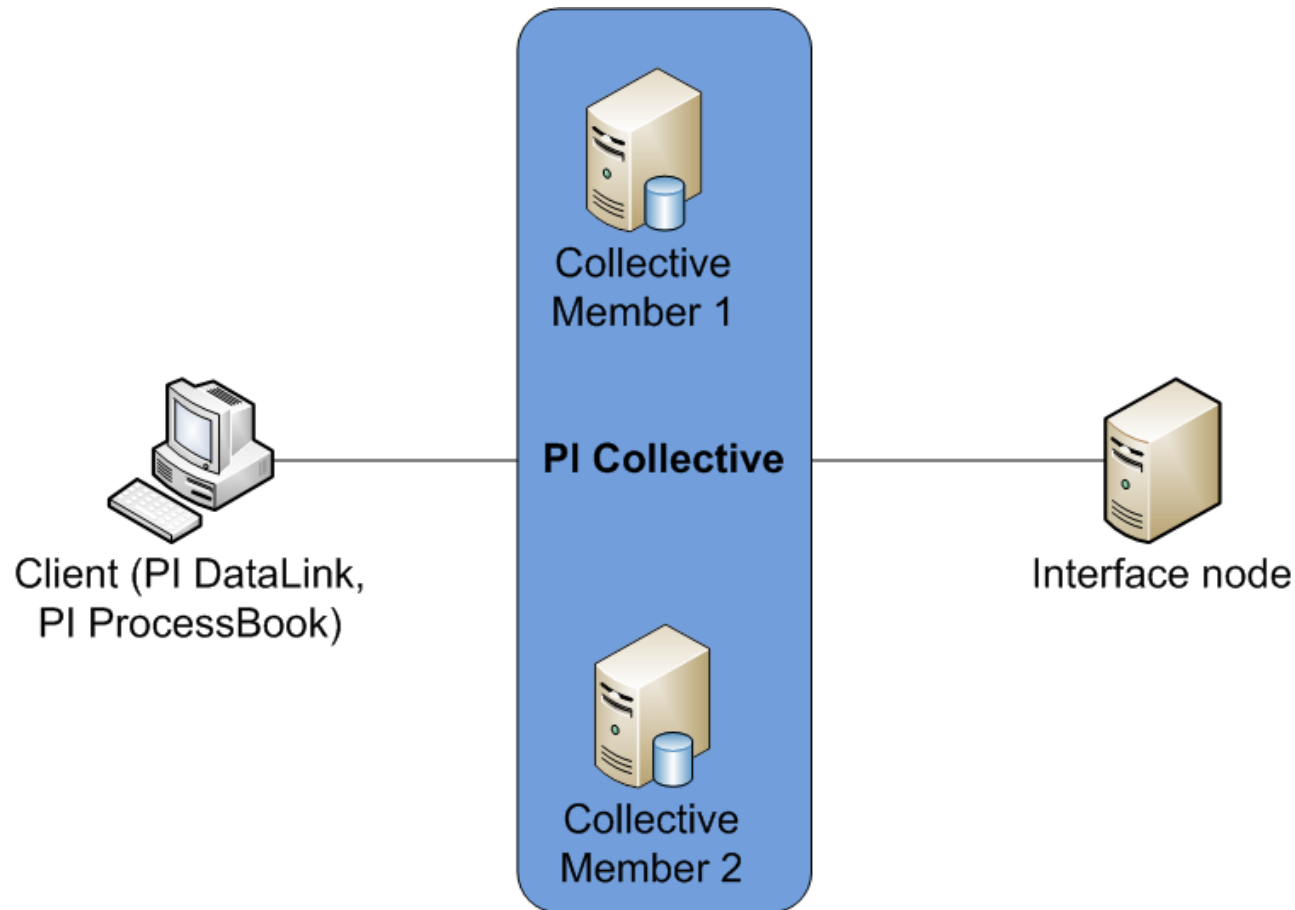
\*OSIsoft Center of Excellence

## How does HA PI play into virtualization?

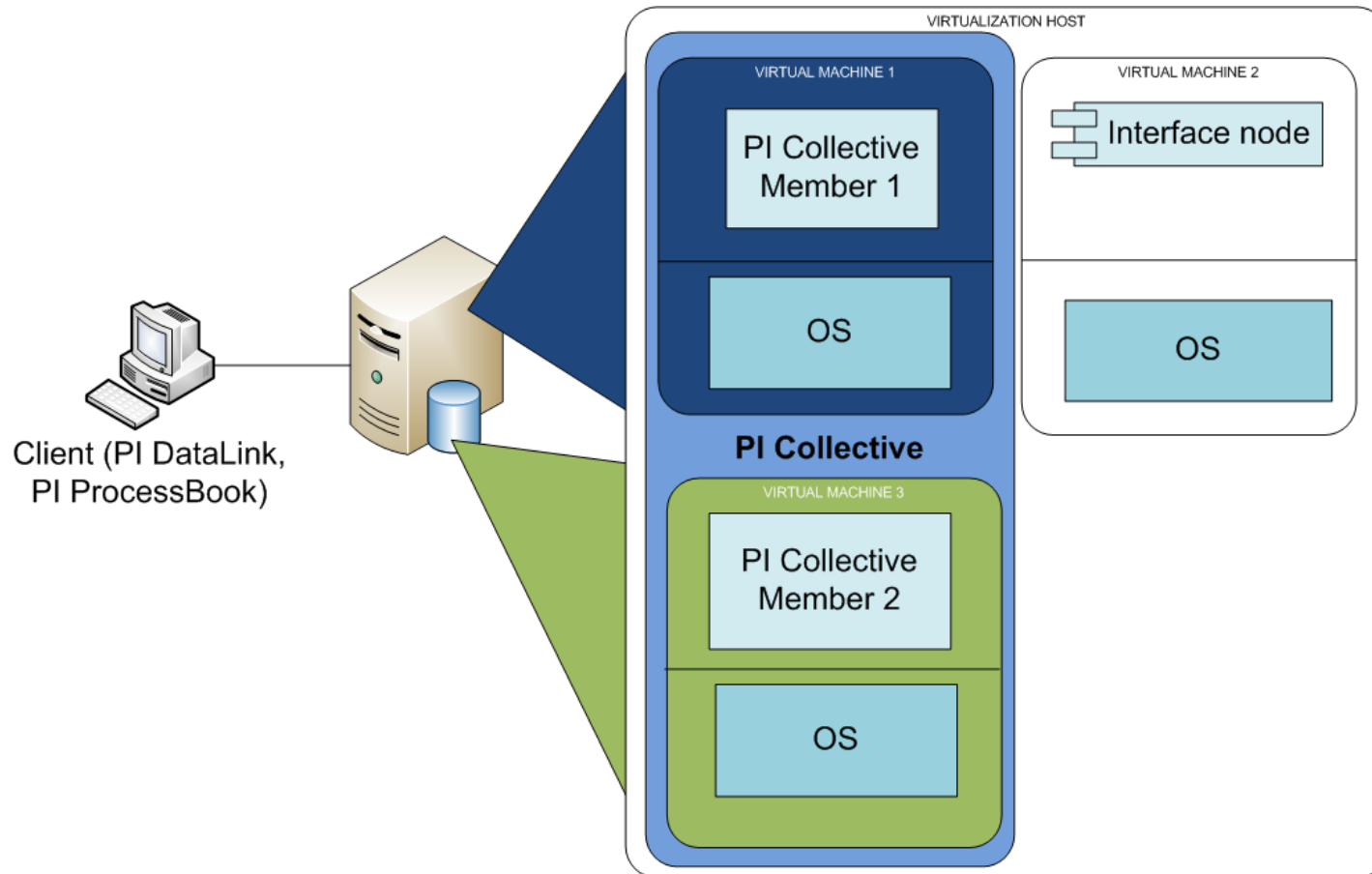
- PI collectives (HA) and interfaces
- Virtualized HA PI



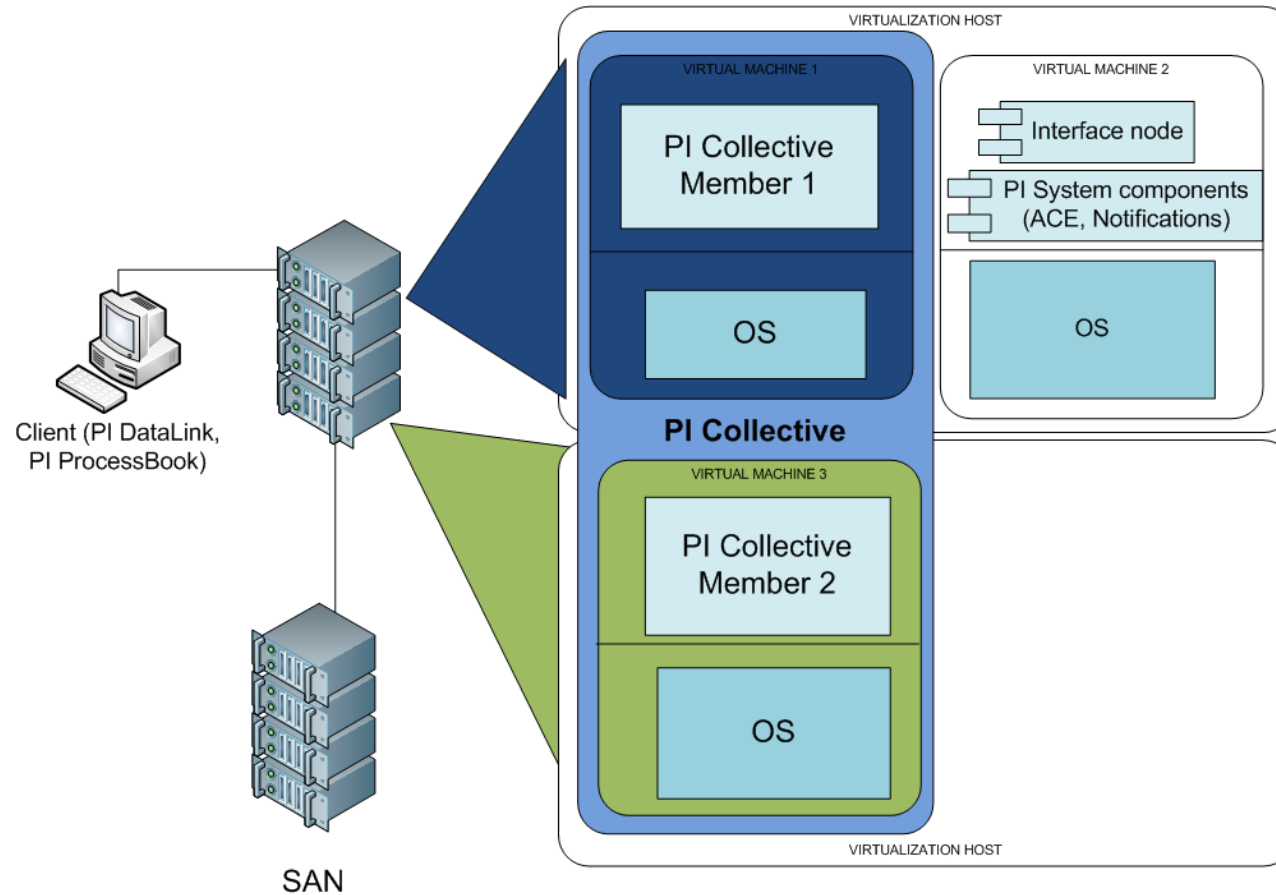
## A Simple HA PI System



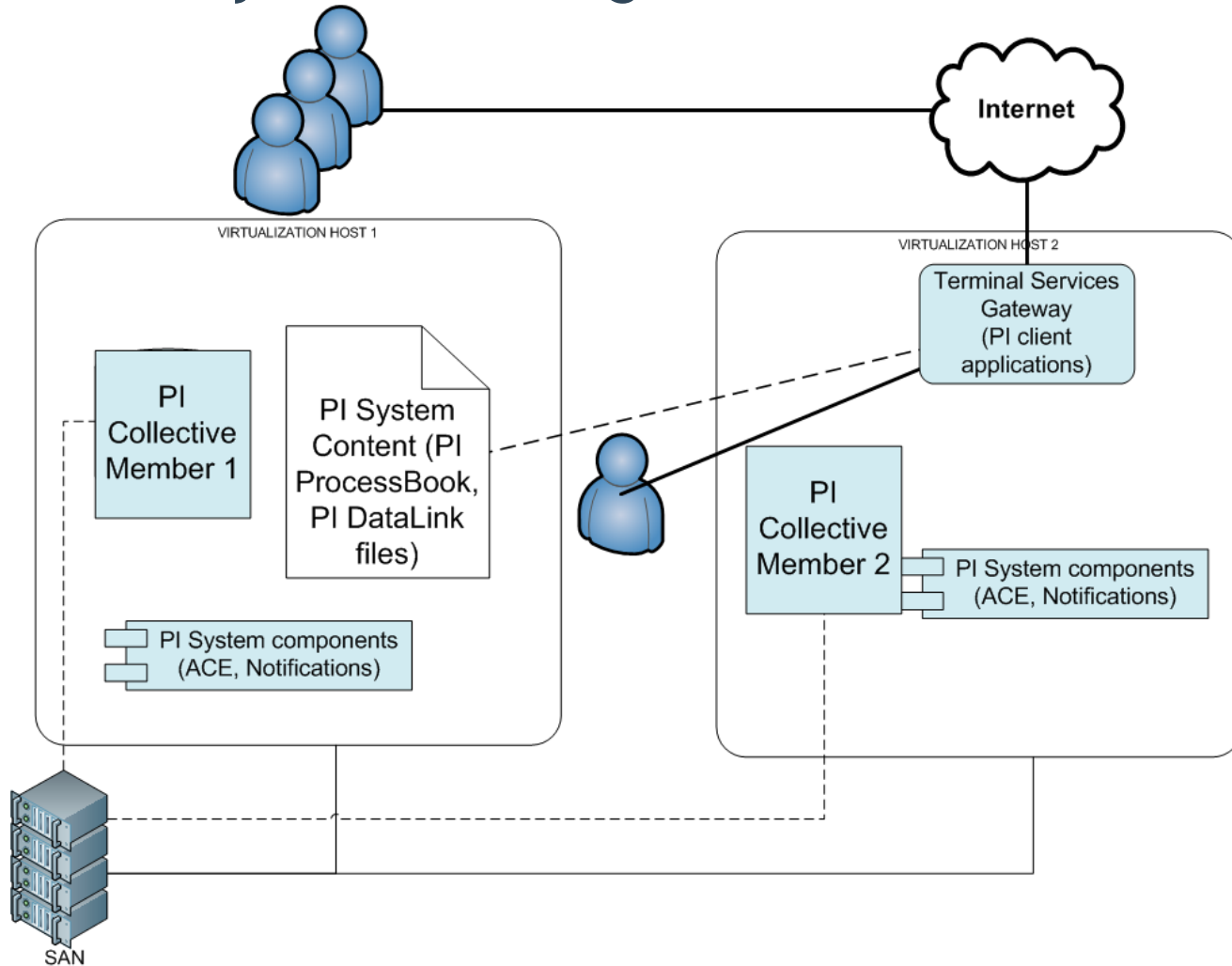
## A Simple Virtual HA PI System



## Virtual HA PI with SAN

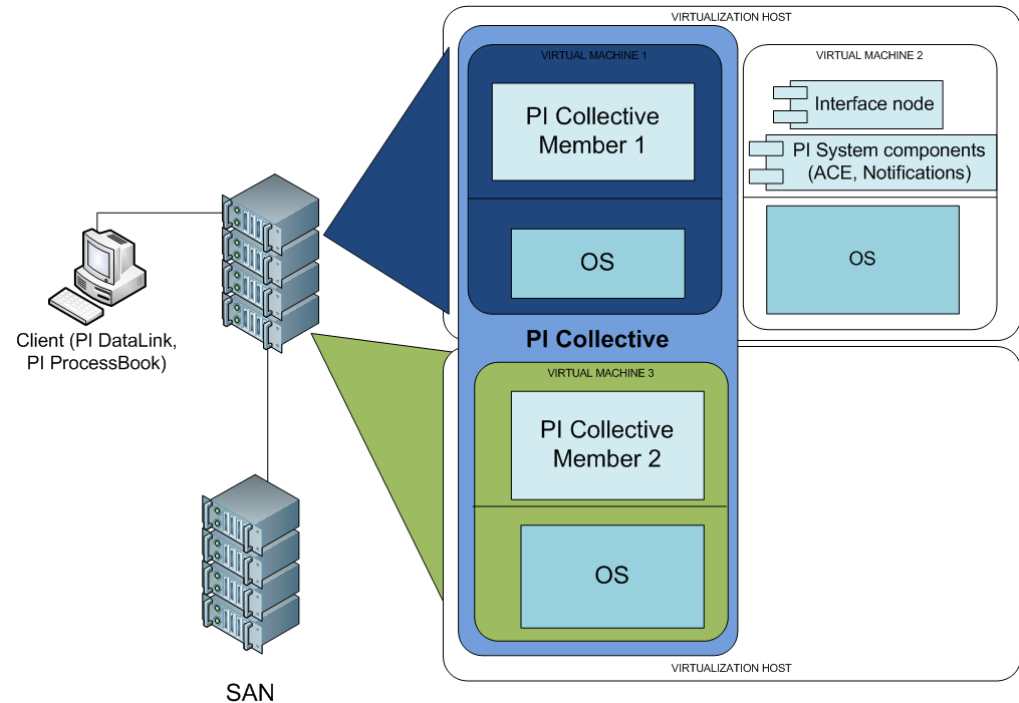


## Virtual System including Clients



## Recommendation: Virtualized PI System

- Multiple hosts (cluster)
- Collective can be split across hosts
- PI Server components can run as separate virtual machines for scalability and performance
- SAN can offload storage



## Built-in Benefits of HA PI

- PI is there all the time - users trust it
- No late night heroics to restore a backup or perform routine maintenance
- Removes fear of a bad backup
- Simple design is robust, low bandwidth and supported by WANs
- Geographical independence (replace PI to PI)
- Support more or specialized users
- Facilitates capacity planning
- Complements virtualization strategies:
  - PI is perfect for monitoring a virtualized environment (HyperV performance counters; VMWare SNMP interface)

## Customer Examples: HA

- Transmission & Distribution customers cannot lose visibility or the grid can go down (e.g., Cal ISO)
- Customers with dispersed sites can deploy collective members in each location for better client retrieval performance without losing synchronization (International Paper)
- Customers want to balance the load of data retrieval by many users (PJM, Cal ISO)
- Customers need to aggregate data into one large PI system (PSE&G)
- Load Balancing and Failover for virtual machines
- NERC CIP: dedicated PI server inside the security perimeter

## Benefits of PI in a Virtualization Project

- Value of HA PI—
  - Availability, Quality of Service (QoS)
  - No data loss
  - Scaling
  - Improved IT management
- Value of virtual machines and SAN
  - Consolidation
  - Scaling and hardware utilization
  - Centralized IT management
- All adds up to higher quality of service for less cost



## Details of Server Virtualization

- Available virtual technologies (partial list)
  - Microsoft (Hyper V, in particular)
  - VMWare (ESX server, in particular)

## Virtual Vendors, Compared

	VMware ESX Server	Microsoft Hyper-V
Support for 32/64 bit hosts	Yes	Only 64 bit hosts
Support for 32/64 bit guests	Yes	Yes
Device Driver Support	Hypervisor	Guest OS
Maximum RAM	64GB	64GB
Maximum Virtual CPUs	4	4
Shared VM Memory	Yes	No
Boot VMs from SAN	Yes	Yes
Live Migration	Yes	Yes
Maximum Active VMs	128	Unlimited

## Microsoft's Hyper-V R2



- Live Migration--increased reliability/availability
  - Clustered Shared Volumes
- Cluster Node Connectivity Fault Tolerance. Dynamic I/O redirection.
- Improved management of VMs. Including multiple servers.
- Improve Performance
  - VM Chimney/TCP Offload
  - Note--Intel now builds their chips with features to improve VM performance. (VM Chimney is an example).
- Green
  - Core Parking
- Simplified deployment.
  - .vhd files now the de facto standard.
  - Server 2008 R2 can boot from a vhd on local hard drive

## More Information

- Whitepapers and Tech Support bulletins on OSIsoft web site
- Vendor web sites
- OSIsoft internal expertise
- Microsoft representatives for Hyper V and Terminal Server Gateway solutions

## Next Steps

- Knowledge Base article #3062OSI8
- Learn whether there are plans for (or an existing) virtualization environment in your organization
- Estimate the hardware reduction to be gained by virtualizing your existing server applications
- Estimate the hardware reduction for server applications both with and without a SAN available (more hosted servers per host if data storage is offloaded, for example).
- Estimate the hardware, software and support reduction to be gained by moving your client applications to a hosted environment (e.g., Terminal Server)
- Consider the value of monitoring the virtualized environment with PI

## Thank you for your time

- Email your questions to:  
[ProductManagers@osisoft.com](mailto:ProductManagers@osisoft.com) or [Ldieffenbach@osisoft.com](mailto:Ldieffenbach@osisoft.com)
- Contact your salesperson for more detailed information