



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

SEKTOR: BROADCASTING

**CHALLENGE**

Create an efficient and easily managed desktop infrastructure for the Eurovision Song Contest '08 press center.

SOLUTION

VMware® Infrastructure 3 with VMware® VDM running on HP ProLiant BL480c blade servers with NetApp FAS2020 storage

RESULTS

- Whole system with 400 virtual desktop environments setup in 5 days
- Only 2 administrators required to manage the system

VMWARE TOOLS

- Primary software
- VMware® Infrastructure 3
- VMware® VDM 2
- Primary application
- MS Windows XP based virtual desktops with standard productivity applications
- Primary hardware
- HP BladeSystem with 6 ProLiant BL480c server blades
- 200 Wyse V10L thin clients
- 200 traditional PCs

“VMware has proven itself as an ideal solution for the Eurovision Song Contest press center. We can manage the complete desktop infrastructure centrally, including the maintenance of desktop images and the provision of new virtual machines when increased capacity is required. The VMware solution gave us the freedom and flexibility to try different approaches safe in the knowledge that we could easily undo changes or switch back to previous desktop templates. Virtual Desktop Infrastructure is an ideal solution for delivering standardised desktop images in environments like our press center.”

Nenad Ćukalović, Head of System Engineering
Radio Television of Serbia

Radio Television of Serbia builds Virtual Desktop Infrastructure using VMware Infrastructure to deliver press center desktops during Eurovision Song Contest '08

Radio Television of Serbia faced a significant challenge in delivering desktop resources to around 3500 journalists covering the Eurovision Song Contest 2008. The primary issues for RTS were finding a solution which delivered very high levels of reliability and performance and which could be easily managed by a small IT staff.

RTS decided to investigate whether virtual desktops could deliver what was required and undertook a seven day trial of VMware technology delivered by VMware partner COMING – Computer Engineering, Belgrade.

Despite a relative lack of experience with virtual desktops, RTS decided to go with a VDI solution built on VMware Infrastructure over a more traditional physical desktop setup. RTS concluded that using VMware Infrastructure and VMware Virtual Desktop Manager could deliver better systems uptime and delivered a standard Windows XP desktop environment with which journalists would be familiar. Furthermore, RTS' IT team concluded that by deploying virtual desktops and centralizing management of the environment, a team of only two people would be required to maintain the infrastructure.

As a public company, RTS had to choose the solution from a tender and COMING's offer was the best one, although innovative. COMING proposed VMware based system and provided a demo environment prior to the tender, to make sure decision makers were sure their offer could provide successful solution.

After their offer was accepted, COMING started choosing the equipment which they will use to create at least 400 virtual desktop environments. 6 HP's ProLiant BL480c blade servers were used with 2 quad core processors @ 3 GHz and 28 GB of RAM each. Also, 2 NetApp FAS2020 iSCSI storage systems with 11,2 TB of total space, Cisco routers and HP Procurve switching equipment. Hardware was placed in one C7000 chassis for complete redundancy of the system.

On the software side, VMware Infrastructure 3 was chosen as the best solution for creating virtualized environment, and VMware VDM was used for managing the virtual machines. The implementation of whole system took around 5 days to connect and install everything.

"VMware Infrastructure provides hassle free environment which is easily managed and allows virtual desktop machines creation what takes much shorter time than traditional way."

Nenad Čukalović, Head of System Engineering
Radio Television of Serbia

The system worked for 4 weeks during the Eurosong 08 without any problems and all issues were resolved swiftly through VMware VDM.

Results:

- Problem-free operation of 400 virtual desktops
- Fast implementation and issue resolving
- Less manpower used for managing the system comparing how many would traditional system need
- Faster operation of desktop environments compared to traditional systems

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