



Buyken Metal Products

Citrix Application Delivery
for Manufacturing

“XenServer has given us a much more modular network environment. Because of this, we are not only able to offer our customers the highest level of service possible, but have also unexpectedly received a new level of security.”

Joanne McKinney
IT Director,
Buyken Metal Products

Key benefits

- Provides the highest level of customer service without worrying about system failures
- Ensures server redundancy for business continuity and increased performance
- Delivers significant cost savings compared to other approaches

Buyken Metal Products fabricates built-in redundancy with Citrix XenServer

For almost 80 years, Buyken Metal Products of Kent, Washington, has provided high-quality precision sheet metal forming, stamping and fabrication to various industries including automotive, medical and electronics. Buyken is committed to finding the most appropriate and cost-effective solution for its customers. As its network aged, the company realized that part of this mission can be achieved by keeping up with the newest technologies available.

The Challenge: Re-architecting the datacenter to provide redundancy

The company datacenter consisted of two servers, each running its own specific application. This infrastructure created a huge problem because when one server went down, Buyken's business also went down. Buyken realized that it needed to ensure business continuity, and that the various data collection devices, servers and software throughout its organization would have to be updated.

“We knew that to solve these problems we needed to re-architect our datacenter to provide some redundancy and have more operating systems running,” said Mark Delaurenti, president of Buyken Metal Products. “Buying more physical machines was a cost barrier, so we began looking into other options.”

Implementing Citrix XenServer, Enterprise Edition

Buyken hired Seattle-based **Moose Logic**, a Gold Citrix® Solution Advisor, to re-architect the datacenter. In April 2007, Buyken decided to virtualize with Citrix XenServer™, Enterprise Edition. The decision was based on a number of factors, including the ability to virtualize Windows® servers with paravirtualization — a technology that provides greater security and less overhead than alternative approaches. XenServer allowed Buyken to more effectively leverage high-performance servers, and offered other key benefits including business continuity and the opportunity to save on space and energy costs. All of Buyken's servers, with Intel dual-core Xeon chips, now run approximately three to four operating systems.

A new datacenter in less than two weeks

Deploying the new datacenter from start to finish took less than two weeks. "The project was accelerated because of the ease of cloning guest operating systems," said Scott Gorcester, president of Moose Logic. "Our team is familiar with other virtualization solutions, so that definitely helped, but we were pleasantly surprised at the ease of use of XenServer Enterprise Edition. In a day we were up and running with all new operating systems and ready to go."

With the new infrastructure now in place, Buyken doesn't worry about system failures, and can better manage its network. "The ease of being able to grab images of systems is significant, and the speed of server deployment has shaved days off of our projects," said Joanne McKinney, IT director. "Additionally, the ability to protect our system by exporting images to another device gives us much more comfort in our ability to keep the system up and running."

Cost Savings and Business Continuity

Buyken is happy with their new enhanced and virtualized datacenter. "The cost of an operating system pales in comparison to the cost of bringing in a brand new piece of equipment. That's a lot of savings," stated McKinney. "And we've been very pleased with the significant performance improvements of our system and the benefits we will pass on to our clients."

To ensure business continuity, the system was designed so that the operating systems could be moved to another server if necessary. "We built this system to provide redundancy for all critical systems including the Active Directory Domain Controllers and the Terminal Servers," she said. "Now, in case of a catastrophic event like a server failure, we will still have critical systems up and running."

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