

## Step Three in Virtualization: All-in-One Monitoring

*An Executive Brief Sponsored by IBM*

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Your virtual IT infrastructure is a pulsating hub of activity. Your move to virtualization has taken agility from an objective to reality. And, your cost to serve has improved.

No surprise, your internal clients have noticed and have adapted. The incubation of new projects is on an upswing and the volume and diversity of production workloads has never been higher.

While reason to celebrate, your celebration should just be a pause in action. This movement from physical to virtual has pushed the number of objects that need to be monitored on a continuous basis to a new and higher level. Furthermore, the dynamic resource allocation enabled with virtualization—while beneficial in balancing performance and cost—has analogously taken monitoring of your IT environment from a 2D realm to 3D. Are you equipped?

For many IT organizations, the answer is no. Familiarity with existing monitoring tools and established procedures represents a structural barrier to change. But this barrier must be busted. These old tools and procedures were, at worse, inadequate and incomplete to avoid disaster when your IT environment was entirely physical. For some, however, these old tools were passable. They provided sufficient visibility to sound the alarms before disaster struck. However, this was at a time when physical servers were dedicated to specific functions, and running at sub-50 percent utilization levels was the norm. This is no longer your norm. Your IT infrastructure has been flattened and workloads are shifting within your virtualized environment in less than seconds. Again, good for agility and performance-cost optimization, but an unsteady existence when monitoring tools and procedures were designed for an outdated, non-virtualized world.

You must recalibrate your monitoring; it must be designed for virtualization. What you need are monitoring capabilities that have the following traits:

- **Single Pane of Glass** – Time is too short and is wasted in moving from one monitoring system to another. The previously honed competency in swivel chair operations is now an undesirable indicator of disjointed operations. Rather than seeking out information from numerous independent systems, information must be gathered and merged logically together to form a single pane of glass for centralized monitoring. Additionally, this single pane of glass must reach across physical and virtualized environments, as a portion of your workloads will undoubtedly remain on dedicated infrastructure. However, maintaining islands of unrelated monitoring systems—one for physical environments and another for virtualized environments—hampers IT productivity (i.e., swivel chair operations) and adds complexity to transitions of workloads between physical and virtualized environments.
- **Intelligence** – The fluidity of virtual workloads among servers and their interactions with storage systems, which are also virtualized, creates a swirling mix of status and performance information. As a result, deciphering cause and effect becomes a greater challenge; the polar opposite of what is needed in a rapidly changing IT environment—certainty. With built-in intelligence, a centralized monitoring system tames information chaos and presents to your team concise, meaningful, and proactive alerts and end-to-end performance monitoring data.

- **Automation** – The higher operational scale supported by virtualization must be combined with equally scalable monitoring. Without parallel scale, the benefits of virtualization will be blunted. Moreover, adding more IT personnel to reach parallel scale is counterproductive, as that carves into the cost savings of virtualization. Instead, what is needed is automation in IT monitoring tasks. Not only is automation more scalable than adding IT personnel; automation also improves IT productivity, as routine tasks are transformed from to-do lists to check box lists, and automation widens the share of IT time spent on strategic initiatives.

Convinced that a change in monitoring systems is overdue in your virtualization journey, the next set of questions is how and how much. The answer is the same to both questions: IBM Tivoli® Live – monitoring services. Not only does IBM Tivoli Live – monitoring services embody the aforementioned traits of a virtualization-ready monitoring system; it accomplishes this in a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) model. By being delivered through a SaaS model, there is no hardware to purchase and install, no software to license. Additionally, out-of-the-box alert conditions and corrective actions can be configured in IBM Tivoli Live to elevate system-wide availability and alignment with the latest software updates. Furthermore, instant scalability is supported, as is pay-as-you-grow pricing and the ability to monitor your IT environments wherever they are located—for example, in multiple private data centers or in a private data center and in the cloud. And because this is an IBM-built SaaS service, client isolation and enterprise-class security are built in.

Virtualization starts as a technology transformation. Positive on its own merits, virtualization should not end there. To truly maximize the benefits of virtualization in affordability, agility, and IT productivity also demands a transformation in system monitoring. Do not assume your current approach to monitoring will suffice; you must move forward in a transformation of system monitoring to move ahead.

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