

IT Optimisation: the low fat approach to IT

By John Liberty, IBM Express Advantage Programme Manager, IBM UK Ltd

Is your technology infrastructure a little overweight? For most companies, the honest answer is 'yes'.

A typical business spends about 80% of its IT budget on managing and operating its IT infrastructure, rather than investing in it, simply because that infrastructure is so complicated. It's the consequence of making different IT investment decisions at different times and because technology is advancing faster than ever.

Whether you just need to hone your systems or could do with a crash diet, IT Optimisation is the key to a 'low fat' IT strategy.

Doing more with less

IT Optimisation is all about doing more with less, simplifying your IT infrastructure and exploiting the maximum value of those systems, with technology that lets you manage them as a more seamless, optimised whole.

The benefits are clear. By simplifying your IT infrastructure you can reduce the time and cost of managing it, improve your operating efficiency and reduce the amount of IT resource you have sitting idle. As a result, you can retain usable equipment for longer and get more value out of your investments.

Storage is a key focus for SMEs

Many companies have a mix of storage systems from different vendors, each associated with a particular business application. This isn't a particularly efficient approach.

This is where storage virtualisation can pay real dividends. Put simply, it's a way to manage a mixture of storage devices in a consistent way. With a single point of

control over data storage it's much simpler to manage. Administrators don't have to deal with different interfaces and tools, and you can make much better use of the storage systems you've already invested in.

Less late night admin

And it's not just about the cost benefits; time saving is another important driver. How many system administrators do you know who believe that working late nights and weekends just comes with the territory?

When you don't have an optimised storage strategy, common tasks like data moves and disk administration have to take place outside normal business hours. With an optimised storage environment, you can balance the load across storage systems to take up the slack as you perform administrative tasks – which can take place at 2pm, instead of 2am.

The point of storage virtualisation is to make use of capacity you already have, then you don't need to buy any more. It's the low fat approach.

More information

IBM solutions for storage virtualisation and IT Optimisation as a whole, are available as part of the IBM Express Advantage portfolio, a range of solutions designed expressly for SMEs.



John Liberty

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LEXUS BELFAST
Charles Hurst Complex,
62 Boucher Road, Belfast
Tel 0845 020 3770
lexus-belfast@lexus.co.uk
www.lexus.co.uk/belfast

