

# IBM Server Consolidation (SCON)

IBM Server Consolidation (SCON) is designed as a complete solution. It puts more processes on fewer platforms and simplifies and optimizes existing IT infrastructures by reducing administrative and acquisition costs on servers, databases, applications, networks and management systems. With industry-standard System x™ and BladeCenter® servers, IBM SCON allows mid-sized businesses to create stable foundations for growth while realizing a positive return on investment (ROI) in as little as six months.

## The business problems we're solving

Many mid-sized businesses have invested significant resources in low-cost servers as an alternative to purchasing more expensive mainframes and proprietary Unix servers. Over time, the enormous hidden costs of licensing, maintaining, managing and cooling this type of distributed infrastructure have become a significant burden on budgets and competitiveness.

IBM SCON solves these problems by providing end-to-end server consolidations that are easily tailored to any organization's specific processing and budgetary needs.

## Solution benefits

Building a simpler and more responsive infrastructure for your business is easier than you might think. For a reasonable investment, you can

- Reduce hardware, software and administrative costs
- Optimize your IT infrastructure
- Reduce complexity and improve systems management
- Leverage IBM's vast experience in server consolidation

## An overview of our solutions

IBM SCON uses a six-step methodology to define the best consolidation solution for your business. Experts investigate your infrastructure to determine which approach – virtualization or physical consolidation – will deliver the most value for your particular requirements.

Virtualization allows many different OS environments to co-exist and share the resources of a single system. It also greatly simplifies application migration from underused servers.

Homogeneous environments, on the other hand, are often good candidates for a physical consolidation of terminal servers, file/print servers, web servers, mail servers and database servers. Solutions are typically developed based on the number of users. Multi-processor scalability is also considered since some applications do not currently scale beyond two processors.

Powerful four-way and eight-way servers are sometimes selected for more CPU intensive applications. The IBM System x™ server allows you to “buy as you grow,” while BladeCenter® servers are ideal for workloads that do not efficiently scale up beyond four-way SMP servers, such as with web infrastructure and enterprise applications.

Consolidation experts evaluate storage requirements for each island to determine if local storage is sufficient. They may recommend remote storage using IBM Storage Area Network (SAN) solutions.

Similarly, they consider your Local Area Network (LAN) and the Wide Area Network (WAN) requirements. The effect of reducing servers locally or across the network is calculated to determine if your existing network topology is sufficient.

### **How this solution helps**

#### *Reduce Hardware, Software, and Admin Costs*

Easy-to-use tools allow you to maximize your time and available resources. Advanced system management delivers the mainframe-inspired capabilities administrative professionals need to reduce downtime, track and deploy assets and operate servers more efficiently.

#### *Optimize Your IT Infrastructure*

Consolidation allows you to address the complexity of your server environment. You are able to group servers with like primary functions into islands, such as terminal servers, web servers and so on. Each island's capacity requirements (CPU, memory, storage and network utilization) are carefully sized to the anticipated workload within its environment. The result is an infrastructure that is optimized to carefully match your actual requirements.

#### *Reduce Complexity and Improve System Management*

Virtualization and physical solutions help you address new workloads while controlling power consumption and cooling costs. Both strategies allow your infrastructure to remain dynamic and capable of evolving as your business needs change. State-of-the-art workload and management tools enable consolidated environments to run on the same system comfortably.

Overall system administration is easier because you have the comprehensive tools to track and deploy assets, optimize performance and perform maintenance. Easy-to-use, point-and-click platform management solutions offer complete control over multi-system environments.

### *Leverage IBM Experience*

IBM is an industry-leading provider of server solutions. Its experts have decades of experience helping businesses optimize complex computing environments. IBM SCON solutions are based on a deep understanding of server technologies and how they can be deployed to create computing environments that are resilient, accessible and adaptable.

### **Businesses that need this most**

Manufacturing, Communications, Industrial, Public, and Financial

Because of our data-driven economy, many organizations have developed complex server environments that are difficult to manage and expensive to maintain. IBM solves these problems by providing options for server consolidation that are tailored to each business' unique workload requirements. All solutions are configured and tested before delivery to ensure smooth implementations and rapid return-on-investment.



### **To learn more, contact:**

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