

# Improved manageability and availability with Virtual Desktop Infrastructure



Having become familiar with VMware for use in Development and Test environments, institutional investor JM Finn engaged Amicus ITS to consult in the design of a fully virtualized infrastructure to reduce IT costs while increasing the efficiency, utilization, and flexibility of its existing assets.

Founded as a partnership in 1945 and incorporated as a private limited company in 2006, JM Finn & Co is one of the UK's leading privately owned investment managers. It is an independent company and a member of the London Stock Exchange and APCIMS.

Operating from offices in London, Bristol, Leeds, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich, with links to all the world's major financial centres, JM Finn has a clear priority towards a fully resilient infrastructure to support its 24x7 business. Jon Cosson, Head of IT at JM Finn explains: "server consolidation and reduction in data-centre overheads is important but virtualization must be viewed strategically when considering main line of business applications".

## Server Consolidation

Amicus ITS designed its proposal around VMware Virtual infrastructure. By implementing a virtualized environment, connected to an existing HP Storage Area Network (SAN), JM Finn reduced its overall server estate by around 80%. Fewer physical servers and related hardware result in tangible cost benefits through reduced data-centre, rack-space, power and cooling requirements.

Business Continuity is assured with improved Disaster Recovery. Jon Cosson continues: "this has been a major benefit to the organization. Traditional DR can be expensive and complex to invoke. Our environment is fully replicated and our recovery time objective has improved".

## Virtual Desktop Infrastructure

Since the success of the server consolidation project in May 2008, JM Finn has extended its scope to its desktop estate through Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI). Amicus ITS was, again, selected as partner to design, deliver and manage the deployment of VMware View.

Under this centralized model, desktop administration and management tasks are reduced significantly; applications can be rolled-out, removed, upgraded, and patched quickly; security is centralized; and critical information assets are easier to safeguard and back up. The solution delivers the speed of access required in a fast moving industry.

Staff working in Bristol, Leeds, Bury and Ipswich benefit from improved mean-time-to-repair for PC related faults and, overall, this flexible business infrastructure enables JM Finn to respond to changing business needs with simplified deployment and easier introduction of new applications.

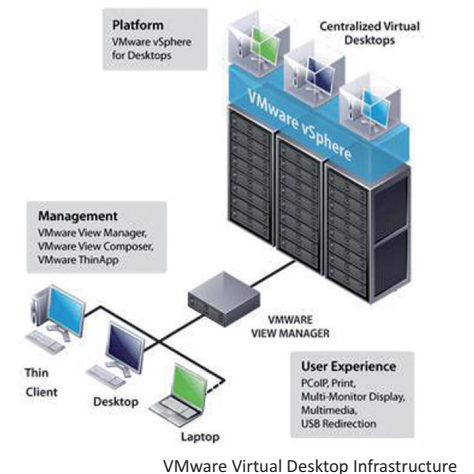
Jon concludes: "Before, we used a standard Microsoft environment but this didn't really achieve everything we wanted and lasted approximately a year; this solution worked straight out of the box".

The solution was delivered in March 2009, making JM Finn an early adopter of VDI. Amicus ITS believes this will be one of the hottest topics in IT in 2010.

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# JMFinn&Co



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