

Business-centric Monitoring Enables Proactive VMware Management

"If you need a quick and easy way to back up your VMware environment, Veeam Backup & Replication is the answer. If you need a quick and easy way to monitor your VMs with one easy interface, use Veeam Monitor. And if you want to simplify your view of the infrastructure by customizing how you sort the VMs, get Veeam Business View."

Joe Gremillion
Network Support Specialist
Dallas County Community College District

SUMMARY



**Dallas County
Community College District**

Company

Established in 1965, Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) is the largest undergraduate institution in the state of Texas. The district's seven colleges currently enroll more than 100,000 students every semester.

Challenge

Group, view, monitor, and manage virtual machines based on business criteria

Solution

Veeam Monitor™
Veeam Business View™
Veeam Backup & Replication™

Results

- Provides a clear view of mission-critical virtual servers grouped by business unit
- Reduces troubleshooting time and effort by 87%
- Increases backup speed by 88%

The Business Challenge

Like many organizations, DCCCD is pushing its IT infrastructure toward server virtualization. In fact, Joe Gremillion, Network Support Specialist for DCCCD, and his team have reduced the physical server footprint by 60 percent. Now they have 160 virtual machines (VMs) running on eight VMware ESX servers.

Unfortunately, Joe and his team had problems assessing the performance of so many virtual machines. "Using the VMware client was too difficult because it required us to switch back and forth between VMs, which meant I could never see all the VMs in one place," he explained. "What I really wanted was to categorize and view the VMs by business unit so I could measure their performance, reallocate resources, or move storage."

Joe and the team also experienced problems each time they backed up the virtual machines. "At that time, we were doing conventional backups with agents inside the VMs. When the backup process kicked in at 6 p.m. each day, all the agents hit the VMs at the same time and bogged down the ESX servers," he said. "I needed a way to perform backups without affecting the performance of the VMs themselves."

Joe and the team began looking for innovative systems management software to safeguard DCCCD's investment in its virtual infrastructure.

The Veeam Solution

DCCCD installed virtualization management tools from Veeam Software to better monitor and manage the virtual infrastructure.

Now Joe and the team use Veeam Monitor to give them a performance overview of all VMware machines. "I can look at the top hosts and click into a VM to see exactly what it's doing," he explained. "I can also look at resources via Veeam Monitor without having to go into the VMware client, which has saved me a lot of time."

The team also uses Veeam Business View, a free add-on that is fully integrated with Veeam Monitor, to categorize and monitor groups of servers. "We group servers by category within each business unit, such as email servers, file servers, and test servers," Joe said. "This lets us see how those machines perform per business unit, and this helps us decide if we need to reallocate resources or move storage to support the needs of the district."

Joe said the benefits of Veeam Monitor coupled with Veeam Business View are straightforward. "First, Business View is simple to set up and deploy. It gives me a really thorough overview of mission-critical servers grouped together in the way I want to view them. Second, if there is a problem with VMware, Veeam Business View and Veeam Monitor will help me identify it and respond to it quickly. Third, multiple colleagues can access Business View to see the same reports I see, which saves me a significant amount of

time. It used to take me one to two hours to sort through a client, grab screenshots, create customized reports, and explain them to my colleagues. Now I can do it in 10 to 15 minutes because of Business View."

In addition to Veeam Monitor and Veeam Business View, DCCCD uses Veeam Backup & Replication. "Conventional backups just didn't work for us," Joe explained. "All the agents hit the VMs at the same time and bogged down the ESX servers," Joe said. "We had an email server that took 12 hours to back up, but with Veeam, it takes 1.5 hours. That's a big difference in time and effort."

Storage space is not an issue with Veeam either. "We were able to keep two to three weeks worth of backups with the other product," he said. "But with Veeam, two weeks worth of backups only uses 20 percent of our backup storage space. We could probably keep an additional two weeks and not even reach 50 percent because of Veeam's compression."

The Results

Provides overview of mission-critical servers grouped by business unit - Simple to set up, deploy, and use, Veeam Business View provides DCCCD with an overview of mission-critical servers grouped together within each business unit. Veeam Monitor helps Joe determine whether he should reallocate resources or move storage.

Reduces troubleshooting time and effort by 87 percent - Since Joe's colleagues have access to Veeam Business View, the time he spent creating reports has decreased by 87 percent. What used to take one to two hours (sorting through a VMware client to get screenshots, creating customized reports, and explaining them to colleagues) now takes 10 to 15 minutes with Business View. "You don't even have to know much about VMware to understand these reports," Joe said. "They are easy to retrieve and navigate."

Increases backup speed by 88 percent - It used to take Joe and the team 12 hours to back up one particular email server. With Veeam Backup & Replication, the same process takes less than 20 minutes.

About Veeam Software

Veeam Software, a premier-level VMware Technology Alliance Partner and member of the VMware Ready Management program, provides innovative software for managing VMware vSphere 4 and Virtual Infrastructure 3. Veeam offers an award-winning suite of tools to assist the VMware administrator, including #1 for [VMware backup](#): Veeam Backup & Replication; Veeam Reporter Enterprise, for [VMware performance, storage, capacity reporting](#) and chargeback; Veeam Monitor, for [VMware performance monitoring and alerting](#) across multiple vCenters; [Veeam Configurator](#), offering complete host configuration management; and Veeam Business View, a free add-on that works with other Veeam products to [provide business categorization for the VMware vSphere environment](#). With its acquisition of nworks, Veeam's products include the [nworks Smart Plug-in](#) and the [nworks Management Pack](#) that incorporate VMware data into enterprise management consoles from HP and Microsoft. [Learn more about Veeam Software by visiting \[www.veeam.com\]\(http://www.veeam.com\).](#)

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