

Building powerful Micro Clouds on the Cheap

Private clouds are trustworthy solutions, which is why Bulldog set one up for their own company using Open-E DSS V6.

The Task

Bulldog Data Solutions set out to build their own internal cloud and wanted to deliver on four critical fronts:

- Fast performance
- Strong enterprise features
- Reasonable and controlled costs
- No single points of failure

Getting all four of these things rolled out in a virtualized infrastructure is nearly impossible. Great performance is easy to have if money is no object. Conversely, anybody can put together an environment that does not scale. This can lead to an environment which quickly falls apart as administrators add more and more virtual machines and their storage array grinds to a halt.

A middle path had to be found with **high performance at a reasonable price**. Brainstorming showed that with picking the right software and components, a unique micro-cloud could be built.

The Solution

Bulldog considered different virtualization platforms but settled on **VMware's vSphere Essentials Plus**, which offers patch management, a quick backup, live snaps, vMotion and high availability. This saved on costs and enabled Bulldog to set up discreet micro-clouds that can be weaved together with software, due to VMware's excellent API.

To build their own storage tier and pack it with performance Bulldog decided on **Open-E DSS V6 for a software SAN** because it provided the majority of features they needed, like replication, iSCSI failover, and snapshots. Additionally performance could be enhanced by Open-E's tiered storage concept with LSI.

For further information about Open-E, its products and partners, visit www.open-e.com.

The Result



Chris Alvarez, CTO:

"With this solution our performance and feature set will outperform off the shelf products of most vendors. We cannot compete against 10GBe NICs, but we don't need to. **For a fraction of the cost, we deliver high 9s of availability, a breakthrough performance, a robust feature set and no single points of failure** at nearly 25% of the price for a similar product. What more can we ask for?"

About Bulldog Data Services

Bulldog Data provides solutions that reduce complexity and simplify the management of your IT infrastructure. Whether it's consolidating your physical environment down to a robust virtualized architecture, designing a comprehensive networking solution, or customizing your Linux servers for maximum performance and uptime, we help you get the best out of your people, your capital and equipment.

But our commitment to your network goes beyond just set up and configuration. We provide enhanced transparency and visibility into your network, by providing robust documentation, doing detailed knowledge transfers to your staff and designing monitoring solutions that will give your executive team a clear understanding of how your systems are performing.

About Open-E

Open-E, Inc. is a pioneering leader and developer of IP-based storage management software. Open-E® DSS V6™ is aimed at the SMB and SME markets. It is a robust, award-winning enterprise storage application which offers excellent compatibility with industry standards (vast variety of supported hardware), and is easiest to use and manage. Additionally it is one of the most stable solutions on the market and an undisputed price performance leader.

Open-E counts over 27,000 installations in Fortune 500 organizations world-wide in over 100 countries for over a decade and received numerous industry awards and recognition. Thanks to its reputation, experience and business reliability, Open-E is an esteemed technological partner of industry-leading IT companies.

The Hardware Setup

2 x Dell RS10 - 12 Slot Servers
with 4 x SSD and 8 x 2TB SAS

