

Best Practices for Deploying Microsoft Exchange in the Data Center

WebTech Q&A Session, January 29, 2014

- 1. Can Microsoft Exchange® be virtualized using XEN?**
Exchange requires Active Directory® (AD) Services to properly register domains, and Microsoft AD currently sees XEN as a foreign domain. Exchange is not currently supported on XEN at this time. HDS will review XEN support once Microsoft releases more information.
- 2. What are the advantages of using a converged Hitachi Unified Compute Platform architecture over a JBOD architecture?**
There are 3 main advantages: 1) UCP gives you higher availability with less hardware. 2) You can reduce the number of Exchange Server licenses required, due to fewer replicas. 3) You can increase, size, and/or replace storage without disrupting the Exchanger Server deployment.
- 3. How do Hitachi solutions offer flexible storage utilization compared to JBOD solutions?**
Hitachi solutions allow you to use more of the storage: up to 90% utilization. JBOD is sized once and is inflexible, and is difficult to change so admins typically over provision. JBOD over provisioning is carried into all Lagging Availability Group (LAG) and Database Availability Group (DAG) replicas.
- 4. What are the benefits of virtualizing Exchange?**
Virtualization enables Exchange architecture templating. Virtualization also allows you to build ISO templates that can quickly be deployed to handle new users. Also, you can take advantage of VM migration for online patch management.
- 5. How does Hitachi Unified Compute Platform Select for Microsoft® Exchange Server lower OPEX costs?**
Proactive hardware monitoring of disk drives and error rates, and predictive diagnostics, allow HDS to replace drives before they fail. UCP Select for Microsoft Exchange also simplifies the Exchange Architecture by reducing hardware, DAG/LAG replicas, hotspots, etc.
- 6. How does virtualizing Exchange on Microsoft Hyper-V reduce Windows licensing costs?**
Fewer Exchange Server instances for DAG / LAG replicas require fewer Microsoft Exchange licenses.

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