

## VIRTUALIZATION: A LEAP FORWARD IN OPTIMIZING GOVERNMENT IT

### Insights Into The Current State of Virtualization Within Federal Agencies

Under the leadership of Federal CIO Vivek Kundra, federal agencies—both military and civilian—have been tasked with consolidating and optimizing their IT environments. These initiatives include the adoption of cloud computing and virtualization which can offer agencies better security, more eco-friendly operations, and greater efficiency. The Government Business Council, in partnership with GTSI and Oracle, recently completed an in-depth study of the federal IT environment, examining the attitudes, expectations, and best practices associated with virtualization.

#### FEDERAL EXECUTIVES HAVE LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF VIRTUALIZED IT ENVIRONMENTS

In sharp contrast to the prominence of virtualization in the private sector, a study of federal executives finds that many are unfamiliar with virtualization: one-third (33 percent) of survey respondents say they have no knowledge of the concept of virtualization. A minority (13 percent) describe themselves as “very familiar,” while 54 percent have some intermediate level of understanding.

#### VIRTUALIZATION: DRAMATIC AND POSITIVE CHANGE FOR AGENCY OPERATIONS

Despite limited familiarity, federal executives are very optimistic about virtualization’s potential impact on agency operations. Among those who are familiar with the topic, a strong majority agree that virtualizing an agency’s IT environment would bring dramatic and positive change to their organization. Eighty-four percent say that virtualization would benefit their organization, and 64 percent say it would be a “major benefit.” Only 2 percent say that virtualization would not impact their agency, while 3 percent say that any move toward virtualization would be detrimental to their agency.

The most important incentives for virtualization, according to respondents, include continuity of operations, flexibility, sustainability, and increased teleworking capabilities.

#### VIRTUALIZATION FACING HURDLES AT MANY AGENCIES

In spite of virtualization’s acknowledged benefits, federal executives identify a number of roadblocks preventing successful

implementation and operation of virtualized environments at their agencies. High on this list of roadblocks are end-users’ prevalent misconceptions about the control and governance of virtualized environments. Of most concern to respondents is virtualization’s impact on security policy.

#### VIRTUALIZATION’S DIFFICULTIES OF MOST CONCERN TO FEDERAL EXECUTIVES



#### A CLEAR ROADMAP TO A VIRTUALIZED IT ENVIRONMENT

Federal executives agree on a number of straightforward steps that agencies could undertake to overcome some of these roadblocks. Chief among them is “education and/or training” for end-users who are not fully informed about virtualization and its potential benefits. Those surveyed also said that government mandates and a comprehensive integrated solution would help facilitate their organizations’ adoption of a virtualized IT environment.

#### EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR FACILITATING ADOPTION OF A VIRTUALIZED IT ENVIRONMENT



To learn more about the virtualization study results and best practices in the federal space, please register to attend our upcoming Technology Leadership Series seminar on May 12, 2010, at [GTSI.com/TLS](http://GTSI.com/TLS). Attendees will receive a copy of the full in-depth survey results.

#### About the Survey

The Government Business Council, in partnership with GTSI Corp. and Oracle Corporation, executed an online survey in February 2010. A total of 189 federal executives representing civilian and defense agencies completed the questionnaire. Of those, 64 percent were GS/GM 13 or above.

#### About the Government Business Council

As Government Executive Media Group’s research intelligence division, the Government Business Council (GBC) is dedicated to advancing the business of government through analysis, insight and analytical independence. As an extension of Government Executive’s 40 years of exemplary editorial standards and a commitment to the highest ethical values, the GBC studies influential decision-makers from across the federal government to produce intelligence-based research and analysis. Questions or comments? Contact Bryan Klopach, Director of Research, at [bklopach@govexec.com](mailto:bklopach@govexec.com).

#### About GTSI & Oracle

GTSI helps government customers plan, design, implement and operate complex, scalable IT infrastructures addressing their critical business and IT requirements. In partnership with Oracle’s comprehensive set of capabilities in advanced systems, storage and services, we optimize agencies’ IT infrastructure, increase efficiency and improve service delivery while controlling security, compliance and cost.