

Speeding Up the Creation of Test Bed Environments

“Measure twice. Cut once.” It’s a common woodworking adage that can also be applied to the benefits of test bed environments. Always double-check before you do something that cannot easily be undone.

This works.

As a result, test beds are commonly used today to test large development projects. They allow rigorous, transparent, and replicable testing of computational tools and new technologies without the hazards of testing in a live production environment.

Of course, if it takes a long time to set up a test bed, then that holds back a development team from delivering needed functionality. At Symantec, the world’s largest software provider of security, storage, and systems management solutions, the IT team typically would invest anywhere from 20 to 30 man hours creating a test bed environment to test each particular module of a system. Clearly, they needed a tool that would reproduce these environments in a quicker and more efficient manner.

With the implementation of a software-defined data center (SDDC), the same process can be completed in just a few minutes. By wrapping virtual machines (VMs) around virtual application (VApp) wrappers, Symantec can now create their test bed environments almost instantaneously.

Here are the top business advantages that Symantec achieved by speeding up the creation of their test bed environments with the SDDC.

#1: Increased Agility

Because the SDDC allows the creation of test bed environments with just a few clicks, the Symantec IT team can now focus on test *results* rather than the tedious tasks involved with getting the environment up and running. This ability to reproduce so quickly and efficiently improved the agility of not only the Symantec IT team, but the entire corporation and how they can respond to their customers’ needs.

#2: Faster Time-to-Value (TtV)

There is a direct correlation between IT agility and faster TtV. This is because a business can do very little nowadays without considering and including their IT systems. With the SDDC, the Symantec IT team can now test and launch revenue-generating applications faster than ever before, minimizing the time between business requests and the delivery of those requests.

#3: Lower Cost of Ownership

With the SDDC, the test bed environments reside in the cloud rather than on a server onsite. Therefore, the cost of ownership is decreased drastically. Symantec no longer must incur the operational and capital expenditures associated with hosting the test bed

environments. This includes the cost of the servers, the facilities that house the servers, and their maintenance.

#4: Improved Customer Satisfaction

Because the creation of test bed environments is practically automated in the SDDC, developers have more control than ever before. Combine that with increased agility, faster TtV, and lower cost of ownership, customer satisfaction is bound to improve.

According to Jason Puig, Senior Manager of Cloud Services at Symantec, “We need to reproduce our customer environments; we need to pass those environments along and move them around seamlessly within the company.” With the SDDC, “it’s instantly available, right there. It’s really a game changing thing for us.”