Five Reasons to Take Your Virtualization Environment to a New Level

Study finds the addition of robust management capabilities drives 20 to 40 percent increases in key performance metrics
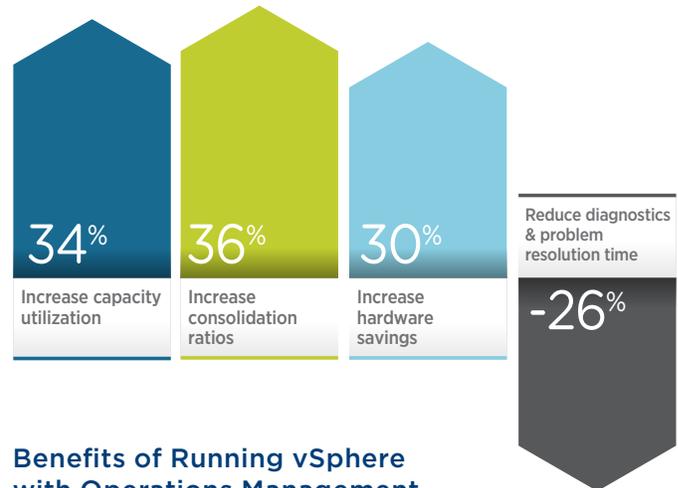
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Executive Summary

A study by independent researchers from Management Insight benchmarked the benefits of deploying robust operations management capabilities in VMware vSphere® environments.[1] The 2014 study results reveal 20 to 40 percent increases in key performance metrics and a strong return on investment (ROI) for organizations deploying VMware vRealize™ Operations™, VMware's management solution, into their vSphere environments.

This white paper explores the business rationale for upgrading to vSphere® with Operations Management™ in terms that both technical and business decision makers will understand. The paper highlights quantified benefits stemming from a management environment that couples control over performance, capacity, and configuration with predictive analytics and policy-based automation.

The capabilities available in the combination of vSphere and vRealize Operations are available today in a single product known as VMware vSphere with Operations Management.

34% Increase capacity utilization

36% Increase consolidation ratios

30% Increase hardware savings

Reduce diagnostics & problem resolution time **-26%**

Benefits of Running vSphere with Operations Management
Impact beyond running vSphere alone

Source: 2014 and 2012 Management Insights Studies

Introduction

Virtualization of IT resources can bring a wide range of business and IT benefits, including server consolidation, better utilization of physical assets, reduced capital and operational costs, and greater business agility. But virtualization alone isn't a complete solution. To achieve peak IT performance and intelligently scale your virtual environment, you need complementary tools that allow you to proactively manage emerging performance issues, automate capacity optimization, and view your entire environment from a single console.

These are among the benefits of adding vRealize Operations management capabilities to a vSphere environment or deploying the same combination of capabilities via vSphere with Operations Management. This comprehensive virtualization and management solution enables your organization to couple health monitoring and performance analytics with real-time visibility into your vSphere infrastructure.

In more specific terms, vSphere with Operations Management correlates data from applications to storage in a unified, easy-to-use management tool that provides control over performance, capacity, and configuration, with predictive analytics to drive proactive actions, and policy-based automation. Using integrated smart alerts, vSphere with Operations Management helps you identify problems and proactively address issues before they affect your end users.

[1] Management Insight, "Study Shows Businesses Experience Significant Operational and Business Benefits from VMware vRealize Operations," September 2014.

Business Benefits

In its 2014 study, the research firm Management Insight documented five overarching business benefits stemming from the use of vRealize Operations in a vSphere environment: improved capacity utilization, cost savings, strong ROI, business continuity, and greater efficiencies. Let's walk through key findings of the firm's study.

1. Improved Capacity Utilization

vSphere with Operations Management, or vSphere with the capabilities of vRealize Operations, enables your organization to go beyond basic server virtualization and consolidation by right-sizing your virtual machines. It shows you the configured amount of CPU, memory, and disk space and the recommended amount of resources to meet your workload demands.
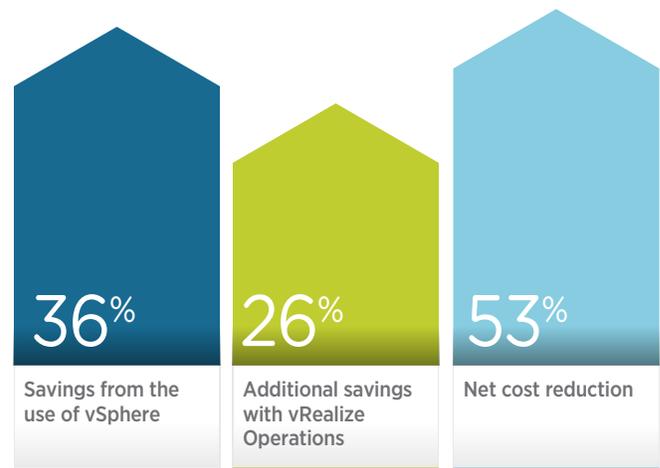
In addition, vSphere with Operations Management allows you to use "what if" scenarios to model resource consumption of upcoming projects so you can decide if you need to buy or defer hardware purchases. Collectively, these capabilities help your IT team make better use of your available capacity.

The Management Insight study found that deploying vRealize Operations in a vSphere environment results in an additional 34 percent gain in capacity utilization, for a total increase of 93 percent. Capacity is improved by moving virtual machines to balance utilization, increasing consolidation ratios, and reclaiming underutilized virtual machines.

2. Cost Savings

vSphere with Operations Management helps your IT organization streamline and accelerate key tasks, such as diagnostics and problem resolution, change management, incident isolation and remediation, patch management, and compliance management. These gains in productivity can equate to significant cost savings.

The Management Insight study found that the use of vRealize Operations management capabilities in a vSphere environment resulted in a 53 percent reduction in the cost of managing the IT infrastructure. These savings stem from the combination of the benefits of vSphere virtualization with the additional economies driven by vRealize Operations.

36%	26%	53%
Savings from the use of vSphere	Additional savings with vRealize Operations	Net cost reduction

IT infrastructure management cost savings[2]

3. Strong ROI

Organizations that add VMware operations management capabilities to their vSphere environments can experience strong return on investment. These gains stem in part from improved capacity utilization, increased management productivity, and reduced IT costs. In simple terms, vSphere with Operations Management gives you the information and insights you need to make better use of your IT and management resources, which increases your ROI from virtualization.
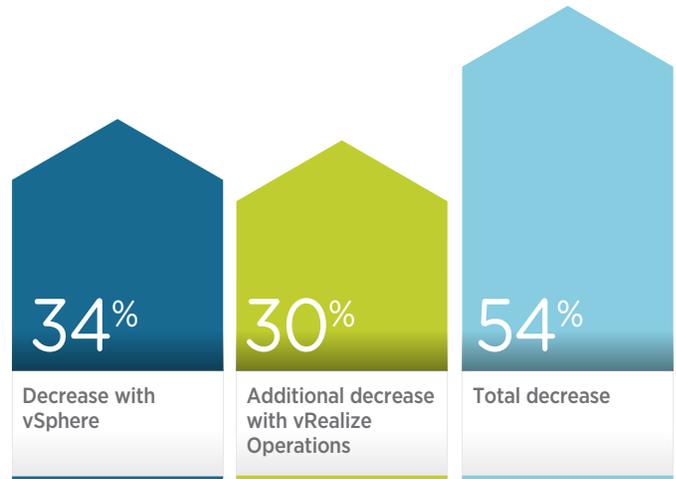
Management Insight found that organizations that deployed vRealize Operations reported strong ROI, averaging 2.4 times the return on their investments. More than 50 percent of respondents who deployed vRealize Operations reported that it took them fewer than six months to realize the value.

[2] Management Insight, "Study Shows Businesses Experience Significant Operational and Business Benefits from VMware vRealize Operations," September 2014. 53 percent net cost reduction = 36 percent + 26 percent of the remaining 64 percent.

4. Business Continuity

vRealize Operations is designed to enable the proactive identification and remediation of emerging performance, capacity, and configuration issues. These capabilities help your organization keep your business-critical applications running at peak performance levels, as documented in the Management Insight study.

The study found that vSphere with Operations Management increases the reliability and stability of business-critical applications through enhanced performance monitoring. Organizations that upgraded from vSphere alone to vSphere with Operations Management experienced 30 percent more uptime on tier 1 applications. Those that had newly implemented vSphere with Operations Management experienced a 54 percent decrease in downtime of tier 1 applications.
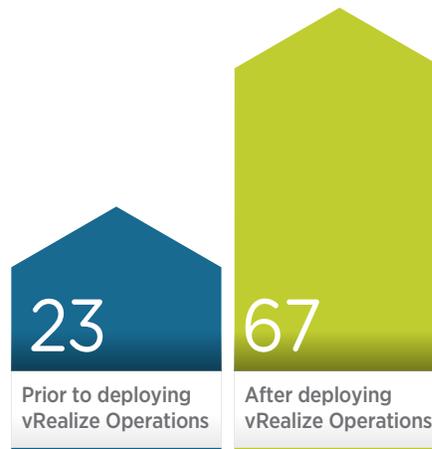
34%
Decrease with vSphere

30%
Additional decrease with vRealize Operations

54%
Total decrease

Downtime of tier 1 applications[3]

5. Greater Efficiencies

vSphere with Operations Management can help your organization achieve significant productivity gains in areas that contribute to the overall cost of managing IT, such as incident management, configuration management, and compliance management.

In addition, the single-lens visibility provided by vSphere with Operations Management speeds decision making and allows your IT team to respond more quickly to today's rapidly changing business landscapes. This is achieved through the quicker implementation of the software, applications, and upgrades that are vital to maintaining your competitive advantage.

In a tangible example of these efficiency gains, the Management Insight study found that when a small or midsize business adds vRealize Operations to its vSphere virtualization environment, a systems administrator can support more than 40 additional virtual machines.

23
Prior to deploying vRealize Operations

67
After deploying vRealize Operations

Number of VMs supported per SMB systems administrator

[3] Management Insight, "Study Shows Businesses Experience Significant Operational and Business Benefits from VMware vRealize Operations," September 2014. 54% decrease = 34 percent + 30 percent of the remaining 66 percent.

REALIZING THE BENEFITS: A CASE STUDY

IT teams tend to struggle to meet the dynamic demands of fast-growing businesses. In too many cases, IT organizations don't have the solutions they need to keep physical infrastructure in alignment with an ever-changing business.

The Waddington Group (TWG), a major global packaging manufacturer and marketer, faced this challenge, driven by the combination of rapid organic growth and the acquisition of companies. The company overcame the challenge with a unified virtualization platform based on vSphere with Operations Management.

Among other business-driven benefits, the VMware solution helped the company:

- Reduce the time spent integrating backend systems by more than 80 percent
- Improve consolidation ratio by 52 percent
- Increase data center efficiency by 34 percent
- Boost storage capacity utilization by 31 percent
- Increase memory utilization by 19 percent

For the full story, read the TWG case study.

Key Takeaways

The results of the Management Insight study confirm that the use of vRealize Operations enables IT administrators to be more proactive and responsive in the management of vSphere environments. The firm notes that these advances result not only in productivity gains within IT but also in visible business benefits that are directly attributable to IT.

Ultimately, the Management Insight study shows that when you add vRealize Operations to a vSphere environment, or deploy vSphere with Operations Management, you gain not just the benefits of the world's leading virtualization platform but also the ability to improve capacity utilization, reduce costs, increase ROI, strengthen business continuity, and achieve greater operational efficiencies.

"The business and operational benefits of vRealize Operations are proven. IT teams can use the intelligent operations, advanced policy-based automation, and unified management capabilities in the suite to proactively address performance issues, maintain high availability for business applications, improve operational efficiency, and enforce IT standards and compliance."

—Management Insight

To Learn More

For a closer look at the capabilities you gain when you add robust operations management capabilities to your vSphere environment, explore the Upgrade Advisor Tool.

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