



## vOptimizer Gives Sartomer Room to Grow

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### THE SITUATION

Specialty chemical maker Sartomer turned to virtualization to stop server sprawl, but virtual server sprawl began to creep in as virtual machines often were created to support single applications. Storage costs were rising to support the growing virtual environment, a problem Sartomer wanted to solve by improving virtual resource utilization.

### THE SOLUTION

Sartomer integrated Vizioncore's vOptimizer Pro to assess, reallocate and monitor its virtual server space allocations. With vOptimizer Pro, Sartomer immediately reclaimed 25 percent of its virtual storage space and gained the visibility and control needed to conveniently monitor and resize its VMs.

### THE RESULTS

"The biggest advantage is that we can be much better at managing our storage. We reclaimed a lot of space, and vOptimizer Pro helps us grow to where we need to be."

David Dietz  
IT Infrastructure Manager  
Sartomer

### THE SITUATION

Virtualization stopped physical server sprawl at Sartomer, but virtual server sprawl soon followed for the specialty chemical producer. "Over the years we purchased a bunch of machines that were only using about 10 percent of their processing power," explains David Dietz, Sartomer's global IT infrastructure manager. "So we ended up with a bunch of one-use servers."

In response, Sartomer created its first virtual infrastructure, consolidating dozens of physical Dell servers to virtual machines on high-performance Dell servers running VMware Infrastructure 2.5 (which were later converted to version 3.0). The virtual systems support Sartomer's worldwide facilities, because IT operations are centralized and managed from the company's headquarters in Exton, Pennsylvania. The virtualization initiative had its intended effect of improving utilization and stopping server sprawl, and gave Sartomer a platform for growth.

"Virtualization worked so well that we just bypassed the whole blade server thing," said Dietz. "We supported our continued expansion with virtual servers. After virtualizing, we grew to a 30 or 40 virtual server farm almost instantaneously."

However there were some growing pains. Sartomer's SAN didn't scale well for the new virtual environment, and the company wasn't happy with the support it was getting from its SAN vendor. In response, Sartomer implemented a new storage system, from LeftHand Networks, but more significantly, committed to doing something to curb its growing appetite for storage.

"When we created new virtual servers, we didn't always do a good job of allocating the disk space the VMs would need to run effectively. We'd also create the opposite problem, by allocating too much space that we wouldn't use," Dietz said. "We had to do a lot of reallocating, and would have to take our virtual machines down to do it, so the whole process was very time consuming."

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## THE SOLUTION

When Sartomer first created its virtual environment, it installed Vizioncore's vRanger Pro to provide backup and recovery, with excellent results. So when Sartomer began experiencing storage issues, it first looked to Vizioncore. vOptimizer Pro from Vizioncore is the first product developed specifically to reclaim lost storage space in VMware ESX Server environments, and gives users the tools to conveniently monitor allocations and resize VMs as needed.

"We downloaded the vOptimizer Pro trial and within two days we had claimed back 50 to 60 gigabytes of space on one system. That's a significant amount of space for us," said Dietz. "We saw right away that with vOptimizer Pro in place we wouldn't need to buy more storage."

Sartomer uses vOptimizer Pro to monitor how disk space is allocated to virtual servers, ensure allocations are aligned with recommended settings and actual usage conditions, and reallocate space as often as necessary, which is a fast process that no longer requires VMs to be taken down.

"Now when we set up a new VM we can guesstimate its disk allocation on the low side, which is great, for conserving space. If we undershoot it is no big deal because we can adjust the allocation very easily," Dietz said. "Just this morning I got a warning that a VM was low on disk space. I passed it along to one of my support people to add some space and a few minutes later got a message back 'OK, it's done.' vOptimizer Pro makes it easy for our IT group to be very responsive."

## THE RESULTS

Dietz estimates vOptimizer Pro has reduced Sartomer's storage capacity needs by 25 percent by reclaiming lost space and making it easy to right size VMs. The savings have helped hold down infrastructure costs, and the easy monitoring and reallocation features have reduced the staff time needed to support the virtual environment.

"The biggest advantage is that we can be much better at managing our storage. It's really easy to set up partitions just how Windows wants them," Dietz said. "vOptimizer Pro was a benefit to us the first week we used it. We reclaimed a lot of space, and vOptimizer Pro helps us grow to where we need to be."

The performance didn't come as a surprise. Sartomer was already using Vizioncore's vRanger Pro backup and recovery solution with excellent results, and had used Vizioncore's vConverter when it made the virtual-to-virtual migration to VMware Infrastructure 3 from version 2.5.

"When we looked into what it would take to convert our systems to the new virtual environment, we saw several options that would take a lot of time," said Dietz. "I saw a demo for vConverter and decided to try it. We set it to over a couple of nights, and expected to come in the next morning to some very minor problems to resolve. The performance was just incredible. We had a 100-percent successful conversion with vConverter. Other options we looked at would have taken two to three weeks to make the conversion, but with vConverter we did the upgrade in a couple of days."

"That's the advantage of Vizioncore products," Dietz concluded. "They just plug right in and are ready to go, and are very easy to use."



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