

**Introduction:**

When Blue Cross Blue Shield was faced with the challenge of expanding their datacenter, they realized they were literally out of room. They could not add anything further to their power grid or physically in the room itself. So Russ Stringer turned to HP and the new c-Class Blade System.

**Russ Stringer:**

We can combine the business continuity, the disaster recovery, and the high availability all into one infrastructure, and we'll be able to shrink the size of our data center down to about four racks or so. And they're like, "No, there's no way" – I said, "We can do it. There's the right tools; there's the right hardware, the right software out there. We can do this." As processors get more powerful, everything gets faster. Okay, so you've got a faster web server. You know, you're wasting 95 to 98 percent of your clock cycles, sitting there doing nothing except heating the air and sitting around doing nothing. You know, so virtualization is the answer to that. Our server room is now, you know, three degrees cooler.

Now, as we virtualize more, we'll be able to hang meat in there. I'm certain of that so the power savings. I've been able to de-rack and de-cable all of these old servers that were nothing more than power hogs. So my perfect store room; perfect hardware, perfect software.

Now, we implement the virtualization strategy, – the server consolidation. Taking our old stuff, putting it on – on a virtual machine. Taking new servers, putting them on virtualization from the get. Once we've done that, then we will have a – an environment that if something happens, wow, we've already got our disaster recovery strategy already in place.

We don't have to come up with, oh, – this is a critical application, so we need to buy duplicate hardware. Don't have to do that; we've already instituted that. We've – we've got our – our local enclosures, we've got our ESX servers that are sitting down idle – at our disaster recovery site. If – if my machine goes down here, it comes up over on the other side. It – it is the perfect store room.

I love my C Class. Not because it's an HP, I love it because it works. It does exactly what I want it to do, when I want it to do it, and – and it gave – it gave me a chance to save a lot of money. It gave me a chance to – to actually allow our – our server room to be cleared out. I love going to my network engineer manager and say, "By the way, I've virtualized four servers last night and, you know, here are the cables that used to be connected to the 6509. I just saved you from having to buy another module that you were – that you were thinking about buying."

So we actually put both enclosures in our primary data center, and we kind of re-architected our – our strategy. It was going to just be for virtualization. We actually put

one blade in as a 64 bit sequel server, and put that on our sequel cluster, and the performance has just gone through the roof. You know, you throw 24 gigs of RAM at a – at a sequel server and it goes, “Ooh, I like that,” and – when it talks across the back plane to the VM’s that are running on the other blades. That performance is just phenomenal.

You’ll see our data center move to blades. Less, less wire, less power, less cooling. There’s no reason why we shouldn’t. I love it because it does what I want it to do.

*[End of Audio]*