HighJump™

4 REASONS WHY YOUR WMS SHOULD USE VIRTUALIZATION

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Virtualization technology is nothing new, but somehow it's still not a standard feature for all enterprise warehouse management systems (WMS). However, it's a critical function to consider when evaluating different WMS vendors.

What makes it such a necessity? Let's dive into the reasons why virtualization is a must when a company decides it's time to purchase its first WMS or upgrade its current one.

INSTALL ONCE, DEPLOY EVERYWHERE

One of the biggest advantages provided by virtualization is that the software can be installed on just one server and then deployed to other systems across your network. This means the pain of implementation and the endless configurations that come with it must only be done once. Once the system is virtualized on one or multiple servers, everything can be cloned onto other computers. It's that simple.

And this is more than just a matter of convenience. Since it is only installed once, the software will be consistent across the network. If it has been customized to handle a certain task in a certain way on the virtualized server, that will carry over to wherever the solution is deployed. No re-deployment means avoiding the risk of flipping the wrong switches or losing the customizations handled during the original implementation. The end result? Less work – and frustration – for your IT team. Your WMS project will be focused on fine-tuning operational business needs, not technical setup issues. Fewer implementation hours and thus less money spent on service fees from the vendor and/or consultants. It's a rare across-the-board win.

MITIGATE RISK

The reality is that hardware will fail – computers are physical machines that age. But broken hardware should not put your business on hold for hours or even days at a time. Virtualization acts as a safety net between the software and the hardware. Should it fail, the WMS can be called up from another machine with little to no disruption. Since it is deployed virtually on a number of other computers, there should always be backups available to recover from.

This offers peace of mind and much more. Every operations executive knows roughly how much money the company would lose when operations shut down (also known as business continuity). Removing hardware failure as a threat reduces the risk of losing thousands or even millions of dollars, depending on the size of the business. It's important to keep that business continuity figure in mind when selecting a WMS vendor.

GET UP AND RUNNING FASTER

Virtualization makes deployments not only easier, but much quicker. The software does not need to be individually installed on different machines, which is often a cumbersome, time-consuming process. It generally takes days to deploy and configure a virtualized WMS as opposed to the months it would require to implement on-premise at multiple locations.

Faster installations ultimately benefit the organization. The less time and money spent getting the technology in place, the better.

PREPARE FOR THE CLOUD

Cloud-based enterprise software has become increasingly popular over the last several years. Having the ability to access a WMS anywhere with an internet connection is not only convenient but grants visibility that can drive real business goals. Having someone else manage the underlying infrastructure and upgrades can be a big positive, as well.

Think of virtualization as the gateway that leads to the cloud. Reducing dependence on hardware is a big first step toward moving to the cloud. If a cloud-based WMS is in your future plans – and if it's not yet, that could change soon – then virtualization is a critical building block. Every house starts with a foundation.

The benefits presented above demonstrate why virtualization is indispensable for the enterprise software that a business depends on daily (such as a WMS). So why would some vendors fail to provide it? Certain solutions have "heavier" code bases and processes (i.e., they eat up more space and require more resource-intensive servers). That makes re-deployment more challenging. During the evaluation process, keep in mind that "lighter" software solutions (i.e., clean code bases with well-defined processes) are ideal for virtualization.

The bottom line is virtualization has the potential to increase your top and bottom lines while also acting as a security blanket if the hardware fails. So before making a substantial investment in a WMS, make sure you understand its capabilities for virtualization – the stability of your business may depend on it.

ABOUT HIGHJUMP

In almost every industry, buyers are becoming more fickle, and more demanding. For logistics executives, effectively meeting buyer needs has become a relentless quest for speed and agility. Traditional supply chain solutions – siloed, complex and hard-to-implement – no longer suffice, as competitors find ways to deliver goods faster and more profitably.

In today's "now" economy, HighJump helps you stay agile, with adaptable, connected solutions that harness the power of your trading partner community. From the warehouse to the storefront, from the desktop to the driver's cab, we can help you achieve new levels of supply chain responsiveness, performance and profitability.

HighJump's suite of warehouse management, business integration, transportation management, and retail/DSD solutions form a complete, powerful and adaptable platform that allow you to drive growth, customer satisfaction and revenue. **HighJump: supply chain accelerated.**

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THE HIGHJUMP TEAM IS HERE TO HELP!
If you have any questions regarding HighJump or how our products can improve your business, our passionate team is here for you.

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