

COUNTY LINE

ALACHUA COUNTY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER
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ITS Staff Give Speech on Virtualization @ AITP

The topic of server virtualization rarely makes the “normal” person jump for joy. However, when you learn that it can help save the County time and money, you might perk up a bit. According to Jim Bledsoe of I.T.S., “It’s really quite revolutionary what this means for the I.T. field.”



Team virtualization, Geof Grooms and Jim Bledsoe

Alachua County began the server virtualization project in 2008 and it will continue for the next three years. Taking the lead in this project are I.T.S. staff members Geof Grooms and Jim Bledsoe. Once the project is completed, we will begin to realize savings in reduced hardware costs and lower energy consumption.

Eager to hear about their experiences, the local chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) asked both Geof and Jim to conduct a presentation on server virtualization at their April 28th meeting. Their speech touched on the far reaching impact on the County’s network infrastructure through improved disaster recovery, maximized flexibility and increased performance. Due to the advanced nature of the topic, the AITP meeting saw a spike in attendance.

The two presenters started off with a top down perspective but then went much deeper based on audience questions, delving into security, deployment, and even comparisons with the Microsoft product. After the speech, Jim remarked, “I really enjoyed sharing our experiences and we received a very good reception.”

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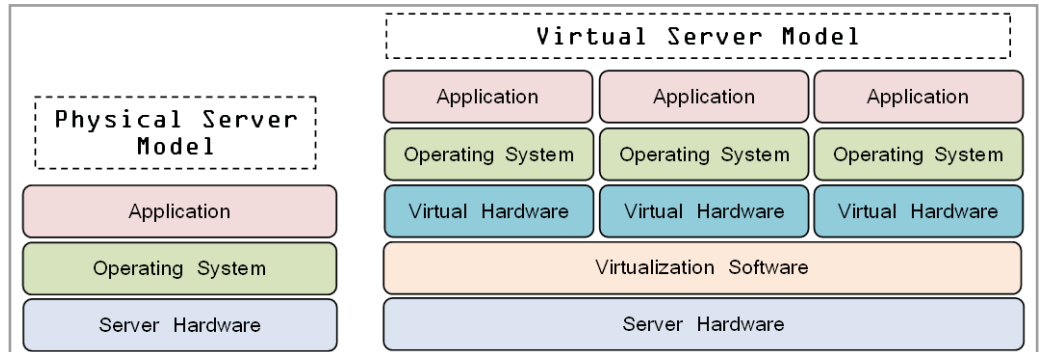
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So what in the world is server virtualization? The need arose from how applications are developed. Most applications require its own dedicated server so that it is isolated from other applications which ensures its stability. However, this gets expensive when each new application leads to the purchase of a new server.

The server virtualization concept started with IBM in the 1950s, but today we now have the technology and software to make it happen. With virtualization operating systems can be separated from each other allowing one very large machine to control several smaller servers independent of each other. “It becomes a one-to-many relationship because the big machine hosts the smaller ones,” explained Jim. Also with this model you can maximize the resources on any given server and skip the purchase of a new one. Should a new server be necessary, the deployment now takes minutes rather than hours.



Also attending the AITP meeting, Liz Thomas of I.T.S., was “proud to see Alachua County showcased as one of the local leaders in virtualization.” Many of the attendees at the AITP meeting were grateful for the tips provided as they prepare their organizations for virtualization.

- *By Stephen Linton-Smith, ITS*

Thank you from the Purchasing Department

To help the Alachua County Purchasing Department celebrate National Purchasing Month, the Purchasing Department asked for donations of canned goods and non-perishable food items. Orange and blue recycle bins were placed in offices throughout the County during the month of March. The bins were collected and their contents donated to the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank; a local charitable organization. When weighed, the donations totaled 542 pounds. This was nearly two hundred and fifty pounds more than last year!

On behalf of the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank and those they provide food to, the Purchasing Department would like to thank all the county employees and departments that participated in our third annual food drive. We are grateful for your generosity and appreciate your role in our annual effort to recognize and promote procurement and customer service.



- *By Matt Stevens, Purchasing*

Microsoft Minute

Word: Uncommon, but Handy Keyboard Shortcuts

If you are a heavy Microsoft Word user, you probably live by keyboard shortcuts. While there are tons of them, you most likely use only a handful everyday. The below listing are some lesser-known shortcuts, but they can be big time-savers.

For even more shortcuts, visit the [ITS Training site](#). Click [here](#) for printer friendly version of shortcuts list.

Ctrl + K	Insert a hyperlink within the selected text
Ctrl + Shift + K	Format select text as small caps
Shift + F3	Change the case of the selected text
F8	Extend the selection
F4	Repeat last action
Shift + F5	Move to the last change
Ctrl + M	Indent the selected paragraph from the left
Ctrl + T	Apply a hanging indent to the selected paragraph
Ctrl + [Decrease the selected text's font size by one point
Ctrl +]	Increase the selected text's font size by one point
Ctrl + Equal Sign	Subscript the selected text
Ctrl + Shift + Plus Sign	Superscript the selected text
Ctrl + 1	Apply single-space lines to the selected text
Ctrl + 2	Apply double-space lines to the selected text
Ctrl + 5	Apply 1.5-space lines to the selected text
Ctrl + Shift + W	Underline the selected words but not spaces
Alt + Ctrl + S	Split the document window
Alt + Shift + C	Remove the document window split
Ctrl + Shift + Enter	Insert a section break
Ctrl + Enter	Insert a page break

- Steve Linton-Smith, ITS