Blade Servers and Virtualization: Transforming Enterprise Computing While Cutting Costs by Anne Skamarock

Belongs On Every Virtualization Bookshelf

Blade server systems and virtualization are key building blocks for Next Generation Enterprise Data centers. Blades offer modular, pre-wired, ultra high-density servers (up to 10x traditional servers) with shared components (power, cooling, switches) – reducing complexity and cost, and improving flexibility, availability, manageability, and maintainability. Virtualization enables consolidation of physical servers by allowing many virtual servers to run concurrently on one physical server – improving system utilization, reducing the total number of physical servers, reducing costs, and increasing flexibility. This is the first book covering these complementary technologies and how, together, they provide a strong foundation for the future. It examines the history, architectures, features, examples, and user case studies of blade systems and virtualization, and offers guidance and considerations for how to evaluate and implement solutions.

My Personal Review:
This book is a great complement to the multitude of virtualization books out there (my own included). Hardware design and sizing for virtualization is critical in all virtualization migration projects and this book does a great job examining all of the available blade solutions and architectures at your disposal. The authors also provide granular analysis of all major vendor solutions (HP, IBM, Dell, Egenera, etc.). Coverage of clustering and virtualization software is also included.

The scope of the book is vast (blades, virtualization software, power and cooling, management -- to name a few topics), so its unfair to expect every detail of every topic to emerge in the text (the book would be 10,000 pages if it did). But if you want a book that connects all of the dots in the modern data center, then this book is for you. With coverage of all data center technologies and the vendors that provide them, this book is sure to accelerate the preparation and architectural work needed in any virtualization migration project.

~Chris Wolf