

The Green IT Journey— Way beyond the environment



Robert Bracey,
President,
Quartet Service Inc.

"Most people think that Green IT is all about saving the environment. It's not. It's also about saving money and reengineering the way we work. It's a series of things that build on each other; each one measurable, each one profitable. That's why we call it a journey, and it leads to all sorts of benefits," explains Rob Bracey, president of

Quartet Service Inc.

The average financial return on a green IT investment is 10 to 20 per cent and for most companies the social returns are even greater. Using Microsoft Office Home and Hyper-V software with HP's Proliant servers, Quartet is taking companies down the Green IT path one step at a time. "We've helped over 40 companies along their Green IT Journey, and while all seem to start differently, they all go the same direction: saving money, developing flexibility and increasing reliability. We've got plenty of great examples."

One of our clients is an IT consulting company focused on health care. "We started their Green IT Journey two years ago by deploying Microsoft Office Home in over 40 homes." The company employs over 50 people, but only six of them work from the head office. Office Home gives remote users complete access to the company network, files and email system. No travel time loss. No mileage expenses. Disciplined workflows. This is about much more than going green.

The next step was virtualizing their server farm. Using Microsoft's Hyper-V software we have reduced the number of servers by almost half. Virtual serv-



ers takes physical servers and combine them into one. HR, accounting, procurement, mail, file server, anti-spam and Web servers only need one machine, not seven. Virtualization reduces hardware and has a number of other benefits: disaster recovery, data integrity, space reduction and reduced IT support costs to name a few.

Quartet prefers HP servers due to their reliability and their excellent customer support. HP Proliant Servers can translate into energy savings of 40 per cent a year. Recent product enhancements have decreased power requirements even further. "Less hardware means fewer things can go wrong. You want easy repair, lower service fees and simple troubleshooting. A win-win for everyone."

"Careful planning makes Green IT a smooth journey, but you should walk before you run," says Quartet's Bracey. True enough. Careful planning yields

greater return. We integrate three elements: the client's needs, their existing IT platforms and the best of new technologies.

"Just this past month, we introduced Microsoft Online Services, a brand new product that gives the Microsoft Office Suite a software-as-a-service format. Every Green IT solution seems to open the door to another set of benefits. That's why we call it a journey. New technology, new processes, new business opportunities, workplace reengineering. It's very exciting."

Every journey begins with a single step. Could your business start down the Green IT path? Absolutely. All it takes is a click or a call.

