

# “Actualize the Enterprise Cloud”



**BIOS manage to deliver that difficult blend of being both professional and innovative with the need to be practical and dependable, it is a mixture that is all too rare in the IT services marketplace.**



*Martin McHugh,*

*Director of Information Services, Barclays Bank Middle East*



**Customer:**  
**Barclays Bank Middle East**

**Website:**  
[www.Barclays.co.uk](http://www.Barclays.co.uk)

**Industry:**  
**Banking**

**Benefits:**  
 The ability to provide business continuity to applications and business units due to the underlying agile infrastructure environment.

Rapid deployment of automated server builds

Support, maintenance and environmental savings; reduction in space as well as air conditioning and power requirements

A cost effective disaster recovery environment. Using VMware and NetApp SnapMirror, Barclays can recover from a disaster in hours rather than days with their applications and data ‘snapshotted’ up to the minute, rather than 24 hours behind. Likewise they can rapidly clone the production into a lab environment for testing before applying changes to product environment to limit those ‘mini-disasters’ which IT deals with everyday.

UK-based Barclays Bank PLC is one of the world's largest financial services companies.

Barclays has been providing banking, investment banking and investment management for over 300 years. Today the Barclays Group operates in over 60 countries and employs more than 111,000 people worldwide.

Their main operations are UK Banking, Private Bank, International Banking, International Retail and Commercial Banking, Barclaycard, Barclays Capital and Barclays Global Investors.

**Martin McHugh, Director of Information Systems, had three key business challenges that he needed to meet;**

1. To reduce the negative impact of excessive back-up to tape window
2. The existing data centre had insufficient space and the servers were not being utilised to full capacity
3. A self sufficient business continuity solution between his two U.A.E. sites was required

BIOS were contracted to undertake a study of the existing infrastructure and provide a detailed report on the impact to the business of implementing virtualization.

Based on this report BIOS were awarded the project which was to deliver a fully virtualized Wintel environment using VMware Virtual Infrastructure technology, with NetApp storage and HP server hardware.

The solution provides no single-point of failure in the production environment, removing any downtime associated to hardware failure and providing up to the minute application aware snap-shots of the key applications to allow for instant restore of data as required.

Also the issues of large backup windows were addressed with implementing a virtual tape library (VTL) solution which would reduce the daily backup window to 2 hours from 50+. Barclays would now have multiple layers of data backup from which to restore all on near line storage, therefore removing the complexity of restoring data from tape. In addition Barclays can now manage the growth and expansion of their server estate, thus reducing time to provision new servers to minutes rather than days, improving their time to market and responsiveness to the businesses needs. The second phase of the solution addresses the need for a simplified and robust DR strategy. Utilizing again the features of NetApp Snap Manager and VMware Site Recovery Manager products Barclays now have a fully automated failover at the push of a button. The system is configured to automatically shut down services from the production site and restart them on the DR site in a matter of minutes. There is also the facility available to run test DR without shutting off production services.

In total Barclays Bank have virtualized over 80 servers and built a scalable and robust platform for future growth, which will allow for initiatives such as desktop virtualization to become something which users can gain great benefit from also.

