



“By consolidating our servers, CenterBeam was able to help us realize significant costs savings and accelerate our strategic infrastructure downsizing efforts as well as improve our computing resource availability and user experience.”

- Gil McInnes, CIO, SEMI

Major Benefits for SEMI:

- Consolidated servers by 52% (171 servers reduced to 89)
- Most systems running at 65% of storage usage and 45-50% processing capacity
- All servers virtualized across multiple ESX Hosts and VMware Server Farms
- Significant failover recovery and availability improvements
- Accelerated project delivery (completed in 90 days)

Challenge

SEMI™ is a global industry association serving the manufacturing supply chains for the microelectronic, display and photovoltaic industries. With 200 employees in twelve worldwide locations, SEMI was operating on an IT infrastructure that was underperforming, including 171 servers running Microsoft® Windows, Oracle® and Lotus® Domino platforms. SEMI knew their total cost of IT ownership was high for server management, as well as end user support costs and maintenance costs.

SEMI needed a quick, yet thoughtful approach to quickly reducing costs without sacrificing business requirements. Server consolidation provided low-hanging fruit and was a vital component of the overall IT optimization strategy.

Business Objectives:

- Reduce IT OPEX
- Ensure scalability
- Standardize and simplify across global locations
- Deliver high levels of service, support and security

Scales More, Costs Less

The organization needed a holistic solution that would simplify and streamline their infrastructure, while adding proactive management and monitoring capabilities. In order to centralize their infrastructure support in a remotely managed model, SEMI sought a partner to deliver on-demand, pre-built services via the cloud. The solution needed to yield immediate cost savings and enhanced levels of security, capabilities and visibility—while being deployed globally in a compressed timeline.

SEMI partnered with CenterBeam® to serve as an extension of its IT operations because, in addition to meeting SEMI’s business objectives, CenterBeam has expertise in handling the unique challenges associated with a growing and global footprint: different countries with different hardware preferences, operating hours and reporting. SEMI also knew it would be losing IT resources, and wanted a partner who would compliment and extend the abilities and effectiveness of its remaining team.

Solution

SEMI provided CenterBeam with a timeline of three months to complete the full assessment, analysis and consolidation. Because CenterBeam offers services over the Internet using a cloud computing model known as Software as a Service (SaaS), SEMI was able to rapidly deploy a comprehensive and consistent set of services and processes for servers including:

- Centralized Microsoft® server management
- 24x7 monitoring, up and down
- Change management
- Asset tracking
- Software distribution
- Security patching and updates
- Predictive analysis
- Hardware management

Assessment, Planning, Building

CenterBeam's Professional Services team led the SEMI server consolidation effort as part of an overall server migration exercise. This included assessing, recommending and executing the server consolidation project. Custom metrics were installed to collect server performance data, and a full Capacity Planning assessment and analysis was completed on SEMI's entire server infrastructure using VMware Capacity Planner. The affected servers consisted of development, staging and production servers covering core association management, business communications and work group computing applications, as well as VMware® ESX host servers.

Through CenterBeam's technical expertise and partnership with the SEMI IT team, SEMI significantly accelerated their IT infrastructure and applications simplification program. This further reduced SEMI IT operations and support costs and increased the ability to quickly address business changes.

SEMI achieved significant failover and availability improvements as well. With high availability configured in SEMI's VMware Environment, failover is managed at the cluster level, and DRS is configured to even the load and manage capacity across the VMware® ESX farm resources. Availability is 99.9% due to the virtualization aspect of all their servers and because High Availability (HA) and Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS) are configured to handle disaster recovery and resource allocation.

Expert Transition

SEMI's consolidation project was large scale, and included not only the assessment and consolidation of servers and redirection of data, but a major reduction in staff. CenterBeam provided stability on many levels, which was critical at a time when the rest of the IT organization was in flux. To ensure a smooth transition, CenterBeam had a Senior Level Engineer onsite and available to help manage the process. Early on, this included meeting with the SEMI IT Team and performing data collection. Thereafter, this meant conducting touch point sessions, design reviews, knowledge sharing, and help in addressing any open issues.

This level of professional services was offered to SEMI not only to establish a confidence level, but to offer guidance every step of the way, and to make sure they had access to CenterBeam talent and resources. This also ensured there were no gaps in responding to SEMI's concerns and fast response to additional requirements.

Importantly, SEMI's business operations were not impacted during cutover. Due to the magnitude of the project and number of servers, the transition happened in a phased approach. Application testing took place prior to each cutover to ensure no detail was missed and all glitches were discovered prior to that phase going live. The entire project was on budget and schedule and exceeded SEMI cost savings targets.

Summary

Major Benefits

By partnering with CenterBeam for their server consolidation project, SEMI was able to achieve desired business goals over the course of three months, consolidating their servers by 52% to 89 servers — 41 CenterBeam managed servers and 48 SEMI managed servers.

As part of the larger initiative, this project contributed to a cost savings of \$280K (111% of target), reducing the annual IT budget by 8.3%. The standardized infrastructure simplified support across global offices and the solution ensured a scalable, proven IT model to support the expansion and contraction of the SEMI business.

Secondary Benefits

- Server footprint reduction saves cost/energy
- Server consolidation and virtualization provides SEMI IT with the flexibility to address new business challenges more rapidly
- 24x7 remote server management and monitoring
- Consistent and high levels of service and support across the global enterprise
- On-demand IT reporting (network, PC, server, helpdesk tracking and end user satisfaction)
- Access to subject matter expertise on-demand vs. staffing in-house
- Improved disaster recovery processes
- Day to day infrastructure hassles offloaded so internal resources can focus on SEMI core application environment

Contact CenterBeam

Let's discuss whether consolidation is right for your business. With just a few data points from you, we can determine if your organization is a good candidate for server consolidation and what the scope and savings might look like. Call Justin Piotroski, National Sales Manager, Professional Services at **1 (858) 630-5003**.



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