

## Re: SBS guest on Virtual Server 2005 host?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2006-05/msg02125.html>

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- *From:* "kj" <kj@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 11 May 2006 17:14:35 -0700
- 

COOL Les!

No interaction issues with WSUS either?

--

/kj

"Les Connor [SBS Community Member - SBS MVP]" <les.connor@xxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in message <news:OHY4j9UdGHA.1436@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Your TS/ App server could be a VM guest right on the SBS host server! You could even have a XP pro VM workstation reserved just for RWW! The possibilities boggle the mind.

These are reality, I do it and can't imagine others don't as well. I have two production TS virtual machines, guests on the SBS box. My own SBS (i'm the only user ;-)) has a TS and 2 XP workstations as VMs. I leave the TS and 1 workstation running full time.

--

Les Connor [SBS Community Member - SBS MVP]

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SBS Rocks !

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"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I'll remember. Involve me and I'll understand." - Confucius

"kj" <kj@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:u%23\\$1r1UdGHA.5016@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](news:u%23$1r1UdGHA.5016@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Costs? well, I haven't done all the math on all the variants, but if I was going to build a monster VM host, I'd want hardware and software support for as much memory as VM will effectively use.

Would 32GB of RAM be enough? I don't know, maybe for now. Two or

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three

years from now after VS has 64bit guest OS support and I need VM-SQL, VM-Exchange, and VM-SBS200x ?

That kinda leads one to EE for the host, and since it now includes license for four EE VM hosts, there's a substantial savings potential built in. Personally, it would have been nice had MSFT allowed the use of any four 2003 server products. A nice little four server web farm would be ideal!

For this;

I agree however that running SBS in the VM is 'pushing the envelope'.

The

case I'm considering it for is an existing Server 2003

servicing ~6

users

with modest requirements (and a tight budget). I can actually imagine

that

if the implementation is successful and SBS proves to be of benefit but

lacking in performance the system would be moved to real hardware.

I've found SBS VM on a modest host to be adequate. But what is the gain over just running on a physical box?

When you get three or four VM's running on a single host, you can dynamically adjust resources and compute capabilities and share expensive subsystems (to a point). Well planned, there's a considerable value proposition, and of course increased risks.

I think the VM world will shake itself out in the next year or so. For now, legacy server consolidations, dev and test, are proven winners and generally only what I promote right now for VM's.

btw, You did notice that Virtual Server 2005 R2 is supported on both versions of SBS 2003, right?

I haven't "gone there" yet, but it's on my lab schedule.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserversystem/virtualserver/evaluation/sysreqs.mspx>

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--

/kj

Re: SBS guest on Virtual Server 2005 host?

"SuperGumby [SBS MVP]" <not@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
news:uBUH\$RUdGHA.4108@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

'if the host server has only one NIC'

re-read my post.

I've also stopped promoting the VS Extension to EE licensing, in all but the most extreme cases, or if you intend the host OS to be EE for some other reason, the cost of EE is just too much. Standard Server x64 would handle most requirements for host (RAM and IO).

I agree however that running SBS in the VM is 'pushing the envelope'.

The case I'm considering it for is an existing Server 2003 servicing ~6 users with modest requirements (and a tight budget). I can actually imagine that if the implementation is successful and SBS proves to be of benefit but lacking in performance the system would be moved to real hardware.

"kj" <kj@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
news:%234LZpsxcGHA.3344@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Yes, they do. If the Host Server has only one NIC then any client

connected

to the same network as the NAT can bypass the SBS server and any VM guest OS. All it has to do is be configured for the same network address as the NAT and use the NAT as the gateway. You MUST have two physical NICs in the host to have a VM ISA isolate non virtual workstations.

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Using Enterprise Edition of Window Server 2003 and VM2005R2 the four bonus (free) copies of Enterprise Server running as a VM host do provide substantial cost savings. Factoring in those as \$0 you've got such a case.

But all VM's are emulated and as such inheritedly are performance losers compared to running physical counterparts. Host OS to Guest OS network performance in Virtual Server 2005 R2 is, well, "less than ideal".

Virtual Server 2005 R2 VM guests are limited in emulated processors (1)

and

memory (3.6gb), lack 64bit guest OS, and disk IO performance isn't what you'd expect from your typical mid market RAID controller.

VM's are ideal for lab testing, developers, server consolidation, and probably countless cases where performance isn't as important or the emulation overhead can be afforded.

I'd only consider using it in the SBS environment for testing or Disaster Recovery / Business Continuation.

Still, I'm a big fan of VS2005R2 and promote it often.

--

/kj

"SuperGumby [SBS MVP]"

<not@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

[news:u3DkjzucGHA.3952@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:u3DkjzucGHA.3952@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

"kj" <kj@xxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

[news:%23zYIGfucGHA.1276@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23zYIGfucGHA.1276@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

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But when a  
physical  
client  
configures a  
"static"  
address of

192.168.33.x

they bypass  
ISA and all  
but the  
NAT. Also  
I'm quite  
sure the VS  
Server  
must have a  
NIC with an  
IP.

No they don't re-read the  
scenario.

But with a  
VS server  
with 2  
physical  
NICS, one  
the SBS  
virtual  
external  
network,  
and another  
physically  
isolated as  
the SBS  
virtual  
internal  
network, it  
works quite  
well. It also  
avoids a  
single NIC  
bandwidth  
bottleneck.

I've been  
using this as  
a virtual lab

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for some  
time now,  
and it  
works  
well,... for a  
lab.

on  
VS2005  
R2?  
The  
flexibility,  
test-ability,  
and  
disaster  
recovery  
possibilities  
are  
tantilizing  
to  
consider.

These are  
all good  
reasons, but  
performance  
just isn't  
one of  
them.

A  
host system  
configured  
to provide  
like kind  
performance  
to a VM  
SBS  
environment  
just isn't  
very cost  
effective.  
Now if you  
were going  
to  
"host" three  
or four  
separate  
companies  
running

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their own  
virtualized

SBS

environment...  
hmmm,  
there's a  
thought.

Would hardware sufficient  
to run SBS, a TS  
Application Mode server,  
and

an

LOB Application server in  
the virtual environment cost  
less than  
three  
sets of hardware? Maybe the  
TS wouldn't be a virtual,  
AFAIK there's  
no  
reason not to run the host  
OS as TS Apps Mode (as  
long as it's locked

down

enough that users can't stuff  
your virtuals :-).

--  
/kj  
"SuperGumby  
[SBS  
MVP]"  
<not@xxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in  
message  
[news:OyYyzMucGHA.380@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:OyYyzMucGHA.380@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

imagine  
this

You  
have

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a  
simple  
NAT  
router  
in  
front  
of  
a  
2NIC  
W2003S  
running  
as  
VS  
host,  
the  
router  
is  
at  
192.168.33.1/24.  
The  
external  
NIC  
of  
the  
W2003S  
box  
either  
has  
an  
IP  
of  
192.168.44.4/24  
or  
possibly  
doesn't  
have  
IP  
bound  
to  
it  
at  
all.

SBS  
running  
in  
the  
virtual  
environment  
also  
has

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two  
NICs,  
one  
bridged  
to  
each  
physical  
NIC.  
ISA  
running  
on  
the  
SBS  
with  
an  
external  
of  
192.168.33.2/24  
and  
an  
internal  
of  
192.168.16.2/24.  
You  
can  
see  
that

in

this  
scenario  
the  
.44.y  
network  
is  
a  
'dead  
end',  
not  
in  
use,  
or  
maybe  
doesn't  
exist  
at  
all.

BTW:  
I

Re: SBS guest on Virtual Server 2005 host?

don't  
think  
you're  
crazy  
but  
though  
I'm  
sortta  
keen  
to  
do

similar

m'self  
I'm  
holding  
off.  
To  
run  
SBS  
in  
a  
virtual  
environment  
you  
not

only

need  
the  
fast  
IO  
(HDD  
&  
RAM)  
that  
SBS  
normally  
needs  
but  
also  
sufficient  
to  
compensate  
for  
running  
in  
virtual  
space

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and  
possibly  
running  
alongside  
other  
virtual  
machines.  
The  
best  
idea  
would  
be  
to  
minimise  
the  
tasks  
machines  
running  
in  
the  
virtual  
space  
are

responsible

for.  
ie.  
SBS  
Standard  
would  
seem  
feasible,  
adding  
ISA  
and  
SQL  
servres

to

the  
tasks  
performed  
in  
the  
virtual  
machine  
\_may\_  
be  
asking

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a  
bit  
too  
much.

"Doc  
King"  
<DocKing@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote  
in  
message  
[news:DA107DCB-730B-4734-A0F3-6BE37B0B4FEF@xx](mailto:news:DA107DCB-730B-4734-A0F3-6BE37B0B4FEF@xx)

Am  
I  
out  
of  
my  
rabbit-ass  
mind  
thinking  
about  
deploying  
a  
production  
SBS  
box  
on  
VS2005  
R2?  
The  
flexibility,  
test-ability,  
and  
disaster  
recovery  
possibilities  
are  
tantilizing  
to  
consider.

My  
primary  
issue  
is  
how  
to  
protect  
the  
2003

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R2  
host.  
Is  
there  
any  
way  
to  
deploy  
a  
front  
end  
ISA  
server  
while  
retaining  
the  
SBS  
ISA  
functionality?  
Perhaps  
users  
could  
VPN  
into  
the  
bastion  
ISA  
box?

--  
Chris  
King,  
DC,  
MCP

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