

## Support for Hyper-V Included in Surgient 6.0

Although virtualization is often touted as a way to make more efficient use of systems, the pitfall is that it can introduce a new level of complexity and, rather than save money, could conceivably cost more to implement and manage.

To head off that worst-case scenario, Surgient introduced a new release of its **Virtual Automation Platform** in September, with general availability scheduled for Sept. 30. The Surgient platform is available as either site-installed software or as a hosted service, and pricing begins at US\$25,000 for the platform, which the company touts as a solution for the needs of educational, laboratory and other noncritical applications.

The Surgient 6.0 release adds an overhauled user interface and support for Microsoft's Hyper-V. It also now works with Active Directory to provide directory-based management of virtual machine identities, with the objective of eliminating what Surgient calls "virtual machine sprawl."

Another goal, said Tim Lucas, the company's president and CEO, is putting policy-driven, self-service virtualization in the hands of users "on their own schedules." By adding support for Microsoft's nascent virtualization platform, Surgient's tools offer "a broader, heterogeneous framework for enterprises to benefit from [virtualization's] cost savings and management advantages," Lucas noted.

Surgient 6.0 adds the ability to work with Symantec's Altiris deployment tools to provide automated provisioning and deployment of both physical and virtual computing resources.

Also new in the release, post-deployment activity for both physical and virtual systems can run under control of the automation tools; these activities no longer need to be stored in the Surgient library as additional configurations. ●



**Surgient CEO Tim Lucas wants to give users self-service virtualization.**

## E-Mail Archiver Allows Users to Handle Deleted Messages

With new requirements for e-mail retention either in hand or looming for some businesses, the struggle for those that wish to be compliant is how to manage the volume of data. One company has updated its tools for Microsoft Outlook to provide what it calls faster and more transparent integration with the e-mail client.

GFI **MailArchiver 6**, which was released in early September, now allows users to work with deleted and historical e-mails as if they were in an Outlook folder. MailArchiver 6 is claimed by GFI to be the first e-mail archiving tool for Outlook that does not make use of stub files to link to stored messages. The stub method, says the company, can lead to performance problems on an Exchange server and is discouraged by Microsoft.

Users who don't always have access to their desktop Outlook installation are covered as well, says GFI: They can search the archive with a Web browser.

Pricing for MailArchiver begins at US\$648 for 25 mailboxes; the company says it already has more than 200,000 installations worldwide. That's merely the beginning of GFI's ambitions, however, given the dependence of businesses upon e-mail communication and the consequences of being unable to deliver requested information.

The company's own research indicates that just over half of businesses in the United Kingdom and the United States have no mail archiving tools whatsoever: 51 percent in the U.K. and 53 percent in the U.S. reported themselves as totally lacking in this area.

The awareness gap on the subject is little better, the company found. When surveyed, 30 percent of U.K. small and medium businesses, and 36 percent of their American counterparts, indicated that they did not feel themselves sufficiently educated on the requirements for e-mail retention. ●

## Latest Cray Mainframe Built for Smaller Customers

The term "departmental supercomputer" just became a reality, as Cray introduced its newest high-performance computing system.

The **CX1** is aimed at smaller shops that would like to take advantage of HPC technology but have been put off by forbidding price quotes. Starting at US\$25,000, the CX1 is described by Cray as "purpose built" for department, lab or university use, and comes with Microsoft Windows HPC Server 2008 pre-installed.

It is the first Cray system to use Intel processors, and it can be configured with up to 16 Intel Xeon dual- or quad-core processors, as well as 512GB of memory, across up to eight HPC nodes.



**Cray's CX1 is the company's first Intel-powered system.**

It can hold up to 4TB of internal storage and can be configured with system blades that support specialized roles, including number crunching, storage and virtualization.

According to the company, the CX1 runs on common office power, and the standard warranty includes three years of next-day, on-site support from company-certified providers.

"We're bringing the power of Cray supercomputing to a much wider range of new users, with an affordable and adaptable system," said Ian Miller, Cray's senior vice president of sales and marketing. ●