

Konica Minolta Boosts Hyper-V Environment with 5nine Software



KONICA MINOLTA

Customer:

Konica Minolta

Website:

<http://bic.konicaminolta.eu>

Industry:

Manufacturing

Location:

EU

Challenge:

- Agent-based security solutions could corrupt the newly built virtualized development cloud; the Hyper-V management tools were too complex and costly for the growing environment

Solution:

- 5nine Manager with Kaspersky Antivirus >

Benefits:

- A centralized VM, network, host and cluster management tool designed like VMware vCenter for SMBs
- Agentless management and security with a full GUI that runs directly on Windows Server Core or Hyper-V Server 2012 R2
- Many of the features of System Center Virtual Machine Manager at a fraction of the cost

“I THINK COMPANIES NEED TO DEFINITELY LOOK VERY HARD AT 5NINE BEFORE THEY SPEND A LOT MORE MONEY. IT WILL GIVE THEM EVERYTHING THEY NEED, ESPECIALLY FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENVIRONMENTS... I’VE GOT NO PLANS TO USE ANYTHING ELSE.”

Dave Neal

IT Manager & Technical Architect, Konica Minolta

CHALLENGE

Konica Minolta is a global manufacturer of business and industrial imaging products, including copiers, laser printers, multi-functional peripherals (MFPs) and digital print systems for the production printing market. The company has offices in 49 countries and employs more than 41,000 people worldwide. Konica Minolta has been expanding fast and created global entities around the world to support its growth including Business Innovation Centres (BICs) in five major regions. The European entity of the organization is called the BIC Europe with headquarters located in London, UK. The BIC IT team across the EU is responsible for setting up labs and development environments as well as collaboration centres where Konica Minolta’s customers can come and interact with the company’s representatives and solutions.

Konica Minolta BIC Europe has opened centres in London, the Czech Republic and Germany to promote development, collaboration and innovation. A distributed virtualized environment runs across the BIC centres based on Hyper-V. Further centre openings are planned and the virtual environment will be scaled up as new centres come online.

“When we started looking at virtualization, Hyper-V was our first choice,” said Dave Neal, IT Manager & Technical Architect at Konica Minolta. “It gives a lot of bang for buck in licensing costs which is good for our environment as it scales up very well.”

The IT team is securing the development environment for products that Konica Minolta is building. To protect the virtual machines (VMs) that the developers will be using and creating, the team had to find a solution which required no installation of any agent on the VMs the development team are were using.

“In the development environment you can’t immediately put an agent on every VM the developers create. In addition, the agents often interfere with the development. That’s why we needed to find a truly agentless management and protection solution for Hyper-V.”

SOLUTION

Dave had used the trial versions of 5nine Manager with Kaspersky Antivirus before, so when the company deployed its virtual infrastructure, the solution for Hyper-V management and protection was obvious. 5nine Manager with Kaspersky Antivirus is an easy-to-use and cost-effective management solution for Microsoft Hyper-V that provides agentless antivirus and antimalware designed for SMBs.

“When we started looking at Hyper-V tools, 5nine was the only game in town for agentless antivirus”, Dave said.

Agentless antivirus is crucial for the development environment Dave and his team is building. Dave remembers a situation from his previous job when an antivirus issue caused the mail server to go down.

“We cannot install an agent on every VM the developers create,” he explained. “The traditional antiviruses often interfere in the development environment. They can effect development time, trigger alarms as a result of false virus detection and be disabled by those who need full admin privileges. That was the case with a former colleague of mine who forgot to re-enable the antivirus after some work he was doing on his client and brought the mail server down. With an agentless solution, this can’t happen.”

Unlike legacy protection solutions, 5nine Manager with AV does not require agents on VMs. Agentless antivirus detects viruses and malware and improves the security of the Hyper-V virtual environment without causing antivirus storms and performance bottlenecks. It offers fast and effective security scans of VMs, using unique agentless technology.

As the company was making its virtualization journey, Dave had to teach some of his team members to manage Hyper-V.

“IT’S CRAZY TO NOT CONSIDER 5NINE. WHEN WE STARTED LOOKING AT HYPER-V TOOLS, 5NINE WAS THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN FOR AGENTLESS ANTIVIRUS”.

“5nine Manager is very easy to set up and use. You can pick it up straight away and start to use it immediately which is good, especially when you have to teach other people.”

Dave compared 5nine Manager with Microsoft System Center, which he was using previously in his career. System Center was designed for enterprise clouds with service management, self-service and automation needs, however Konica Minolta is only investing in virtualization. That is why the IT team chose 5nine Manager with Kaspersky Antivirus, which is tailored for small and medium businesses (SMBs) with ability to scale up as company’s IT infrastructure grows. As a former VMware admin, Dave admits 5nine Manager is easier than VMware vCenter too.

Dave also likes the centralized management of Konica Minolta’s virtual infrastructure that 5nine Manager with Kaspersky Antivirus provides.

“Beside the agent-free antivirus, the next most important feature in 5nine Manager for us is centralizing a more coherent management interface for Hyper-V,” Dave said. “It’s good to have the management in one place for the whole of your enterprise because you no longer have to leap around each machine to do different things.”



BENEFITS

A centralized VM, network, host and cluster management tool designed like VMware vCenter for SMBs

5nine Manager with Kaspersky Antivirus provides a single management console so that Dave and his team don’t have to use multiple platforms to manage their Hyper-V environment. In addition, 5nine Manager allows customizing the display parameters for VMs and organizing the view by VM OS, type, and more. This additional information provides easier sorting, insight and centralized management.

Agentless management and security with a full GUI that runs directly on Windows Server Core or Hyper-V Server 2012 R2

5nine Manager with Kaspersky Antivirus provides real-time antivirus protection with no interference into the environment because it does not require agents to be installed on each VM. Therefore, the team members do not have to worry about their development VMs being interfered or vulnerable if they forget to turn on an agent.

Many of the features of System Center Virtual Machine Manager at a fraction of the cost

5nine Manager with Kaspersky Antivirus addresses the unique Hyper-V management needs of SMBs that use one Microsoft Hyper-V Server to the enterprise or hosting provider infrastructures with hundreds of Windows Server Hyper-V full or core servers. “I think companies need to definitely look very hard at 5nine before they spend a lot more money,” Dave said. “It will give them everything they need, especially to small and medium environments.”

ABOUT 5NINE SOFTWARE

5nine Software is the leading global Hyper-V virtualization security and management provider. It offers the first and only agentless security and management solutions for Microsoft Hyper-V.

5nine Software provides innovative, powerful and easy-to-use software designed to reduce costs, increase productivity and mitigate security risks.

Today, 5nine Software helps more than 72,000 satisfied users around the globe to reach the full potential of their virtualization infrastructure.

Founded in 2009, 5nine Software is headquartered in Chicago, with offices worldwide.

Find out more by visiting www.5nine.com

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