



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

**Customer:**

Woodforest National Bank

Industry:

Finance

Challenge:

Woodforest needed a way to monitor and improve the efficiency of a large network of virtual machines.

Solution:

- vFoglight—provided detailed information on network architecture and status
- vOptimizer Pro—allowed for efficient reconfiguration of hard disk space on the network



GreenPages Helps Woodforest National Bank Gain Better Visibility into Its Virtual Infrastructure

We used vFoglight to make a list of our 'problem children'—the virtual machines we wanted to attack with vOptimizer Pro. It really fit the bill.

—Richard Corl, Solutions Architect Manager, Woodforest National Bank

Customer Challenge

Woodforest National Bank was looking for a better way of managing its network of more than 250 virtual machines. Woodforest is a major banking operation, with assets of more than \$3 billion, and branches in 20 states across the Southeast. The company relies on two data centers—a main center located just outside of Houston and a second center used as a backup during hurricane season.

“We had lots of servers and virtual machines in our network,” explained Richard Corl, Woodforest’s Solutions Architect Manager. “When we first set up those virtual machines, we started with the manufacturer’s recommendations for the setup on the physical box. The manufacturer would tell us, ‘you need 4GB of RAM, 2 dual-core CPUs, and a certain amount of hard disk space.’ But we wanted to go beyond that and try to ‘right-size’ each of our VMs.”

Corl explained that, in order to do this, he needed a better tool for monitoring the network. “VMware did have a tool for this that used a network sample which was an average over time, but it wasn’t really an accurate measure. We were looking for something that would give us better reporting on how our system was actually running.”

Technology Solution

“We asked Chris Ward, GreenPages’ Director of Solutions Architecture, what he recommended. The people at GreenPages see a lot of ‘in-the-trenches’ action, so they can tell you, ‘This works and this doesn’t.’ They’re a very useful technical resource.”

Ward recommended vFoglight by Quest (formerly Vizioncore). “vFoglight is a monitoring tool,” Corl explained. “It has a series of dashboards that allow you to watch the activity over the whole network. If you need to, you can drill down to the level of an individual CPU. The latest version also includes a lot of new off-the-shelf reports.”

Woodforest purchased vFoglight through GreenPages and installed it at their main data center. The installation includes a single vFoglight server which monitors a virtual infrastructure containing 64 sockets and 258 virtual machines.



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Successful Result

Corl was very pleased with the result. “vFoglight gave us a lot more data points. We used it to make a list of our ‘problem children’—the virtual machines we wanted to attack with vOptimizer Pro.” vOptimizer Pro allows network managers to improve the use of hard disk space on servers and virtual machines.

Corl explained that vOptimizer made it much easier to use the available hard disk space efficiently. “We had been using Converter to do this, but when you reconfigure a VM using Converter, it needs double the disk space while making the conversion. vOptimizer Pro can do the conversion in place. We also used vOptimizer to properly align our datastores and virtual machines on 64 K boundaries. This greatly enhances storage performance throughout the virtual infrastructure. It works great.”

Added Corl, “At Woodforest, we believe in relationships. We’ve always had good rapport and success working with GreenPages.”