Build-your-own VMware ESXi and Microsoft Hyper-V lab at home, using commodity hardware.

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Deep Dive Day 2012

featuring… "vZilla"

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This is a User Group, no? You decide,! What'll it be, a, b, or c?

a) Viewing dozens of dry marketing slides while I drone on, the only osbstacle between you and free lunch.

b) Watching a live demonstration, controlling my own personal home "cloud" server, with real, working fiddly- bits and blinky lights.

c) Just 7 more slides with big fonts, leaving lots of time for live demos and Q&A.

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOW?

WHO?

IT Professionals.

We often find their work environment may be prohibitive for "playing," for self-train, and getting ready for certification.

- Traveling the country, 30 of these 50 states, I met many who seek the same sort of home lab concept, largely for the same reasons. Cost is always the biggest concern.

WHAT?

A nice efficient server.

What if you could build your own virtualization platform, using "off the shelf" components?

- a fun lab "playground" for you leverage at will, with considerably more grunt than your laptop

- a boring-is-good "production" server, for something a little more mundane, such as centralized backups?

- "kick the tires" on Virtual Appliances and iSCSI, NAS, Storage Spaces, whatever floats your boat…

WHEN?

Anytime.

Particular handy when preparing for certification.

Especially if you're a home-office worker, like I've become.

WHERE?

Your basement.

Even better, keep part of it in your mother's basement.*

*I'll get back to that, when you'll see that I'm actually not kidding.

WHY?

Cost, convenience.

Used server-class gear may seem to be a great idea, until you try it at home, issues include:

- Heat

- Noise

- Power
  Yea, that's a big one. 650 watts to run dual power supply Xeon I had an opportunity to measure, that's around $1000 per year in electricity in our region, New England.

If you like to fiddle, consider building a more suitable for home use server instead, learning a lot along the way.

There will be pressure to serve your family well (backups).

Such a project likely makes you better at your day job as well (better real-world skills, and more peace of mind).

WHY ME?

I'm a little twisted, let me explain.

I kind of like it when things go wrong on my system, because it's fun when I then get it right. I then enjoy the peace of mind I've earned, knowing I can make if far less likely to happen again, for me, and for everybody.

I don't particularly enjoy it when things go wrong on other's personal systems, which is why I simply revert to yesterday's backup, to get us both back to more important things in life.

I'm the kind of guy that prefers an mSATA SSD in my laptop for my C: drive, and 2x1TB drives in a speedy RAID0 for my D: drive, see tinkertry.com/tzilla .

Need I say more?

HOW (yes, this is the last slide)

- tinkertry.com/vzilla, the efficient Core i7 beast within

- sweat the details: handles power outages and drive failures

- run variety of Windows OSs, including the new one that rhymes with great

- run variety of Windows Servers, including one that rhymes with hyper me

- run Penguiny stuff (aka, Linux) and many more

- run like the wind, aren't SSDs great?

- nesting, yes, nesting, I'll explain

- OS/2, you think I'm kidding, think "virtual museum"

- reference articles and pretty pictures at tinkertry.com

- LET THE DEMO BEGIN...