

CASE STUDY

Overcoming legacy systems to achieve “Best Practice”

About IQGroup

IQ Group assists Australian enterprises to implement business and technology solutions to improve performance efficiencies and reduce operational risk. Its Consulting and Solutions services innovatively address the technology, operations and risk challenges today's enterprises need to solve. www.iqgroup.com.au

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Virtualisation explained

The challenge of legacy systems

UNRAVELLING VIRTUALISATION

1. IQ can assist you in developing a Virtualisation Strategy to suit your business. There are three common approaches to Virtualisation in the Market:

-  **Server** – physical hardware is given additional capability by separating it from guest operating systems
-  **Network** - Additional capability and benefits are generated by moving network applications to network devices
-  **Storage** – By moving disk storage from core operating systems, additional capability is created in the system

For Australian superannuation providers, implementing global best practice when it comes to systems has been a challenge. Legacy systems have proven to be a barrier to completing the virtualisation of IT infrastructure. While other operating systems are virtualised, old record keeping systems have required expensive hardware and maintenance to remain operational.

While there are no problems with the business functionality of these legacy systems, it's time they were able to “play ball” and allow you to reap the benefits of a global best practice strategy.

There is a way to remove the roadblock and IQ has developed it.

IQ – the leading Business IT practitioner in superannuation - has successfully virtualised Bravura's SPAN-based applications, SuperB and Calibre.

SuperB and Calibre have been dominant record keeping systems in the superannuation industry for many years. Even in modest scale operations, these applications have been conventionally deployed on costly UNIX systems such as HP-UX, AIX and Solaris. Despite speculation to the contrary, SPAN applications (in particular SuperB) are likely to be around for a few years yet.

SPAN applications operate effectively in UNIX environments, such as those mentioned, but maintenance of these platforms will remain a significant component of administrators' operating costs, impacting profitability and member fees while continuing to present technical barriers to virtualisation.

So how did IQ overcome these technical barriers?

What is “virtualisation”?

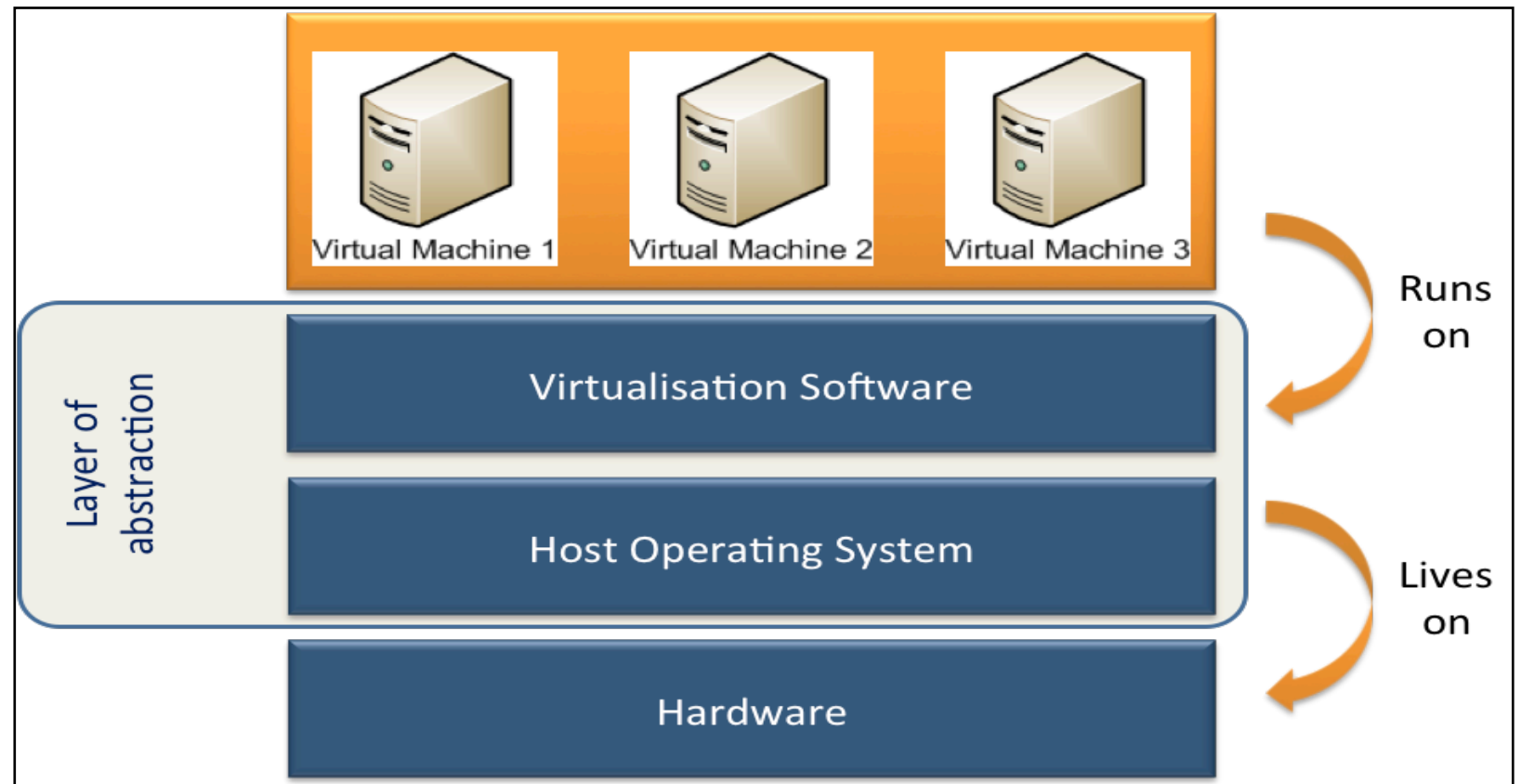
WHAT IS VIRTUALISATION?

1. “Virtualisation” refers to the consolidation of numerous operating systems onto the one hardware system.

For many superannuation providers, the legacy systems in their business have proven a barrier to achieving Virtualisation. The IQ Business Group (IQ) has successfully developed a solution to this problem.

The buzz across the entire IT industry revolves around one word – “Virtualisation”.

It is a technology that creates a layer of abstraction between hardware and software; between the computing, storage and network infrastructure and the operating systems and applications that use them.



The IQ Solution

“We were beginning to think that the benefits we sought from Virtualisation would be significantly compromised, but would not let the problem go until a viable solution was found.”

Ivan Jones, Executive Manager FuturePlus

The IQ Solution

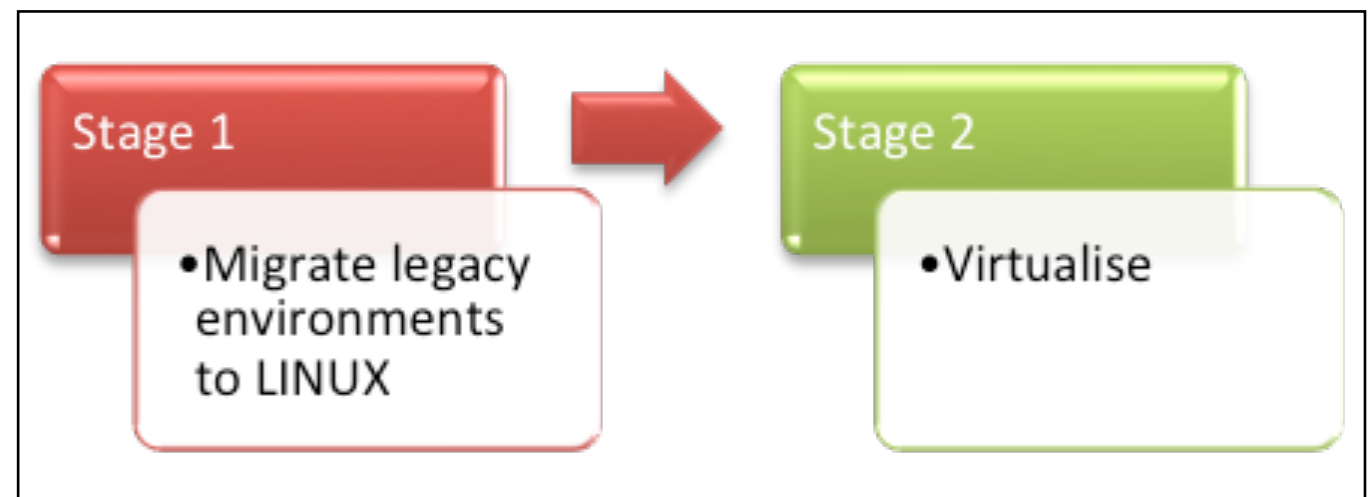
IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

1. The implementation of IQ's solution has had some impressive results.
2. FuturePlus reported the following improvements in their batch processing in the first weekend of operation:

	Running Time	
	Virtualisation	
	Pre	Post
Fund 1	23 h 03 m	2 h 59 m
Fund 2	19 h 05 m	2 h 21 m

3. Across just two of their funds, FuturePlus experienced a saving of 36 hours and 48 minutes in their deferred batch jobs. That's an 87% reduction in processing time.
4. In addition to the impressive time savings, Virtualisation has created enormous systems capacity that would not otherwise be available

IQ has developed and successfully implemented "best practice" models for virtualising SuperB and Calibre environments. This has been achieved in a simple two stage process:



- In Stage 1, all legacy HP-UX, AIX or Solaris environments are migrated to LINUX.
This platform change removes the technical barriers presented by UNIX and enables Stage 2 to proceed
- In Stage 2, legacy systems are virtualised

This allows organisations to take full advantage of virtualisation.

IQ developed the virtualisation solution as an extension of the IT Efficiency Services delivered to FuturePlus, a specialist superannuation operator that has chosen Bravura's SuperB and Calibre as its line of business applications.

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Delivering the Benefits

- Reduce IT support costs
- Utilise common WinTel environments
- Scale up and increase performance –400%-1000% performance improvements
- Dynamically allocate space and processor capacity
- Strengthen your Business Continuity Plan cost effectively
- Utilise your virtualised storage capability instead of expensive localised disk storage
- Use virtualisation to deploy Disaster Recovery sites/environments
- Create test environments on the fly

IQ’s solution to the barriers presented by legacy systems is simple: Intelligence. **Applied.**