

Back To The Future: 2008 – 2023

Where your IT infrastructure is headed in the next 10-15 years

By Dan Duffy

Computing platforms continue to evolve. To save costs, increase speed to market and gain manufacturing flexibility most IBM computing platforms do not get their personalities until the end of the production line. In addition, multiple virtualized operating system environments are becoming the norm.

Here's look at what's coming for your computing infrastructure:

- Blade Center form factor (to start).
- Multiple operating systems under one physical roof, all with virtualization capabilities. Minute by minute resource allocation through variable partitioning.
- Guest operating system partitions for non-IBM products.
- Mix and match resources and pricing for all system resources.

- One large storage pool (local and/or remote) as part of a hierarchical storage system based on the needs, speeds, and risk profile of your data.
- Storage software that will productively monitor and manage your data from creation through deletion.
- Communications bandwidth on demand.
- Dial up server power and utilization on demand.
- Variable infrastructure power on a variable pricing grid that fits your business needs, by minute, hour, day, week or year.

Predictions:

Large companies will have a distinct advantage in owning, operating or hosting these systems due to the multiple talent disciplines that need to be in place to make the most of them. Having said that, niche specialty com-

panies that can supply skilled people at a reasonable rate to the large companies will also do well.

In this environment the large companies, the small companies, and the niche companies will do fine. There will be no room for medium sized companies.

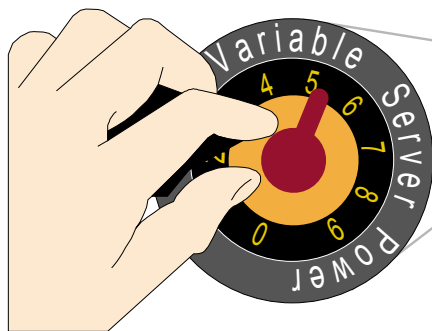
Serving up this technology to the SMB market will take someone with deep pockets who can sign up plenty of customers (volume) and serve it up seamlessly.

Hands on company technical and business people working together can serve up almost any application they need to grow and gain a competitive advantage. The key is "working together".

Telephone companies and router and switch companies will boom as the thirst for bandwidth increases exponentially to serve data traffic growth.

Consultants will multiply like rabbits. **M-R**

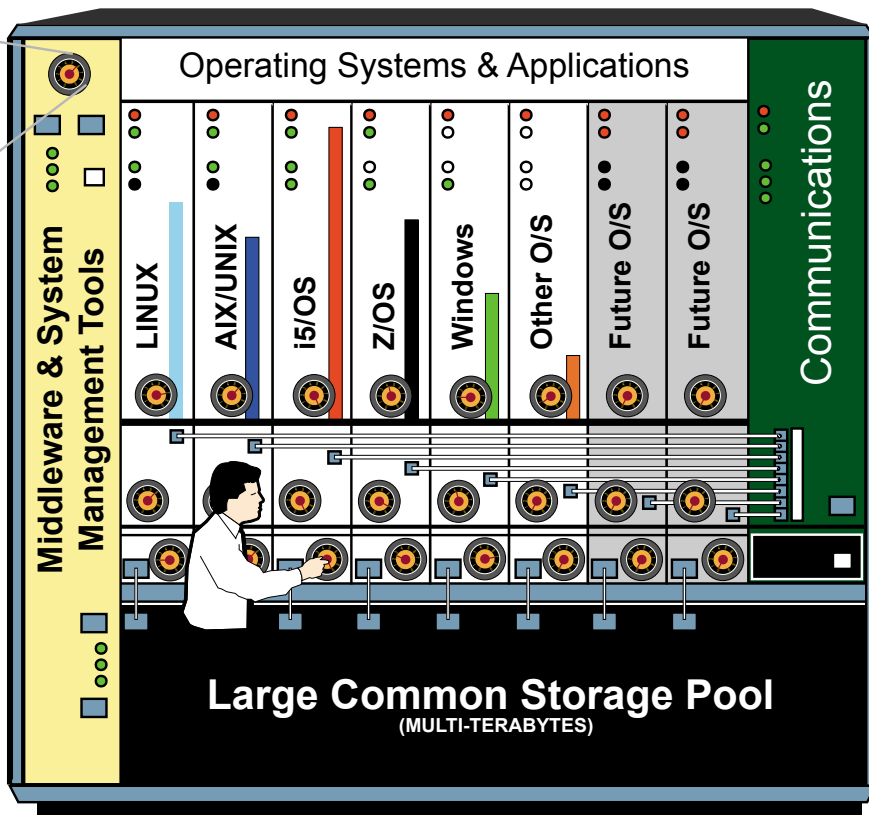
See the Future Now ...



- Virtualized performance on demand
- Virtualized bandwidth on demand
- Virtualized storage on demand



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