PlateSpin® Recon: Workload Profiling, Analysis and Planning

Successful data center initiatives require considerable up-front planning and analysis to ensure a maximum return on investment. PlateSpin Recon is a sophisticated workload profiling, analysis and planning solution that provides new levels of intelligence, visual analysis and forecasting for optimizing the data center. PlateSpin Recon collects inventory and workload utilization statistics for a clear and concise picture of the application services running in the data center and how their resources are being used. With broad multiplatform support, PlateSpin Recon takes the guesswork out of complex server consolidation, disaster recovery, capacity planning and green data center initiatives.

**Solution:**
Workload Management

**Capabilities:**
- Server Consolidation
- Consolidated Recovery
- Green Computing
- Data Center Optimization
- Capacity Profiling & Planning
- Workload Profiling
- Virtual Infrastructure Management

**Product:**
PlateSpin Recon

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PlateSpin Recon provides advanced scenario modeling, trending, forecasting and planning capabilities to take the guesswork out of data center initiatives. Use powerful what-if modeling to determine optimal combinations of hardware and virtual hosts to ensure maximum resource utilization.
With PlateSpin Recon, you can rapidly collect inventory and utilization data across thousands of servers, plan initiatives based on concrete analysis and increase visibility into ongoing resource utilization.

“By using PlateSpin, we were able to get a picture of our current environment and the picture wasn’t exactly a pretty one. Equipped with irrefutable data and analysis on our sprawling and underutilized infrastructure, we identified the need to completely rethink our data center. By investing wisely in server virtualization, we saw that we could dramatically reduce the cost of our annual server hardware refresh, as well as slash our power consumption, cooling costs and carbon emissions.”

Richard Dawson
IT Services Manager
Bracknell Forest Borough Council

PlateSpin Recon provides customizable graphical reporting to view and manage workloads and ongoing resource utilization. View summary workload sizing and power and cooling data or drill down to point-in-time granular levels using detailed tabular reports and time-series charts.
Remote Data Collection
PlateSpin Recon remotely collects inventory and performance data with no need to physically touch data center servers. PlateSpin Recon’s run-once inventory collector gathers comprehensive server inventory data while performance data is collected agentlessly via standard OS instrumentation capabilities. You can also import utilization data directly from your existing monitoring tools.

Rich Data Modeling
Make better consolidation choices based on sophisticated analysis of resources, workloads and utilization trends. Tight integration with VMware VirtualCenter provides greater visibility into your virtual infrastructure, improving data center management and operations.

Custom Report Creation and Delivery
Define resource and workload parameters and generate custom visual reports to accelerate data center assessments and server consolidations. Quickly identify consolidation candidates based on resource utilization trends and compare workload characteristics before and after consolidation. Scheduled report delivery via email or FTP ensures easy access to remote data and provides up-to-date information for decision making.

Flexible Data Capture and Export
PlateSpin Recon data can be easily exported to a number of formats including HTML, PDF, Word, CSV, Excel or images for flexible report creation. Raw data can be extracted directly from the database and delivered to business intelligence applications for advanced statistical analysis.

Enterprise-Level Scalability
Robust data collection, analysis and planning for all servers in the network puts PlateSpin Recon in a class all its own for large-scale data center consolidation projects. Data can be aggregated from multiple PlateSpin Recon data collectors for centralized data warehousing, analysis and planning or to accommodate larger implementations.

Multiple Data Center Support
Distribute PlateSpin Recon to different geographical locations to remotely collect data and schedule updates to a master installation, enabling centralized analysis and planning for initiatives like server or data center consolidation.

VM Growth Reporting
Run virtual machine growth reports to monitor the proliferation of virtual machines and avoid the administrative headaches associated with virtual machine sprawl.

Flexible Chargeback Reporting
Because virtualization creates a pool of computing resources, it can be difficult to manage and monitor how virtual resources are being used and by whom. PlateSpin Recon allows organizations to effectively allocate and share virtual resources across various business units and departmental owners. PlateSpin Recon’s flexible chargeback reporting capabilities improve virtual infrastructure management and financial accounting by allowing organizations to accurately calculate IT costs based on actual resource usage.

Planning
Automatically generate server consolidation and disaster recovery plans based on detailed workload analysis to ensure the optimal fit between server workloads and virtual resources. The ability to use forecasted data ensures that plans are built to accommodate future growth.

Workload Analysis
The PlateSpin Recon Capacity Planning Module automatically analyzes the five critical dimensions of workload – CPU, disk, memory, network and time – across thousands of servers simultaneously, providing consolidation plans that maximize utilization while minimizing resource contention.

Scenario Modeling
Create custom scenarios with user-defined target server specifications including server templates or existing virtual machine servers to create an optimal consolidation plan.

Power and Cooling Analysis
Compare and contrast potential power and cooling cost savings and ROI derived from different consolidation scenarios. Custom fields allow power and cooling requirements for major hardware platforms to be inputted and maintained in a central database, enabling organizations to analyze and cost-justify green computing initiatives.

Time-Based Analysis
Stagger multiple workloads evenly across virtual hosts and account for hourly peaks and valleys inherent in server utilization trends.

Workload and Utilization Forecasting
Predict future workloads and resource utilization based on historical trends to better plan for server consolidation and infrastructure growth, and enable more proactive systems management. Forecasting data on CPU, disk, memory and usage trends is presented in easy-to-read charts, reports and plans.
**PlateSpin Recon Platform Support**

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<tr>
<th>Windows</th>
<th>Linux</th>
<th>Novell</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Hypervisors</th>
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<td>Windows 2008 Server (32 and 64-bit)</td>
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<td>NetWare</td>
<td>Solaris (32 and 64-bit)**</td>
<td>VMware ESX</td>
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*For complete platform support and specifications, please contact a PlateSpin sales representative.

**UNIX is supported for PlateSpin Recon inventory, data collection and reporting (not consolidation planning).