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| korporatni_650x301.jpgOverview  Company: Lukoil CEEB (Central and Eastern Europe and Belgium)  Name: Lukáš Kučera  Role: IT Services Manager  “The new clustering features in Windows Server 2008 R2 will help us make virtualization more flexible and less complex for management.”  — Lukáš Kučera, IT ServiceS Manager, Lukoil CEEB |  |  | Q. What is your role at Lukoil?  As IT Services Manager for the Lukoil CEEB cluster, I’m responsible for all IT operations and development, including maintenance of server systems and deployment of users’ applications and operating systems.    Q. What are your business goals and how does IT support them?  Lukoil is one of the largest integrated oil and gas companies in the world. Here in Prague, we are the retail headquarters for a cluster of local brands in the Czech Republic and also in Belgium, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. Our retail outlets sell gasoline and convenience items. My department supports the head office and all regional offices, including accountants, marketers, and regional managers.  Q. What are some unique challenges you face in your business?  Our regional retail group used to be part of ConocoPhillips, and just over two years ago we were acquired by Lukoil. This leads to several unique challenges, especially in maintaining a flexible IT infrastructure. Our IT department is more independent than it was previously, and carries much more responsibility. Furthermore, Lukoil plans to expand rapidly through acquisitions. To quickly integrate competitors’ operations, we will need scalable IT capacity, so that we can host new systems, new technologies, and new applications.  Q. What are some of the innovative things you are doing in IT to support your business?  We’re doing a lot with virtualization. We looked at the physical server computers we had here in Prague. There were more than 40 of them, most 2–4 years old, but some considerably older. Realistically, we needed to replace at least 20 of them immediately. So the IT department made a business case for virtualization using Hyper-V™ technology. We can save money in not having to buy new hardware, and also on operations, because we don’t have to hire another employee to support all these physical machines, especially as the company grows. |

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| “We can improve the efficiency of the branch offices and save bandwidth by using BranchCache in Windows Server 2008 R2.”  — Lukáš Kučera, IT Services Manager, Lukoil CEEB   |  | | --- | | This case study is for informational purposes only. MICROSOFT MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN THIS SUMMARY.  Document published March 2009 | |  |  | Q. How do you feel Windows Server 2008 R2 will help support these innovative efforts?  Windows Server® 2008 R2 includes a new version of Hyper-V that provides increased availability, improved management, and simplified deployments. We are particularly excited to take advantage of the Live Migration feature, which we can use to migrate a virtual machine from one physical host to another without interrupting service. Furthermore, the new clustering features in Windows Server 2008 R2 will help us make virtualization more flexible and less complex for management.  Q. Which other technologies are you focusing on with Windows Server 2008 R2, and why?  In addition to Hyper-V, we plan to use the BranchCache™ feature in Windows Server 2008 R2 and Windows® 7 so that our branch offices can locally cache frequently used content. Some of our smaller facilities, such as the office in Slovakia and the storage terminal in Belgium, have just 5–10 users, so it’s not efficient to deploy a file server on-site. But it can consume bandwidth to have them continually accessing files from the main servers. Now we can improve the efficiency of the branch offices and save bandwidth by using BranchCache in Windows Server 2008 R2.  Q. A big focus recently has been driving costs out of IT. How will you approach this using Windows Server 2008 R2?  As I mentioned earlier, virtualization saves us on hardware and labor. We also save on software licensing fees. And we can save money by creating and managing virtual test environments for some applications with our development group. So, really, driving costs out of IT is one of the key points for us as we look to take full advantage of Window Server 2008 R2.  Q. Where do you feel Windows Server 2008 R2 will help with your Green IT initiatives?  With virtualization, we will save about 50 percent of our annual energy budget for cooling and electricity. As an oil company, Lukoil has global environmental plans and health and safety environmental programs, but they're primarily focused on industrial and environmental safety and preventing emergencies in our production work. So when the IT department told management that without complicating our daily tasks, we would more effectively use our current resources—and in the process achieve significant savings—that more than complied with our Green IT targets. |