Using Virtualized Systems to Improve Preparedness & Operation

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Introduction

&^%*# happens
Problem
Solutions
Preparedness
Summary

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"Planning is the prelude to successful action" - fortune cookie

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- "Failure is not an option" Eugene Kranz
- The original quote, reportedly from Flight Controller Jerry Bostick included "When bad things happen ..."
- Counting development, failure is more common

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Duplicate Setups are Expensive

- Duplicating Production Hardware is expensive
- Space is expensive
- Training scenarios require setup
- Ability to stop/reset

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Preparing for the Inevitable

- Staff training
- Exercises

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Simulation vs. Simulators

- Simulations test workloads
- Simulators provide training opportunities

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Simulators

- Simulators are easy to restart
- Simulators are easy to rerun
- Allow one to safely experiment with danger
- Simulators are easy to roll back

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Why simulators?

- Exercise is mandatory
- How often does your system reboot?
- How many staff can handle a simple reboot?
- How many staff can handle a complex reboot?

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Summary

- Bad things happen
- Individual programs will fail
- Uncontrolled crashes are avoidable
- Constructively use failures to identify correction

Questions?

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Session Notes & Materials:

http://www.rlgsc.com/openvms-bootcamp/2017/index.html