

# Disposable Virtual Machines

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Trenton Computer Festival  
The College of New Jersey  
Ewing, New Jersey

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## Virtual Machines are trendy on the backend

- Server consolidation
- Hardware renewal
- Interchangeability

## The front end is different

- What is the gain from virtualization?
- What economies can be gained?
- What are the benefits?

## Problems of the front end

- Add-ons
- ActiveX
- Incompatibilities
- Trust

## What is the question?

It is not a question of trust,  
it is a question of safety.  
Problems with externally supplied  
software are the modern equivalent  
of electronic social diseases.

## The power imbalance –

- webinars
- virtual classrooms
- VPN software

## Virtual Machines are an answer –

- no compatibilities
- no side effects
- no security compromises

## Virtual Machine capabilities –

- isolation
- compartmentalization
- disk images
  - base disk images (e.g., base Windows XP image)
  - differencing disks; 1st and 2nd order



## Example: Client VPN Software

- different clients
- different software
- different vendors
- different versions
- a solution:
  - different differential disk/client
  - no incompatibilities
  - no collisions

## Example: corporate webinar

- mandatory ActiveX control
- Administrator-level access required
- no responsibility on provider
- a solution:
  - differential disk for ActiveX installation
  - Administrator-level access on virtual machine
  - disposed of virtual machine after seminar

## When worlds collide: Screen sharing on

- pre-existing client VPN on differential disk
- vendor wanted to install screen sharing
- need to preserve original configuration
- solution:
  - differential disk of differential disk
  - install screen sharing software on second order machine
  - dispose of disk when task finished

## Virtual machines are a solution at

- conserve effort
- protect data
- protect systems

## Questions?

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Session Notes & Materials:

<http://www.rlgsc.com/trentoncomputerfestival/2010/index.html>