INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY –
SERVER CENTRALIZATION

Context

- Servers frequently run with idling CPUs and at 20% of their full capacity, meaning campus departments/colleges may have overpaid for computing power.
- Estimated annual cost of decentralized servers amounts to $11,800 compared to the estimated cost of a virtualized server of $1,000, which offers a significant savings opportunity for the University.
- Many server locations do not meet required building specifications outlined by the University.
- There have been many instances across campus where loss of information could have been avoided if servers were hosted in a centralized or virtualized environment and automatically backed up by IT personnel.

Goals

- Create a Global Server Asset Registry to support audit, compliance, finance, planning, and operations.
- Actively manage 80% of centralized and virtualized servers to achieve maximum cost savings.
- Create shared services for high volume, common applications when possible.
- Virtualize 50% of identified servers on KUL campus and co-locate remaining servers to Central IT.

Challenges

Risks surrounding server centralization and virtualization IT staff are fairly low in respect to institutional, change management, project, finance, and IT risks.

- There is some concern surrounding the number of people that will be impacted by the change, including current decentralized server administrators, faculty, and department chairs and deans.
- Some current decentralized server owners will be reluctant to "give up" their servers.
- Other CFE IT initiatives will have a significant impact on the success of server centralization.

Opportunities

Over the first five years, average annual net benefits of $5.7M can be achieved through:

- Reduced maintenance costs and server downtime through fewer physical servers
- Repurposed space formerly dedicated to house servers and now aligned with KU's mission
- Significantly reduced power and cooling costs using the virtualized environment
- Repositioned FTEs to meet higher order IT project needs from those FTEs formerly dedicated to server management
- Reduced hardware costs using the virtualized platforms versus physical boxes