

# Whose Head Will Roll?

## Overview

On Monday, August 27, 2012, Symantec conducted a survey on the exhibit show floor during Day 1 of VMworld San Francisco. More than 130 respondents were asked about the possible repercussions of a variety of scenarios organizations face when backing up and securing their virtual environments. The majority of the respondents reported working at mid-to-large-sized enterprises, with 37% having a role in virtualization, 18% in IT security and 26% in general IT roles.

**Key findings are outlined below.**

- **Who is responsible for securing virtual servers?**
  - Virtual Admin/Architect (51%)
  - Security Admin (49%)
- **If credit card data was automatically added to a virtual system that wasn't configured for PCI compliance and the company was fined \$500,000, whose head would roll?**
  - IT Security Administrator (42%)
  - CIO (23%)
- **If a virtual server failure left the VP of sales unable to submit a contract at quarter-end, causing the company to miss their sales target by \$5M, whose head would roll?**
  - CIO (30%)
  - Server Administrator (28%)
  - VM Admin/Architect (22%)
- **If an application failed and had to be recovered manually, taking a day to recover the application, and caused a missed Recovery Time Objective (RTO), whose head would roll?**
  - VM Admin/Architect (48%)
  - Server Administrator (23%)
  - CIO (15%)
- **If a virtual backup failure resulted in an angry CEO missing key M&A docs, whose head would roll?**
  - Server Administrator (40%)
  - VM Admin/Architect (23%)
  - CIO (22%)

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# Whose Head Will Roll?

## Overview continued

- **If data was left on a virtual server for seven years instead of purged (according to data retention policies), leaving the company open to lawsuit, whose head would roll?**
  - Server Administrator (23%)
  - IT Security Administrator (23%)
  - CIO (23%)
- **If virtual account sprawl were not properly managed, causing an additional \$2M in hardware purchases, whose head would roll?**
  - VM Admin/Architect (42%)
  - CIO (27%)
- **If virtual servers were not properly put behind a firewall, causing sensitive corporate information to be accessed and exposed, whose head would roll?**
  - IT Security Administrator (47%)
  - VM Admin/Architect (20%)
- **If a malicious insider gained access to credit card data on a virtual machine, whose head would roll?**
  - IT Security Administrator (56%)
  - CIO (13%)
- **If a path from a server running VMware to the storage failed, and the I/O was redirected to another healthy path in the environment, but when the original path was recovered, traffic had to be redirected to it manually, cutting off access to the data for an extended period of time, whose head would roll?**
  - VM Admin/Architect (42%)
  - Server Administrator (29%)

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