

## Definition

Virtualization can be viewed as part of an overall trend in enterprise IT that includes a scenario in which the IT environment will be able to manage itself based on perceived activity, and utility computing, in which computer processing power is seen as a utility that clients can pay for only as needed. The usual goal of virtualization is to centralize administrative tasks while improving scalability and performance

## Domain Areas

- Network virtualization is a method of combining the available resources in a network by splitting up the available bandwidth into channels, each of which is independent from the others, and each of which can be assigned (or reassigned) to a particular server or device in realtime. The idea is that virtualization disguises the true complexity of the network by separating it into manageable parts; much like your partitioned hard drive makes it easier to manage your files.
- Storage virtualization is the pooling of physical storage from multiple network storage devices into what appears to be a single storage device that is managed from a central console. Storage virtualization is commonly used in storage area networks.
- Server virtualization is the masking of server resources (including the number and identity of individual physical servers, processors, and operating systems) from server users. The intention is to spare the user from having to understand and manage complicated details of server resources while increasing resource sharing and utilization and maintaining the capacity to expand later.

## Emerging Trend

Virtualization can be viewed as a part in future Enterprise IT Opens Systems Engineering Architectures that includes [Autonomic Computing](#)

