

VIRTUAL PRIVATE SERVER OR MICRO PCS: WHICH IS BETTER FOR THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DECISION?

İhsan Tolga Medeni

Assist. Prof. Dr., Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University, Turkey, tolgamedeni@ybu.edu.tr

Abstract

Learning Management Systems (LMSs) are software systems for management of the electronic education of courses or training programs. With the LMS, education centres could easily manage educators and participants of the education programs over defined courses. However, LMSs require installation into 7/24 online virtual or real hardware servers to support non-stop educational requirements of the system users. Some of the education centres could install LMSs into their own servers with using their own resources. For the institutions which do not have sufficient funds, may choose to implement cloud based systems such as Virtual Private Server (VPS) based technological architectures. Most of the technology companies provide these server services with including, IP addressing, DNS routing starting with \$5 dollars per month bases. For the institutions that prefers their own servers rather than rented VPSs could have chance to achieve this goal with the help of new innovations in the mobile technologies. A credit card size Micro PCs which are built based on mobile device technologies can now easily used as servers for the Information Technology (IT) requirements of the organizations. Most of these Micro PCs support, Linux based operating systems which can be easily modified for the server machine purposes. In the LMS world, Moodle is one the well-known open source applications for answering educational requirements of the organizations. For these reasons, in this study, by taking Moodle as the LMS, VPS and Micro PCs concepts will be compared with well-known VPS providers services operational cost over simple Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP (LAMP) server settings by looking at small (less than 100 concurrent users), medium (between 100 and 1000 concurrent users) and large number of users (more than 1000 concurrent users) conditions. The findings will be shared at the end of this study.

Keywords: Learning Management Systems, Virtual Private Servers, Micro PCs