

Hannover Life Re of Australasia moves forward with confidence using CHARON-PAR



The Challenge

Hannover Re, the third-largest reinsurer in the world, was running some of their operations on PA-RISC systems that were increasingly hard to maintain. As these systems aged, it became more and more difficult to find replacement parts, and the system failed more often. A planned migration to a brand new SQL-based system was taking too long to complete, and it was increasingly apparent that the existing systems were too complex and inter-dependent. The ideal solution, they realized, would be to replace the existing hardware with a modern and easy-to-maintain system without having to migrate the application.

An Internet search for «PA-RISC emulator» led the company to the Stromasys CHARON-PAR emulator. Shelving the migration project, Hannover Re contacted Stromasys and asked to participate in the then-ongoing Beta test program.

Hannover Re decided to use live data for the test. The backup data was copied to the Charon system and the batch processes were executed in parallel on the existing PA-RISC and Charon systems. After testing, the results and execution times were compared. With no apparent differences, and with processing times equal to or better than the existing system, migration to CHARON-PAR was approved.

The Solution

Migration to CHARON-HPA was scheduled outside of normal business hours, during Hannover Re's usual month-end processing cycle. Backup and restore on the physical and virtual systems were completed, the results were compared, and a full month-end processing was executed. Both systems were successful, and there were no differences in the reports, paving the way for the virtualized system to go live. The impact on users was negligible, and the planned rollback in case the changeover didn't work therefore proved unnecessary.



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CUSTOMER PROFILE

Hannover Life Re of Australasia (HLRA) is a subsidiary of the global Hannover Re Group, the third-largest reinsurance group in the world, with a presence on all continents and a total staff of around 2,300. Founded in 1966, Hannover Re provides non-life, life, and health reinsurance, with gross written premiums totalling around €13.8 billion in 2012. Life and health reinsurance has been a strategic growth segment since 1990. The company's long-term objective is to consolidate its position as a major reinsurance group of above-average profitability with an optimally diversified portfolio. The Australian subsidiary is based in Sydney, and employs around 70 staff. For more information, please visit:

www.hannover-re.com



stromasys
legacy server emulation



The Result

Hannover Re noted during tests that the main database ran nine times faster on Charon. The use of virtual tapes instead of 8 mm DAT tapes increased performance and eased backup handling, and month-end processing can therefore run overnight. Thanks to these higher speeds, Hannover Re is able to implement new projects on the emulated PA-RISC system. As an added benefit, CHARON-PAR provides faster system response times with fewer user lockouts.

Implementing Charon allowed Hannover Re to move forward with confidence. No longer relying on legacy hardware significantly reduced the risk of unscheduled downtime or system failure, and delivered considerable benefits, since the new system has more memory, more disks, and a much faster CPU. Increased capacity and performance makes this a win-win for Hannover Re.

About Stromasys

Stromasys is the original and leading provider of enterprise-class cross-platform virtualization solutions, including PDP-11, Digital VAX and Alpha, PA-RISC, and SPARC servers. The company extends the life cycle of business and mission-critical systems through virtualization, modernization, and system enhancement.

Founded in 1998 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and in Boston, Massachusetts, with sales offices as well as engineering, development, and research labs located around the world, Stromasys has implemented more than 5,000 cross-platform virtualization solutions for the world's leading companies in over 50 countries.

« *This is a win-win-win for us.* »

Warren Dawson,
Hannover Re