Increased performance and modernization for a business-critical university system

The Challenge

Established in 1949, Gujarat University is a public state university in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, and serves as an undergraduate education but also a teaching university at the post-graduate level. The university had a customized and proprietary software application for its examination management system. The system also serviced payroll for about 400 employees. These applications ran on an aging 18-year-old DEC VAX system that was no longer supported and with no parts available.

For a couple of months, the IT department at the university, along with their IT consultant, Infoworld Consultancy, searched for a solution to protect and extend the life of their essential applications. The team explored rewriting the application and using a new system, but rewriting the source code and testing the applications would be a time-consuming and expensive solution. The university found themselves in an increasingly desperate situation.

The Solution

Kunj Tibrewal, Director at Infoworld, found emulation by Stromasys as a possible solution through a web search. His main concern was the quality of support and the performance levels of Stromasys' Charon™ solution. He believed the performance wouldn't match the level of the original hardware.

The engineering team at Stromasys worked with Infoworld and Gujarat University to set up a Proof of Concept for Charon-VAX. They were pleased to find the Charon-VAX solution could be completed remotely and would require a minimal amount of time to migrate the application to an x86 modern platform and test to ensure functionality and performance. To their delight, they found that performance increased. "The amount of time the Stromasys support team spent with us, running through tests and answering our questions, was amazing. It was truly a 24/7 support team," stated Tibrewal.

The Result

The IT department at Gujarat University and the team at Infoworld found the transition to Charon-VAX went smoothly, especially in terms of user experience. The team was relieved to be able to end reliance on the aging hardware, but better yet, they found Charon-VAX improved the system's performance, making the new virtual VAX almost three times faster than the old system. Users found that tasks that were taking four to five hours to perform, were now taking about two hours.

"What a wonderful way to work with a vendor and customer and see the positive impact the solution has made on their data processes, all while making operations more cost-efficient!" said Tibrewal.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Infoworld is a leading software development company, offering solutions since 1990. Their software professionals have success based on their records of quality, consistency, and technological prowess.

With their experience, they have worked across domains, creating seamless solutions for customers across the globe.

About Stromasys

Stromasys is the original and leading provider of enterprise-class cross-platform virtualization solutions, including Digital VAX and Alpha, PDP-11, PA-RISC systems, and SPARC servers. The company extends the life span 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 7,000 cross-platform virtualization solutions for the world's leading companies in over 50 countries.