

SUCCESS STORY

Racine Water regains access to records thanks to CHARON-PAR



The Challenge

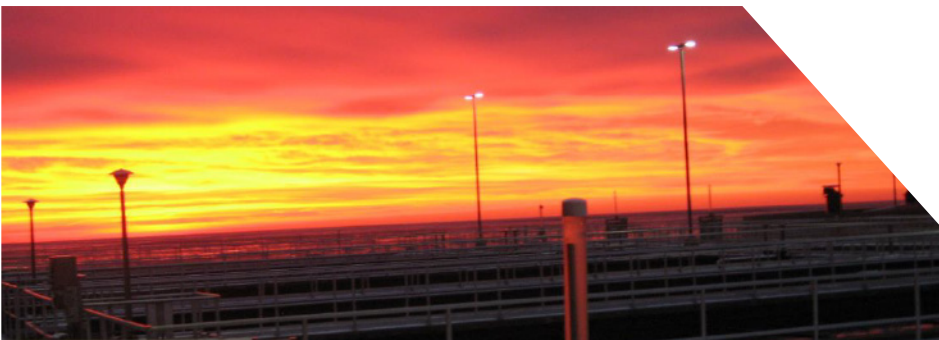
Since the 1980s, Racine Water & Wastewater Utilities relied on an PA-RISC A-400 with MPE/iX 6.5 as their primary billing system. When they moved to a new platform in 2008, only four years of history carried over to the new system. The PA-RISC system still held more than 25 years of important records. The state of Wisconsin mandates access to billing history records, and they needed a way to continue using the PA-RISC system to access archived information.

The Solution

In 2014, Ken Scolaro, administrative manager for Racine Water & Wastewater Utilities, reached out to Mike York, president of Assertive Systems Corporation, in search of a solution for the PA-RISC system. York had been providing IT support for Racine Water for years, and he began to look for ways to maintain it. "While researching replacement solutions, I found Stromasys," said York. "The description of the system functionality was very impressive and the customer reviews indicated a solid product." It was clear that Stromasys's CHARON-PAR solution was a reliable system at the right price.

In the early stages of demoing a Charon solution, while retrieving the necessary HPSUSAN number from the PA-RISC system, one of the system's disk drives stopped working. The only method of recovering the system's data was from old DDS1 backup tape. The DDS1 tape drive appeared to be missing from the legacy system. Scolaro and York sent a backup tape to the Stromasys engineer providing support on the project. Stromasys purchased a DDS1 tape drive for the data recovery and, utilizing Oracle Box, built a virtual machine and recovered the PA-RISC system.

Data safely retrieved, the Stromasys engineer working with Racine Water implemented CHARON-PAR/A408 as the virtualized PA-RISC environment. After recovering the tape data and configuring the virtual PA-RISC with MPE/iX 7.5, the VM was exported and sent via thumb drive to the customer, who then imported the VM to their local server. "The Stromasys sales representative provided a proof of concept for us. He accomplished this from an old and very questionable backup tape – amazing. He went far and beyond our expectations," said York. It was clear to both York and Scolaro that the Charon solution was the right fit: they could access their data and no staff retraining was required.



City of Racine, Wisconsin

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Racine Water & Wastewater Utilities serves 100,000 customers in the communities around Racine, Wisconsin. They have two facilities located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Southeastern Wisconsin. Their water utility processes an average of 35 million gallons of potable water per day for their residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Their wastewater utility treats approximately 35 million gallons of wastewater per day before returning it to Lake Michigan. For more information, please visit:

www.cityofracine.org/water



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The Result

Thanks to CHARON-PAR, the original PA-RISC hardware has been replaced with a PC that runs the legacy applications on Charon software. Scolaro explained, "The process of moving twenty years of data running on an PA-RISC machine from a backup tape to running on a Windows machine was extremely painless. Utility staff did not even notice this change was made. Our Utility would strongly recommend this product."

The staff has regained access to their database of billing history and records, and the applications run exactly as they did on the original hardware. According to York: "The system installed easily without any unexpected problems and has run flawlessly ever since."

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.

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Ken Scolaro,
Administrative Manager,
Racine Water & Wastewater Utilities