GMS and Stromasys collaborate to achieve data-performance goals for Navigant client

The Challenge

Navigant Consulting is a leading global consulting firm headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with more than 2,500 employees worldwide. Navigant provides customized services and support to address critical business issues and enhance stakeholder value. PACE, a unit of Navigant Consulting, is the market leader in mass tort claims administration. PACE's IT team was asked to provide an upgraded system alignment and help solve a legacy hardware dilemma for a current client. To maximize efficiency, they recommended changing to a streamlined data center. But this would mean replacing the client's existing AlphaServer 4100.

The Alpha was running an application to track insurance claims as well as an Oracle database. Replacement parts for the existing server had become hard to find, and repairing it was difficult and time-consuming. Moreover, it was essential to avoid any disruptions to the client's service or daily business during the transition. The PACE IT team began to research different options and soon focused on virtualization technologies. They wanted a solution that would also increase storage capacity, and they thought that a virtual system might offer this benefit.

The Solution

A web search led PACE to Stromasys's CHARON-AXP cross-platform virtualization software, which allows users to continue to run their legacy applications and OpenVMS or Tru64 operating systems on modern hardware, without modification. They then approached Gray Matter Systems, a Charon partner, for more information. They also researched several other solutions, but found that none of the alternatives could rival with the price of the Charon software and the breadth of Stromasys's expertise.

PARTNER PROFILE

Gray Matter specializes in value-added monitoring, controlling, and optimizing of important assets and is a Stromasys partner.. Gray Matter provides specialized domain knowledge in manufacturing, water, wastewater, energy, M2M, mobile workforce, and OEM applications. Gray Matter provides the right amount of service for clients' applications, the correct applied solutions, and post-project support plans to ensure the success of their projects. Gray Matter has offices throughout Canada and the Central US. For more information, please visit:

www.graymattersystems.com

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Navigant Consulting Inc. is an international consulting firm that combines deep industry expertise and integrated solutions to help companies and their legal counsel enhance stakeholder value, improve operations, and address conflict-, performance-, and risk-related challenges. It focuses on industries undergoing substantial regulatory or structural change, including financial services, insurance, health care, and energy. Navigant has offices in over 40 cities in North America, Europe, and Asia.

With the assistance of Stromasys and Gray Matter Systems, the PACE team selected an HP ProLiant DL185 server to replace their client's legacy Alpha hardware. Stromasys was on site to assist with installation, offering excellent support and issue mitigation throughout the process as well as minimizing downtime. The installation was successful, and the client's new virtual Alpha was soon up and running. According to Tim Hunter, analyst manager of the PACE unit, "Working with Gray Matter Systems and Stromasys, we were able to form a solid plan of action. We were very satisfied with the delivery for our client."

The Result

Navigant solved their client's hardware problem and kept their OpenVMS operating system running smoothly while upping its performance and storage capacity, and reducing its overall footprint. Using CHARON-AXP software, they were able to meet all of their client's modernization goals. Tim Hunter confirmed: "The CHARON-AXP system is faster and more reliable than the original hardware, and the improved stability it delivers makes it well worth the investment for our client. Using Charon has allowed them to increase productivity." When asked if their client is pleased with their new virtual Alpha, his response was, "Absolutely."

About Stromasys

Stromasys is the original and leading provider of enterprise-class cross-platform virtualization solutions, including PDP-11, Digital VAX and Alpha, HP 3000, 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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Timothy Hunter,

Analyst manager,
PACE, a unit of Navigant Consulting

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