SUCCESS STORY

Tomago saves millions without sacrificing functionality or security by using CHARON-AXP

The Challenge

Tomago Aluminium had been running one of their key production systems on an aging AlphaServer for the past eight years. While the software running on the OpenVMS-based system was a good functional fit, the age and reliability of the platform was a cause for concern. For Tomago, the challenge was to find a way of upgrading and modernizing their computer hardware, while avoiding the significant costs associated with migrating to a new platform and rewriting their applications. An emulator package, which would theoretically allow the existing software to be housed on a modern Windows system, was an obvious alternative, but they worried that the emulator software might fail to perfectly replicate the legacy AXP system, which was critical for the ongoing productivity of the entire plant. An exact fit was an essential requirement.

The Solution

Tomago's IT supplier, Fujitsu, evaluated all available emulator packages and recommended CHARON-AXP cross-platform virtualization software as the solution that best met the aluminum producer's needs. This decision was based on Charon's proven ability to exactly replicate the legacy AXP system. UBS was selected to pilot the migration process, since they had already successfully completed over 120 AXP migrations. Tomago requested reference sites from UBS and contacted existing Charon users in Australia to confirm their positive experiences with the system.

Because the programs running on the legacy system were mission-critical, Tomago's implementation team made risk minimization a priority. Accordingly, they decided that the live migration would not go ahead until the Charon system had been proven to perfectly replicate the AXP functionalities. They started by running thorough trials, with the active support of Fujitsu and UBS.

stromasys AUTHORIZED PARTNER

UBS UNITED BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

PARTNER PROFILE

United Business Solutions is a privately owned Australian company focused on meeting the IT needs of companies and government bodies. UBS is Australia's foremost virtual VAX migration specialists and accredited by Stromasys to supply the CHARON-VAX virtual system.

In addition to system migration, UBS also provides a full range of IT services, including access solutions, servers, storage, backup, recovery, archiving, security, intelligent detection systems, applications, networking, and operational management services. For more information, please visit :

www.ubsolutions.com.au

TomagoAluminium

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Tomago Aluminium, established in 1980, is one of Australia's leading aluminum smelters. Situated just outside Newcastle, New South Wales, the smelter employs around 1,200 people. Tomago produces around 530,000 tons of aluminum each year, contributing more than $1.5 billion annually to the Australian economy. For more information, please visit:

www.tomago.com.au

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The initial migration therefore took place in a development situation, in order to validate that all applications running on the legacy system were also running on the emulator system. Because of this diligent preparation, the live migration took less than four hours and was absolutely painless.

The Result

The migration from the aging AlphaServer to the CHARON-AXP software was completely successful, and delivered a fully functional OpenVMS application that performs identically to the legacy system, without compromising access to Windows, Oracle, and connection to essential LAT devices used to capture data in the manufacturing process. As Tomago Project Manager Lesleyanne Clifton remarked, the CHARON- AXP emulation of the legacy software was so perfect, and the migration so painless, that most end-users were unaware it had taken place, even though they were notified of the changeover.

The overall efficiency of the system was greatly enhanced. For instance, backup was converted to a virtual tape application built into the system; as a result, nightly backup that used to take five hours now takes 30 minutes. The new Intel server running Charon occupies a fraction of the rack space required by the legacy system and is cheaper to operate, since it consumes significantly less power and emits less heat, a factor in reducing CO_2 emissions.

Finally, the new system has a useful life of at least 10 years and can be expanded at any time during or after this period, if extra system capacity is needed in the future.

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.

> ***«The legacy AlphaServer was the IT backbone of our company and controlled our entire production system. Replacing it with customized Windows software would have cost millions, so the CHARON-AXP solution has been a real godsend for us.»***
>
> Lesleyanne Clifton,
>
> Project manager,
> Tomago Aluminium

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