

SUCCESS STORY

HP revives the city of Hammond's aging AlphaServer using CHARON-AXP

The Challenge

The City of Hammond relied on an AlphaServer 2100 to issue business licenses and property taxes, but the age and reliability of the hardware was becoming a serious concern. After running smoothly for years, the Alpha was starting to deteriorate rapidly: back-ups had to be performed manually, complicating system administration, and hardware failure seemed imminent. When one of the drives failed, with no replacement parts to be found, it became clear that the system would need to be changed urgently.

One option was to migrate the system to a new platform; however, the fact that some of the source code for the custom-written COBOL application was unavailable complicated matters. This solution would also require significant time and money, both of which were in short supply. The department therefore contacted the VAX administrator for the Information Services Department at Southeastern Louisiana University for advice. He recommended they investigate the virtualization solution provided by Stromasys.

The Solution

After researching Stromasys's CHARON-AXP software, Sammy Richmond, Hammond's systems and networking manager, thought that it sounded like the perfect solution. CHARON-AXP would allow Hammond to continue running their custom-built application, which had been expensive to develop and fit their needs perfectly, without modification on industry-standard hardware. They could simply transfer their OpenVMS operating system and applications to a new server running Charon cross-platform virtualization software, and dispose of the aging Alpha. Richmond contacted Stromasys to find out how to implement the Charon solution, and they referred him to their network of partners. Richmond chose to work with HP. The HP sales and project team helped the city purchase the Charon software, choose replacement hardware, and plan the implementation. To replace their legacy hardware, the city selected a HP ML150 G6 server.



PARTNER PROFILE

HP creates new possibilities for technology to have a meaningful impact on people, businesses, governments, and society. HP brings together a portfolio that spans printing, personal computing, software, services, and IT infrastructure to deliver solutions to its customers. For more information, please visit:

www.hp.com



CUSTOMER PROFILE

Hammond is the largest city in Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana. The city government comprises the mayor's office and the city council, which is responsible for managing the city's finances, industrial development, zoning, and providing basic services for its citizens, such as police and fire departments, road maintenance, and construction. For more information, please visit:

www.hammond.org



stromasys
engineered solutions



A Stromasys systems engineer came to assist the project team with the implementation, which went very smoothly. According to Richmond, "When one of our administrative staff printed a report that used to take 30 to 45 minutes to generate and it came out instantaneously, she wondered if there was a problem with the system. I had to tell her there wasn't: the system was just that much faster."

The Result

The CHARON-AXP implementation was completely successful, and the City of Hammond was very pleased with the results. In addition to solving their hardware problem, they gained a significant increase in performance and freed up space in their data room by replacing the old server, which was about the size of a filing cabinet, with a new, more compact one. In other words, Charon allowed them to achieve their goal—and more—for thousands of dollars less than what a traditional migration would have cost.



«*When one of our administrative staff printed a report that used to take 30 to 45 minutes to generate and it came out instantaneously, she wondered if there was a problem with the system. I had to tell her there wasn't: the system was just that much faster.*»

Sammy Richmond,
Systems and networking manager,
City of Hammond

Richmond explains: "Shortly after the installation, we had a power management mishap in our server room: the old Alpha and new Charon server lost power for several hours and couldn't be fed by our generator. Normally, I would have gone crazy worrying about whether the Alpha would boot back up. Instead, once the situation was back to normal, I was able to power up the new server instantly, and we were up and running in five minutes. Stromasys promised me 100 percent satisfaction with the product and the implementation, and they fully delivered on that promise."

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.

«Copyright © 2016 Stromasys Inc. All rights reserved. CHARON name / logo is a trademark of Stromasys SA»

STROMASYS INC

Americas Region
2840 Plaza Place
Ste 450
Raleigh, NC 27612
United States of America
Phone: +1 919 239 8450
Fax: +1 919 239 8451
us.sales@stromasys.com

STROMASYS SA

Europe, Middle East & Africa
Avenue Louis-Casai 84
5th Floor
1216 Cointrin-Geneva
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 794 1070
Fax: +41 22 794 1073
emea.sales@stromasys.com

STROMASYS ASIA PACIFIC LTD

Asia Pacific Region
Room 1102, 11/F, Lee Garden One
33 Hysan Avenue
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Hong Kong SAR of People's Republic of China
Phone: +852 3959 8788
Fax: +852 3959 8800
apac.sales@stromasys.com



stromasys
engineered solutions