



RED HAT SOLUTIONS DELIVER PERFORMANCE AND SAVINGS BOOSTS FOR CQUNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA (CENTRAL QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY)

FAST FACTS

Industry	Higher Education
Geography	Australia
Opportunity	To migrate from an HP Tru64 Unix environment to a cost-effective and performance-boosting platform within Central Queensland University's budget
Migration Path	HP Tru64 Unix to Red Hat Enterprise Linux and Red Hat Satellite Server on HP 7000c Blade and BL460c Blade Servers
Software	Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Red Hat Satellite Server, Oracle 10g RAC, PeopleSoft Enterprise Applications (Finance & Student Administration), Talent2 Works (HR)
Hardware	HP 7000c Blade System and BL460c Blade Servers
Benefits	Experienced increased cost savings, performance, ease of management, and ongoing support



BACKGROUND

CQUniversity Australia (Central Queensland University) was founded in 1967 as the Queensland Institute of Technology (Capricornia). It became the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education in 1971 before a transition phase as the University College of Central Queensland in 1990. It achieved University status in January 1992 and today offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses on-campus and through distance education.

CQUniversity has campuses and learning sites in Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Mackay, Emerald and Noosa, on the Sunshine Coast and operates international campuses in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, and the Gold Coast. Some of the University's programs are also delivered in Singapore.

With about 20,000 students and approximately 1,200 staff, the daily functioning of the University relies heavily on the reliability and stability of its IT environment, which powers critical finance, human resources, and student-administration systems. With campuses located across various time zones, CQUniversity requires an infrastructure that supports standard operation for at least 13 hours per day.

OPPORTUNITY

For a number of years, CQUniversity serviced its student body and faculty with an extensive HP Tru64 Unix deployment. As the University continued to expand and demand more from its technology infrastructure, CQUniversity's IT department knew it was quickly outgrowing its existing IT system, consisting of a four-node cluster for production with two additional web servers, and a six-node cluster with another three web servers for test development.

"We knew the time was coming for a change, particularly when we knew we would need more than eight CPUs for a single database server," said Bruce Young, Peoplesoft Systems Engineer, CQUniversity. "HP Tru64 Unix was a discontinued product, and we didn't have unlimited funds to throw at the problem, so we were forced to look at more cost-effective alternatives for expanding our capacity."

CQUniversity searched for an updated, scalable, and performance-boosting solution that could fit inside its limited IT budget."



SOLUTION

In late 2006, CQUniversity's IT team decided that from both a hardware and software perspective, Red Hat Enterprise Linux was its operating system of choice. "We looked at a few different configurations, including Solaris on Sun T2000 servers and Red Hat Enterprise Linux on Dell, but it was quite obvious that the HP Blade Servers together with Red Hat Enterprise Linux provided a winning combination that met our needs," said Young.

Today, CQUniversity runs 12 HP Blade Servers with Red Hat Enterprise Linux for its databases. Ten additional Blades run CQUniversity's middleware solutions to support its applications.

"Already, Red Hat Enterprise Linux has proven to be a fundamental component of our infrastructure, and while we're running more environments than before, we're running them a lot faster," said Young.

The University has also extended Red Hat Enterprise Linux to its research students and staff, using Red Hat Satellite Servers to efficiently manage the deployment and keep it updated without additional, costly resources. Red Hat Satellite Server offers a centralised management tool that enables users to manage server systems more efficiently. With Red Hat Satellite Server, CQUniversity has been able to reallocate resources to focus on proactive, high-value roles, instead of reactively maintaining complex systems and lifecycles.

BENEFITS

Since putting its production systems into operation in April 2007, CQUniversity has completed the initial stage of its migration. To date, the University has realised immediate savings of approximately \$100,000 when compared to Solaris on Sun T2000 servers.

"We're definitely impressed with the initial cost savings and the boost to server performance, and we also expect further long-term savings on licensing costs," said Young. "The reality is that for our budget, Red Hat

Enterprise Linux has enabled us to do what we set out to complete. With Red Hat solutions, we didn't have to resort to a poor band-aid job, as would have happened if we had chosen a proprietary solution."

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**- Bruce Young,
Peoplesoft Systems Engineer, CQUniversity.**

In addition to cost savings, CQUniversity has experienced a boost in server performance, which has increased by between 20 and 30 percent, and enjoyed an easy-to-deploy solution. "In terms of ease of management, Red Hat Enterprise Linux was the best choice, and the closest fit to what we were familiar with when using Tru64," said Young.

For the future, CQUniversity has plans to transition other systems to its new Red Hat Enterprise Linux platform.

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