



Around the world of NonStop computing

MEETING THE MIXED WORKLOAD CHALLENGE

[BANK-VERLAG, GERMANY] Providing both publishing and IT services for Germany's 300 private banks, Bank-Verlag relies on the HP NonStop S86006 platform to handle its transaction-intensive payments application. The payments system comprises multiple

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Wolfgang Breidbach, head of system services, Bank-Verlag

components: ATM/POS processing is a classic online transaction processing application. It also includes the batch-oriented “blacklist” program that keeps track of lost and stolen cards and automatically confiscates them if they’re discovered being used.

To meet the German banking supervision authority’s requirement that banks provide direct access to customer and account information,

the central account register of Bank-Verlag’s payments system—a huge database with more than 50 million accounts—handles these queries effortlessly. Bank-Verlag also uses its NonStop servers for electronic banking, Eurocheque card production, and PIN-letter generation.

The superior mixed workload capability of NonStop servers was a key factor in Bank-Verlag’s platform selection. “The ability of the NonStop server to handle OLTP, batch, and ad hoc queries concurrently, with no degradation of service, is extremely important,” stated Wolfgang Breidbach, head of system services at Bank-Verlag. Unrivaled uptime, support for open standards, and low total cost of ownership were also important considerations. The upcoming platform move to the Intel® Itanium® microprocessor is also viewed with favor; Breidbach stated that the significant boost in processing power will deliver tangible benefits in running Bank-Verlag’s mission-critical applications. ♦

FASTEST-GROWING ATM PROCESSOR

[GENPASS, UNITED STATES] There’s no doubt that Genpass, Inc., believes in acting quickly and decisively. Less than five years old, the company is the fastest-growing ATM processor in the United States, managing a network of more than 28,000 ATMs in all 50 states and handling 3.5 million cardholder accounts and

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John Sandridge, vice president of operations, Genpass

approximately 360 million transactions per year. Genpass offers products and services specifically tailored to financial institutions, retailers, and independent sales organizations. The company relies on HP NonStop S74000 servers for production, development, and certification and testing, with a NonStop S76000 server for disaster recovery.

According to John Sandridge, vice president of operations at Genpass, the biggest business challenges the company faces today are increased competition, a never-ending demand for more services for customers, and a constant pressure to keep the system running 24 x 7—with zero downtime. He explained, “Where we make our money is keeping the system running 100 percent of the time. This is how we retain and add customers. In our business, if you make a mistake once, the customer can and will go elsewhere.”

Genpass is confident that its NonStop servers will continue to provide 100 percent uptime. Sandridge observed, “The track record with the NonStop system can't be beat. It's simply unmatched. We think of it as the backbone behind all we do.” ♦

CENTRALIZING ACCESS TO ENTERPRISE DATA

[RABOBANK, NETHERLANDS] As the popularity of Internet banking continues to grow, and as in-person visits continue to decline, financial institutions need to strike a balance between costly branch offices and increased support for online services. This is precisely what Rabobank is doing. Over the past three years, the bank has moved aggressively to

increase efficiency through consolidation and reduction of branches, simultaneously enhancing its computing infrastructure to support centralized versus decentralized applications. Today, any branch in the Netherlands can service any Rabobank customer who walks through the door, thanks to centralized access to enterprisewide data.

Rabobank entrusts its core applications—including ATM, statement printing, CRM, clearing and settlement, and Internet banking—to the HP NonStop platform. “Rabobank is primarily an Internet bank,” explained Diederick de Buck, systems programmer and technical architect at Rabobank. “If the service isn't available, you don't have customers. That's why the continuous availability of the NonStop platform is so vital to the success of our business.” Rabobank's mission-critical

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Diederick de Buck, systems programmer and technical architect, Rabobank

applications run on NonStop S76000 and S86000 servers; disaster recovery is handled by NonStop Remote Database Facility (NonStop RDF) software.

If Rabobank's core systems were down for any period of time, losses could be calculated in the millions, or even hundreds of millions, of dollars. “If a NonStop server has a problem, the fault is contained due to the loosely coupled MPP architecture, and the application is unaffected,” de Buck concluded. “The HP NonStop platform delivers the most manageable and reliable computing environment in the world, and it is a key element in Rabobank's success.” ♦