

Case Study Series: UNIX Practice

■ Solution Overview: Fayetteville State University

Industry: Higher Education

Products & Technologies:

Two Sun Fire V480 Servers running Solaris 9 OS and two StorEdge 3310 Disk Arrays, clustered via SunCluster 3.0 software

Client Description:

Fayetteville State University, located in Fayetteville, North Carolina, is a premier Higher Education institution within the 16-school UNC System. FSU is gaining ever-greater recognition throughout the state as a University that embraces technology and maximizes its benefits on campus. The ongoing mission of FSU's IT staff is to offer faster, broader and more powerful technology services to its entire user community—students, faculty/staff, and alumni.

Business Problem:

FSU joined several other UNC System schools in their adoption of the Oracle-based "SCT Banner" solution for student information, advancement, human resources, financial aid, faculty and advisors, and finance. FSU's IT staff was worried about the reliability and availability of a new ERP system, especially given the small size of their staff and current lack of skilled Oracle DBA's/Sun administrators. In order to address these concerns, FSU decided to implement a more automated cluster solution, con-

sisting of Sun servers and storage arrays "joined at the hip" to provide high availability and failover capabilities.

Solution:

Alphanumeric Systems and Sun were engaged by FSU to implement their new technology solution for administration. Sun engineers began the process by performing basic server and cluster installation services. Then, Alphanumeric's UNIX engineers optimized the cluster and other software/hardware configurations for the servers and storage arrays. Once the server/storage cluster was set up, a backup scheme was developed, tested, implemented and optimized. Utilizing Alphanumeric's structured approach to UNIX implementation, a very successful solution was planned, designed, and brought to life. By performing adequate knowledge transfer to critical staff members at FSU, Alphanumeric empowered the staff to manage and maintain their new environment with a great degree of self-reliance, further ensuring the early and ongoing success of this IT initiative.

Contact Information:

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