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3941 IBM STG Power vs. x86 Multimedia Animation As Produced Transcript

Kat Lind, Chief Systems Engineer, Solitaire Interglobal

I am Kat Lind, Chief Systems Engineer for Solitaire Interglobal.

We are a predictive performance modeling house... Our customers look to us for independent, un-biased information that's backed on fact, not opinion.

The entire x86 architecture was a logical swing of the pendulum when it comes to processing architectures... Each box caused less risk because it's small, therefore it should be a small risk, and it's easy to do.

In the present day, the issues with x86 have fallen another logical pathway. We have a more limited resiliency in the platform itself. It has less elasticity for handling unexpected workload. So the answer is to build out more boxes. The scale-out radically increases the complexity of an x86 environment.

In fact, Joe DeBella, the CIO of Arizona Beverages, has been very vocal publicly about his challenges.

"We had situations where we were in patch hell and really had a difficult time keeping the environment sustainable. Our skills were strained. We ended up working many hours of overtime just to, in fact, ensure that the systems were going to be up on a Monday morning. We had compatibility management between the vendors, between the SAP, VMware...we had workload issues – just piles of things." –Joe DeBella

So you take that, and you add on these recent trends, using business analytics, ...and you have a recipe that is fraught for increasing frustration and rapidly escalating cost. And that totally ignored the whole issue of security threats which is becoming the #1 pain point in IT.

One of the things that we have noticed is that our customers running on Power are experiencing lower cost by anywhere from 50% to 75%... In fact, I think that Joe DeBella mentioned that his savings was closer to 70%. ...lower staff time by



half to 60%, that they have better performance because resources are targeted toward where they are needed at the time they are needed, and that performance increase is anywhere from 300% to 1000%. And this is not just a one-time hit; it continues over the entire operation.

If we turn to examine virtualization technology... In an x86 environment, I have to buy more servers to handle the workload because I can't move the resources back and forth. For a Power environment, I can simply redirect the resources and not have to buy more boxes.

Security is...the largest cost and pain point that our customers have. The main difference between x86 and Power is that Power has an integrated security solution that does not have a little hook that can be grabbed by an attack. x86 is full of little hooks, designed to build on more and more layers.

Our reported security cost from our customers is in excess of half a billion dollars. Of that, \$1,214 is from Power. So all of those things contribute to a far more reasonable operations and a better business case for Power.

We have a really strong responsibility to all the customers that we have worldwide. We believe that Power needs to be a prime consideration for them. We have less reported problems; we have better availability; we have better performance consistency; we have better security on the customers that use Power than any other platforms in the UNIX and x86 environment. They win if they pick Power.