

DB2 Data Management Software

EPRI powers up its future with DB2 and PeopleSoft.

Overview

■ **Application**

Data repository for enterprise resource planning, human resource management, customer relationship management, help desk and content management systems, as well as legacy applications

■ **Business Benefits**

Increased operational efficiency; improved performance over the wide area network; infrastructure in place for future enhancements

■ **Software**

IBM DB2® Universal Database™ Enterprise Edition for AIX®;
IBM Tivoli® Storage Manager

■ **Hardware**

IBM @server pSeries™ S80

■ **Business Partner**

PeopleSoft

■ **Services**

IBM Global Services



EPRI focuses on worldwide strategies and methods for integrating technology into all facets of energy production.

With great power comes great responsibility, and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) exercises a considerable amount of both. A non-profit energy research consortium founded in 1973, EPRI is accountable to a membership of 1,000 global energy organizations that rely on it for consulting, research, development and marketing of energy-related products and services. EPRI, based in Palo Alto, California, lends its expertise to everything from promoting innovative hydrogen fuel-cell technology to

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forecasting the outlook of intelligent energy networks. As the only science and technology consortium serving the entire industry, EPRI through its activities affects how government agencies, transportation, utilities and society as a whole use energy.



EPRI provides extensive research into leading-edge alternative power sources and materials in pursuit of dramatic performance improvements.

Supporting these activities is a variety of enterprise information systems, including PeopleSoft Financials and PeopleSoft HRMS (human resource management system), as well as its content management software and other custom legacy applications. Since the early 1990s, many of these applications have run on AIX—the company’s preferred operating system—and used Sybase as the data repository. So when PeopleSoft and several other ISVs expressed doubt about their continued support for Sybase on the AIX platform, EPRI quickly began searching for alternatives.

After evaluating Oracle and IBM DB2 Universal Database Enterprise Edition for AIX, EPRI chose the latter for several reasons. Scott Kurtz, IT technical services manager at EPRI explains, “DB2 simply cost less than Oracle for EPRI. Its interoperability with our existing business software and PeopleSoft applications, as well as its reliability, scalability and database administration features, were major factors in our decision to go with IBM. We also recognized how IBM’s solid reputation and proven commitment to its products had earned DB2 a wide-spread following in many industries.”

Kurtz continues, “We heard DB2 was gaining new customers faster than Oracle. We wanted a package that met today’s needs as well as tomorrow’s, and to us, the growing popularity of DB2 meant that IBM and its partners would be there to support the product well into the future.”

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Charging forward—with care

EPRI began its aggressive six-month database migration to DB2 with its PeopleSoft Financials system, which includes enterprise resource planning and accounting applications. IBM Global Services assisted in the migration by providing DB2 installation and implementation schedules and helping to resolve any database-related deployment issues. The IBM DB2 migration team provided project planning expertise and consulting advice for the large-scale data migration. Kurtz affirms, “IBM didn’t just parade in to sell DB2 and leave. The sales, marketing, IBM Global Services and DB2 migration teams rallied together to supply a complete package. The result was a smooth, on-time migration of our PeopleSoft Financials system to DB2, which went on to provide excellent, reliable service.”

Kurtz attributes a large part of the migration success to the training his database administrators received from IBM Global Services. “Transitioning our DBAs to DB2 was quick; IBM transferred more than enough knowledge for them to take on the new system and have an immediate positive impact in productivity.”



Using IBM DB2 Universal Database Enterprise Edition for AIX, EPRI ensures its enterprise information systems work together to improve the operational efficiencies of its ongoing research for global utility providers.

Kurtz points to another positive effect DB2 has had on EPRI: increased operational efficiency over the company’s private wide area network (WAN). “An unanticipated bonus occurred right after the migration to DB2,” he recalls. “Employees from two remote sites called and said access to the system was much faster, thinking it was a network enhancement. But we hadn’t touched the network, or added hardware. The noticeable performance improvement came from DB2.”

Laying the groundwork for full-scale migration

EPRI runs DB2 Universal Database Extended Edition on an IBM @server pSeries S80 system with AIX, Version 4.3.3. EPRI uses the DB2 Control Center feature for database administration and performance monitoring. The company also uses Tivoli Storage Manager to backup its DB2 data to tape.

Following the successful PeopleSoft Financials migration to DB2, EPRI is proceeding to migrate PeopleSoft HRMS along with its content management system, help desk and legacy applications this year, as well

as deploying PeopleSoft Customer Relationship Management (CRM) applications. The company is also considering a strategy to migrate its legacy Oracle systems to DB2 as well.

Powering future business with DB2

With a future-ready database foundation in place, EPRI is now at the early stages of investigating a comprehensive set of services based on DB2, Kurtz says. For example, the company is looking at more sophisticated information technologies to allow its member companies to work together online and share information on research projects. This endeavor would likely include management of all the consortium's research data and content, not just its administrative systems.

Having experienced how readily the IBM data management system integrates with its existing applications, EPRI views DB2 Universal Database as the natural choice for building a repository for all of its energy-related knowledge assets. "We would like to move all of our research information and core knowledge to DB2," he explains. "We hope to reach a point where DB2 becomes our primary database for our enterprise applications." After his experience with migrating from Sybase to DB2, Kurtz believes that putting the entire organization on a single database may actually be one of the company's best strategies for avoiding vendor lock-in. "We view our DB2 rollout as a complete enterprise solution," he says. "It's simply a great open database environment."

For more information

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For more information about EPRI, visit:
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Silicon Valley Laboratory
555 Bailey Avenue
San Jose, CA 95141
U.S.A.

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