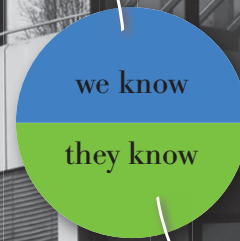


The SAP logo is displayed in large, white, three-dimensional letters on the facade of a modern building. The building has a glass and metal structure with multiple windows.

TOP TO BOTTOM



END TO END

SAP IT selects IBM DB2 as strategic database platform for internal business systems

Overview

■ The Challenge

With more than 38,000 employees, any inefficiency in the human resources management system run by SAP IT (the IT department of SAP AG) could have a serious business impact. The aim was to improve response times, increasing user productivity for both personnel staff and self-service employee functions, and to cut total costs of operations.

■ The Solution

SAP IT has selected IBM DB2 as its strategic information management platform for its SAP HR system, migrating from Oracle to DB2, taking the simultaneous opportunity to complete the conversion to the Unicode standard and subsequent upgrade to mySAP ERP 2005. The solution supports more than 1,000 SAP HR concurrent users and 650GB of live data, running on HP Integrity servers.

■ The Benefits

System response has improved by around 40 per cent, about twice the predicted improvement. Conversion to Unicode allows SAP IT to take advantage of the most recent editions of its own SAP software and to ready itself for multiple language applications, reducing its system management and operational costs.

■ Key Solution Components

*Industry: Software
Applications: mySAP™ ERP 2005
IBM DB2® Optimized for SAP® software*

SAP AG in Walldorf, Germany, is one of the world's leading business software providers. With more than 38,000 employees serving international enterprises of every conceivable type, SAP AG has people and offices on every continent, operating in multiple languages.

Although SAP has certified a variety of relational databases for use with SAP applications, large customer enterprises tend to choose between IBM DB2 and the Oracle database. SAP IT wanted to upgrade its own HR production system to mySAP ERP 2005, which requires Unicode support. The migration presented an opportunity to also review the database strategy within SAP IT.

Peter Boegler, Solution Architect at SAP IT, explains, "We wanted to demonstrate the power and flexibility of SAP software for high-workload, mission-critical systems, and selected IBM DB2 as the strategic database platform. Moving the in-house human resources (HR) management solution

to mySAP ERP 2005, which requires Unicode support, presented itself as the ideal opportunity to migrate from Oracle to DB2."

Rapid migration and return on investment

The application migration program lasted a total of eight months, with the actual export and import of the data taking just 18 hours. The Unicode conversion and the database migration were performed in a single step, from the existing Oracle database to the new Unicode-compliant HP Integrity servers running IBM DB2 Optimized for SAP software.

"Our planned system response improvement was around 20 per cent, whereas in reality we have observed a 40 per cent cut in response times with DB2," says Peter Boegler. "If we look at the DB2 database itself, it is even more efficient than we had anticipated. This means that the investments in new server and storage hardware will actually last longer than planned, contributing to a better-than-forecast return on investment, which is very pleasing."

The parallel migration both to Unicode and to DB2 went very smoothly, and was handled by SAP employees, with premier support available from IBM – which in the end was not even required.

Peter Boegler comments, "This is a single human resources system for all of SAP AG, running 45 payrolls with a total of 650GB of data. For the new solution, we implemented an EMC storage solution capable of managing the data for all main business systems with more than 100TB of data. This offers a considerable saving in storage and administration costs."

Positive outlook

The long-term "DB2 Optimized for SAP" roadmap was a significant factor that influenced SAP IT's selection of IBM DB2 as its strategic enterprise database technology.

"IBM has aligned its product maintenance strategy for DB2 to the SAP approach (5-1-2). This alignment means that we can use both the current and also the newer DB2 versions as long as we deploy the mySAP ERP 2005 product, which helps us plan the business strategy. Rather than be forced along a particular technology route because of vendor-introduced software changes, with IBM we are able to set our own business strategy and not be affected by external changes. For a company such as SAP AG with a reputation for reliability, it is important to have a supplier that has a closely aligned business outlook."

IBM develops DB2 in close partnership with the SAP development division, and Peter Boegler reports that the relationship between the two teams is very good. "The IBM DB2 engineers were fully engaged on the project, and helped us bring it to a highly successful conclusion."

Room to grow

Now that the twin migrations to Unicode and DB2 are complete, Peter Boegler and the team have started the migration to mySAP ERP 2005.

Peter Boegler concludes, "The efficiency and performance of the new IBM DB2 solution has given us headroom within our database and storage servers to grow as business workload rises, with high user productivity and great return on investment."

"Our planned system response improvement was around 20 per cent, whereas in reality we have observed a 40 per cent cut in response times with DB2."

Peter Boegler, Solution Architect, SAP IT



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